

GRAVITAS QUOTIENT

Bonnie Brooks is President and CEO of the Bay, and has spent more than 25 years building prestige retail formats around the world, including for Holt Renfrew, Harvey Nichols and leading designer brand stores in Asia, where she lived for 11 years. In Canada, Ms. Brooks is best known for her executive roles at Holt Renfrew, and she also served as Editor-in-Chief of *Flare*, Canada's most popular fashion and lifestyle magazine. Her distinctive voice can be heard in radio commercials for the Bay, and also here, in her answers to our Gravitas questions.

What is the best way out of a funk?

Stargazing to *Corcovado* by Stan Getz and João Gilberto; dreaming to Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 6*; dancing to Bob Marley's *One Love* or moving to *I Gotta Feeling* by the Black Eyed Peas.

What questions are best left unanswered?

Those related to past loves, posed by current loves.

Why are some people so restless to seek extraordinary experiences?

They are probably suffering from adrenaline addiction, or an insatiable curiosity. Or perhaps they might just be overly competitive!

What are the disadvantages of a bugely creative personality?

None that I can think of. I love a creative mind – and a dreamer – even if they can't make ends meet or don't see the need to do so!

If you wanted to disappear, where would you go?

There are a lot of places that come to mind: my closet, my head, my cottage. But probably the most exotic and meditative would be the terraced rice fields in the deepest interior of Bali...

Having lived in Asia for 11 years, I know of a few great spots to slip away to easily.

What magic elixir would you like to create?

One that enhances our ability to be kind to others and increases our tolerance of what we don't understand.

How can you tell if someone is lying?

I think I'm pretty terrible at that. I don't understand why people think that lying is going to go unnoticed over time. I also think too many people may have misunderstood Eckhart Tolle's concept of 'living in the now'.

What is the best thing you've ever found in a shoebox?

Old photos. But you didn't ask about the worst thing I've found in a shoebox: unworn, forgotten and out-of-date shoes!

How do you know you have been on an exotic journey?

If I need another suitcase, just to get home, and if my Visa has been refused.

What makes your heart stand still?

A big spider. My dog with his ball in his mouth luring me to throw it yet one more time! The view of the Canadian Rockies at sunrise from Cathay Flight 826. ▣

GRAVITAS THE GAME

Invented by Canadian **Alan Gratias** after hosting a particularly interesting dinner party, Gravitas is a game of discovery – of who we are and how we live. There are no dice or cards, just questions with no right or wrong answers. Although the game calls for reflection, you can make it as lighthearted as you wish. The player with the highest Gravitas Quotient (GQ) wins! Why not test your own GQ? Find out more about the game at www.gravitasthegame.com.