

Haley

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KW: The bookworm Troy Johnson question: What was the last book you read?

HS: The last book I read was a reread, Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises." It's one of my favorite books, and has one of my favorite characters: Lady Brett Ashley.

KW: The music maven Heather Covington question: What was the last song you listened to?

HS: Cheap and Cheerful from The Kills' Midnight Boom album.

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?

HS: I make a mean apple pie and, if I'm feeling really wild, with cheddar cut into the crust.

KW: The Sanaa Lathan question: What excites you?

HS: As cheesy and melodramatic as it might sound, it's very simple: Love excites me more than anything... in all its forms.

KW: The Uduak Oduok question: Who is your favorite clothes designer?

HS: I love so many, but my favorites are the classics: Dolce and Gabbana, Chanel, Dior and Chloe.

KW: Dante Lee, author of "Black Business Secrets," asks: What was the best business decision you ever made, and what was the worst?

HS: The best? Working with my longtime manager, David Rhee. The worst? I've grown from every mistake, so there is no 'worst' decision.

KW: The Michael Ealy question: If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be?

HS: There are many life stories I've heard

that are so inspiring, that leave me with such cognizance of myself and the level of work that I want to reach. Mary Cassatt comes to mind as one of the most attractive historical figures for a meeting, because her life story, to me, always sounded remarkable in every sense. She overcame the difficulties of having parents that loved her, but did not support her passions. She was a female artist at a time when women were meant to be married, have children and almost forbidden to have a job. She saw her passion clearly, and unapologetically went

KW: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

HS: A work in progress

KW: If you could have one wish instantly granted, what would that be for?

HS: That my family and friends would be protected from harm always.

KW: The Ling-Ju Yen question: What is your earliest childhood memory?

HS: My dad coming home from the farm, spinning me around, and dancing with me. It was my favorite time of day.

KW: The Jamie Foxx question: If you

clearly a golden retriever.

KW: The Pastor Alex Kendrick question: When do you feel the most content?

HS: After a live studio audience show. Nothing feels better than working in front of an audience. I grew up in theatre, so it's really my heaven. I feel exhausted from hard work and give myself time to acknowledge what I've done before I move on to the next episode. I think it's important to celebrate the strides we make.

KW: The Toure question: Who is the person who led you to become the person you are today?

HS: My mom

KW: The Judyth Piazza question: What key quality do you believe all successful people share?

HS: I would say that all successful people are "fighters." They're passionate and determined. They see not only what they want out of life, but what they were built for, and fight for it.

KW: What advice do you have for anyone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

HS: My advice would be to enjoy every moment and to take the time to learn from every mistake.

KW: The Tavis Smiley question: How do you want to be remembered?

HS: I want to be remembered as a passionate professional and compassionate human being.

KW: Thanks again for the time, Haley, and best of luck with the show.

HS: Thank you so much, Kam!

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—Haley Strode

for it. I love and admire that great amount of gumption that it must have taken. I also read a quote of hers once about how she learned so much from her mentor and, later, best friend, Henry Matisse. She said "I used to go and flatten my nose against that window and absorb all I could of his art." I love this quote because I think this is how every artist feels while pursuing their art. We all want to scour what inspires us, and learn from and build on it.

only had 24 hours to live, what would you do? Would you do the bad stuff, you never got a chance to do, or would you do good stuff to make sure you make it into heaven?

HS: I'd gather with family and friends to tell stories and laugh over a bottle of my favorite bourbon.

KW: The Kerry Washington question: If you were an animal, what animal would you be?

HS: I would love be a bunny, but I'm

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