

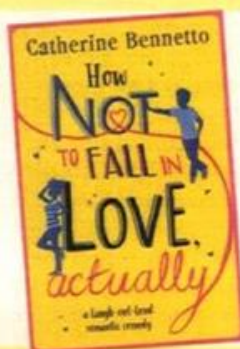
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# Brought To Book

*The Bill*, *Corrie*, *Death In Paradise* – author Catherine Bennetto worked on them all before turning her hand to writing!



## **How Not To Fall In Love, Actually** by Catherine Bennetto (Simon & Schuster, £7.99)

27-year-old Emma's job in television isn't as glamorous as it sounds and her boyfriend Ned is an unemployed entrepreneur with a penchant for setting the flat on fire! So when she finds she's accidentally very pregnant, sacked for telling her boss where to stick his job, and heir to a lovely cottage, she seizes the chance to break away from her old life. Of course that comes with its own problems including a lodger and a dog. A hilarious, frank look at a modern girl's dilemma as she tries to find harmony in life.

### **How did you go from assistant TV director to writing?**

I was determined to write a novel. Around the time I finished it I came across an online writing course on the Curtis Brown Creative website. It had a lot of focus on feedback from other students. The first time someone said something negative I sulked for a week until my sister told me to get a grip!

### **Where did you get your inspiration?**

Some of my own life has leaked into settings and characters but there are things I've wholly made up. And friends point out things in the book and say, "Was that about when we did such and such?" And I think, *it must have been – but I'd forgotten.*

### **How long did it take to write?**

It felt like forever. The hours working in TV didn't allow for much else other than sleeping and going to Sainsbury's so it took me rather a long time.

### **Tell us a little about your time on TV.**

Working on *The Bill* was my absolute favourite. It was shot in South London in a very grim industrial park but it was the people who made it. It really

was like one big happy dysfunctional family.

*Death In Paradise* was a very unique experience. I swam in the Caribbean and weekends were spent snorkelling with turtles. I'd work in my bikini. *Corrie* was my first job when I arrived in the UK. My first job was to give the scripts out to the actors and my mother is still mortified that I asked Bill Roache if he was an actor or staff member! He was very friendly and just wanted to know why I was roaming the halls asking strange questions in a Kiwi accent.

### **Tell us about your next novel...**

It's another romantic comedy (this time set in London and Cape Town) with a wedding, a betrayal, a hot guy and lots of family antics.

