

Author turns gossip into novel

JOSHUA WALTON

QUEENSTOWN author Catherine Bennetto is celebrating her second women's fiction novel hitting the shelves.

Bennetto will launch her new book, *Make or Break*, with a talk at Sherwood Queenstown on Sunday.

The book centres on 29-year-old Londoner, Jess, who embarks on a surprise trip to South Africa with her boyfriend to attend her best mate's last-minute wedding.

Although Jess has grand visions of the trip, it soon turns into the holiday from hell and things only get worse when she returns to the city.

Bennetto says she got the inspiration for her novel from some "gossip I heard at the school gates".

"I was living in Cape Town for six-to-eight months a year for four years.

"My opinion of South Africa was so different before I went and I loved putting it in a book.

"The part I liked best was sitting in my cold Queenstown office writing and pretending to be in South Africa."

Bennetto's books are considered women's contemporary fiction or romantic comedy.

Her first novel, *How Not To Fall In Love, Actually*, was a success in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

She has also worked in TV as an

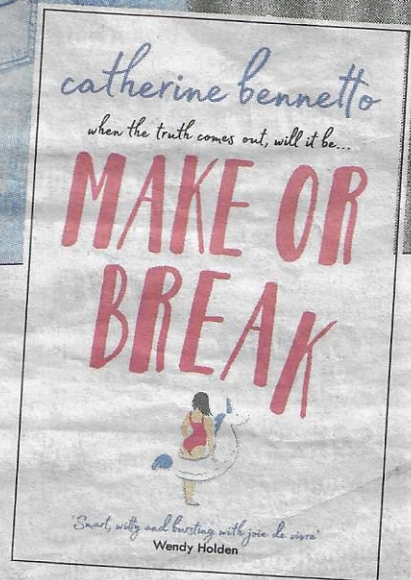


Novelist returns: Queenstown author Catherine Bennetto with her new book, *Make or Break* (inset)

assistant director on shows including *Shortland Street*, *The Bill*, *Coronation Street* and *Death in Paradise*.

Sunday's launch event for Bennetto's new book takes place from 3.30-5.30pm.

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