

End notes

The fictional character that most reminds me of myself is... I feel like it's Drew Barrymore in *50 First Dates*. I can't remember a thing! But Drew rolls with it – she's still happy. That's pretty much me.



Inspired by...

Kiwi romance writer **Catherine Bennetto** has recently released her second novel, *Make or Break*.

My favourite pet growing up... Our first family dog, Christie, a shaggy black poodle. For some reason I also have fond memories of a cat we trapped under a clothes basket and named Tiddles. We owned it for a full 50 minutes before my dad found us and released it.

The last thing I baked... Gluten-free, dairy-free, sugar-free muffins. Oh yes, it's really fun at our house!

The film or book that changed my life is... *Finding Your Own North Star* by Martha Beck.

The three books I'm lining up to read this summer are... *Scar Tissue*, Anthony Kiedis' autobiography; *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty, and the latest Martha Beck. I love a bit of self-help.

The last time I cried laughing was... When I found out that our mother had sent a Facebook friend request to a guy my sister was having a Tinder date with while she was on the date. The guy leant across the table to show my sister the request and said, "Do you know her?" and my sister had to admit it was her mother.

My most overused phrase as a parent is...

"Helmet!" yelled at a figure disappearing on a skateboard/scooter/bike.

The date ended pretty quickly after that.

The five people I would have at my ideal dinner party are... If husbands, sisters and mums aren't counted then it'd be Graham Norton, Bill Bryson, Ellen Degeneres, Drew Barrymore, and Stephen Merchant.

If I could invent one thing, it would be... The biotechnology to out-source your fitness.

You'd pay someone to do the exercises and the results would display in your body.

The family member I talk to when I need advice is... We have a family WhatsApp group so at the click of a button I have three, often wildly different, pieces of advice. I just pick the one I like the best and go with it.

If I was a history teacher, I would make sure more people knew about... WW2 via Spike Milligan's War Memoirs. They

are equally hilarious and heartbreaking. And informative. I swear I learnt more from them than I ever did at school.

The most memorable overseas adventure I've had is... The time we lived nowhere permanently for four years. With two kids.

SIDE NOTES



My number one pick for a karaoke song is...

Oh I would NEVER do karaoke. I want people to like me.



When I need to get some spark back into my soul, I...

Go for a big walk, read an inspirational book, or go on a bike ride with my friend and have mimosas for brunch.



The living person I most admire is... Oprah.

When I was a kid I wanted to be... A film/TV director or a writer.

The quote that motivates me or sums me up is... "JUST DO IT."