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MAN'S dream and a spell-checker's nightmare, Annalise Braakensiek has more to offer than her blonde-Bondi-babe image suggests. The model, film actor, TV star, cunning linguist and all-round multi-tasker has travelled a long way for her career, but she still (choke) calls Australia home.

Where are you at the moment?

I'm sitting in an Internet café.

Er, OK. Why have you got a name like that?

My father's Norwegian and my mother is Czechoslovakian.

Your last name is Norwegian?

No, my stepfather is Dutch. My first name is Norwegian.

You've covered half of Northern Europe in one name.

Absolutely.

Is it true you speak five languages?

Yup, I speak English and German fluently and conversational Dutch, Japanese and Italian.

Japanese?

[Says something incomprehensible in Japanese].

What's the most romantic language?

Italian. I love it; it's beautiful.

And what's the least romantic?

Japanese.

What's the matter with Japanese?

Nothing – but it just doesn't sound as romantic as Italian.

Can you say something sexy to me in Italian?

[Laughs] No! It's not what you say – it's the way the language sounds.

Oh, go on.

[Says something incomprehensible in Italian].

What did that mean?

I just said, "Hi, how are you going? Is everything alright?"

You're right – it did sound good. Maybe it's just 'cos you were saying it.

Oh, thank you.

What does the Internet café think of all this?

I might actually step outside. They probably think I'm a wanker.

You're in *Fat Pizza*, aren't you?

The film is a large version of the TV show *[Pizza]*, on SBS. It's packed full of craziness, violence and sex.

What do you do?

My character is a supermodel

called Claudia Macpherson. She's a bitch from hell. It was a lot of fun to make.

You're big in the UK thanks to the TV game show *Play Your Cards Right*.

Yeah, people's reaction has been really overwhelming. They're so full-on but really supportive. They're kind of obsessed with the whole babe image...

Not like us.

... and if you're self-deprecating and intelligent they just love you. I feel like they really understand my sense of humour. In Australia it was a bit harder. It was like, "Oh yeah, another blonde, surfie, model stereotype."

Are you bracketed with someone like [large-breasted model] Jordan over there?

No, I don't think so. She does quite Page 3 [topless] sort of stuff, so she's a little bit different. I hope not, anyway. I just had a letter from someone saying they used to like Caprice, but now they like me.

What kind of fan mail do you get?

I just got sent a book; I've been sent a shirt; a really nice Tiffany bracelet...

People send you presents?

Yeah, it's like Christmas every couple of days.

You must get your fair share of weirdos.

I have only ever had two people who were a bit imbalanced.

That's a polite way of putting it. What did they do?

One guy was slightly obsessive and followed me around everywhere, and inundated me with gifts and so on. He was never rude, but you know when it's too much.

Do you write back?

Yeah. I have a sense of responsibility to reply to my fans because I wouldn't be here without them. But obviously if they want to meet me and go on a date, I have to say sorry, that's not possible – I've got a boyfriend.

What else do they ask?

"Will you marry me?" That's quite a common one. And a lot of compliments. Girls want advice. Can you excuse me a sec? I just have to buy some rosehip oil.

Erm, OK. You're doing your shopping during an interview?

[Laughs] Honey, I'm multi-tasking.

Are you still based in Oz?

Yeah. I just adore Australia. I love the beach, going for a surf. My family's here.

What's the funniest thing you've ever heard about yourself?

I read that I was a drag queen. That's got to take the cake.

Who said that?

Someone in Sydney. That's apparently why I've got such a great body. And my tits are fake.

They're not fake, are they?

No, they're not! It's funny how people are so sure they're fake, but they're real. For a while there I was lying down on casting-room floors in the States – because for

