

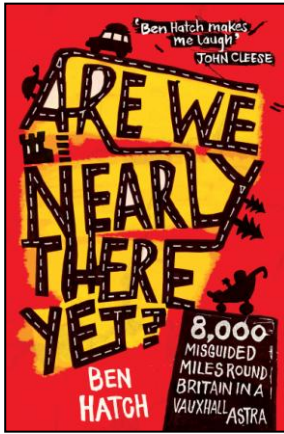
Summersdale New Book Press Release

Two adults, two kids, one small car and five months on the road: family chaos, emergency toilet stops and bizarre encounters with celebrity pyjamas, deadly snakes and a friend of Hitler.

PUBLICATION DATE: 8th AUGUST 2011

WARNING: This book contains moderately strong language.

**"A voyage of pain, suffering, argument, baby-wipes, discovery and utter delight."
Sir Terry Wogan.**



ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?

8,000 MISGUIDED MILES ROUND BRITAIN IN A VAUXHALL ASTRA

BEN HATCH

ISBN: 978 1 84953 155 9 PB 320 pages £8.99 Aug 2011

"Ben Hatch makes me laugh" John Cleese

"Eight thousand miles in an Astra with small kids. We must be mental. We'll warp the kids' minds; and our own, for that matter. We'll end up divorced, or we'll kill each other in the claustrophobic goldfish bowl of the car ..."

They were bored, broke, burned out and turning 40, so when Ben and Dinah saw the advert looking for a husband and wife team with young kids to write a guidebook about family travel around Britain, they jumped at the chance.



With naïve visions of staring moodily across Coniston Water and savouring Cornish pasties, they embark on a mad-cap five-month trip with daughter Phoebe, four, and son Charlie, nine months, embracing the freedom of the open road with a spirit of discovery and an industrial supply of baby wipes.

"funny, touching ...as much about being a kid as it is about being a grown-up." Danny Wallace

This is a real-life story about real-life parents (Ben and Dinah), real-life kids (toddler Phoebe and baby Charlie) and the real-life trials that face us all: including facing up to the loss of one's own parents. It is a journey around Britain but also a journey through the complexities and joyous absurdity of family relationships – with plenty of laughs along the way.



Potential feature angles: Travelling with small children • The grief of losing your parents as an adult • Is a career as a travel writer as idyllic as it sounds? • Are the British a child-friendly nation? • Can a family 'staycation' in recession-hit Britain, be as good (and more economical) than holidays abroad? Photos available.

Author: **Ben Hatch** is the author of two successful comic novels, *The Lawnmower Celebrity* and *The International Gooseberry*, and several guidebooks including *England with Your Family*, *Scotland with Your Family*, and *Britain for Free*. Based in Brighton, he wrote a regular blog for *The Telegraph* online during the journey.



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