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From Summersdale : Are We Nearly There Yet?: A Family's 8000 Mile Car Journey Around Britain: Family's 8000 Miles Around Britain in a Vauxhall Astra by Hatch, Ben (2011) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Are We Nearly There Yet?: A Family's 8000 Mile Car Journey Around Britain: Family's 8000 Miles Around Britain in a Vauxhall Astra by Hatch, Ben (2011):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not so much a journey, more an odessey.By Cyril YoungA great journey but a little repetitive at times.The author's relationship with his father was very moving. (I remember him from years ago on the radio.)2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. probably the worst travel book ever writtenBy TaraI love travel books! Having travelled to almost 60 countries around the globe, I have an immense collection of them. They inspire me, describing life through someone else's cultural perspective. I purchased this book as I was looking for some inspiration as to places the go in the UK and the fact the author "worked" for Frommers and that John Cleese's quote about the author was on the front, made me believe that the story would be both informative and a good laugh.....So not the case!I bought this book just prior to a trip to a remote part of Central America and when I started reading it, I began to wish that someone, anyone, would steal my Kindle. As the only book left of my trip and with all the selected quotes on , I struggled through the text like an anthropologist searching for something to

like. It was utterly painful watching the page counter slowly move from 20% to 60% to 80% all I could think was 'when will this book finally end'?? Basically, the book is about two shameless free-loaders who con hotels, restaurants and public attractions into giving them freebies in the belief that they will receive a review in Frommers. These hard-working employees/owners had no idea that the trip was not for Frommers, but purely for the author to write their own book and have a free holiday. Though not working for Frommers at the time, they used their Frommers business cards as a front, even threatening a poor couple in the Lake District with ruining their restaurant's reputation in the publication. (The author was bitter because his wife walked in off the street during full service and demanded that the pair drop everything they were doing to heat up food for her child. His wife could see the restaurant was busy and still wanted her way - even though she was not eating there nor offering to pay them for the request.) With 5 months of free hotels and restaurants under the false guise of working for a reputable travel company, they should not only be fired by Frommers for false representation, but the UK Revenue office should be after them for not declaring the value of these payments-in-kind in their taxes. As for the story itself, basically there is none. If you wanted to learn about places in the UK to visit, don't bother, they are hardly mentioned. The book contains two segments, one about his father who dies during the journey and was probably only included so that the author could name-drop some of people who knew him. Like their use of Frommers to get recognition, the author uses his father's reputation to try to make himself appear more important. Having read the book, I now believe that John Cleese's quote was meant sarcastically - that the thought of the author trying to be one makes John Cleese laugh, not that the author is in any way funny. With the way they manipulated the poor hotel and restaurant owners, I would not be surprised if the book reviews we see online have also been faked in an attempt to increase sales. The other part of the story consists of the tale of whiny, spoiled children; his wife who cheated on him and their combined base-level of behaviour - all told in a sort of monotone drone.... There should be a negative star option. Save you money. If you want to read a great, funny travel book about the UK, read 'Notes from a Small Island' by Bill Bryson. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. On the road to Wadcrag. Or maybe not. By Mr. Joe "The road didn't go through Wadcrag, I'd said. 'If you've been through Wadcrag you must be close,' she'd said. 'Have you seen the sign? ... When you see the sign for Wadcrag, you'll be close' ... I said again the road we were on didn't go through Wadcrag. 'Just go to Wadcrag and ring again,' she'd said." - from ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?, a phone conversation with a hotel receptionist seeking directions to the hotel "But the kids ... kept mistaking falling leaves for bats and were scared of the free-roaming sheep and it was so freezing on the exposed ridge we left early." from ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?, the visit to Housesteads Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall At an earnings low point and looking for a gig, Ben and Dinah Hatch are commissioned by Frommer's to research a guide on the taking of a family vacation in Great Britain. So, the couple jams a mountain of luggage and their two kids, the "under-fours" Charlie and Phoebe, into a Vauxhall Astra for a 5-month, 8023-mile circuit of England, Wales and Scotland that eventually results in Ben's book, Frommer's England With Your Family (Frommers With Your Family Series). ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET? is the behind-the-scenes narrative of the epic journey - or ordeal, depending on your idea of a jolly outing. One of my thoughts on completing this book was that perhaps Charlie and Phoebe, actually age two and almost-four respectively, were too young to represent the average family experience as they either couldn't appreciate much of what they saw and visited, or weren't allowed to do so due to tourist attractions' age and size restrictions. However, it was the Hatch Family Adventure for better or worse, so who am I to quibble? And in the end, it didn't matter because ... ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET? isn't really about the sights seen and places visited. For that reason, I was initially disenchanted as I progressed through the chapters. However, I was ultimately won over as it became apparent that it's actually an essay on the relationships between parents and offspring spanning three generations and between husband and wife under sometimes acutely stressful conditions. Indeed, significant sections of the book record Ben's coping with the reality of his father's unsuccessful battle with cancer; Ben must occasionally leave his family in whatever corner of the island they'd reached by that point for a short visit by fast train back to his father's bedside. By the final pages when Ben records the events of their first day back home in Brighton after months on the road, I liked this book and this family unit a lot especially because of the latter's vulnerabilities. Theirs was a very engaging human experience.