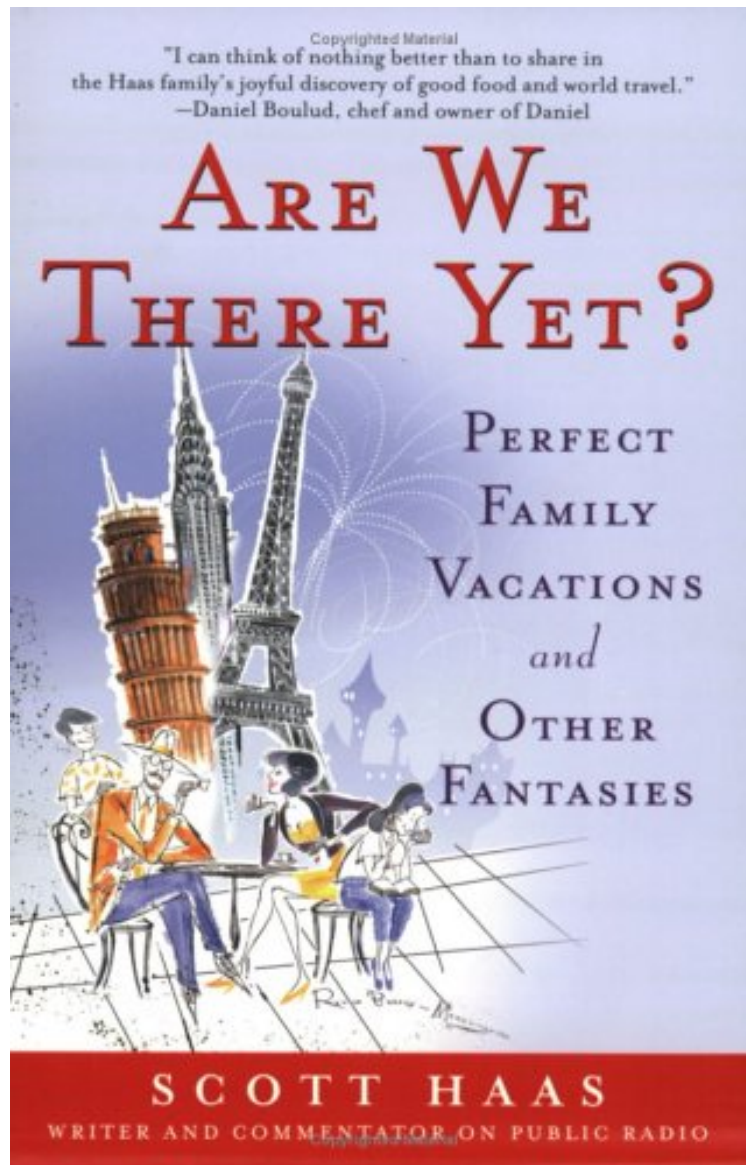


(Ebook pdf) Are We There Yet?: Perfect Family Vacations and Other Fantasies

Are We There Yet?: Perfect Family Vacations and Other Fantasies

Scott Haas

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Scott Haas : Are We There Yet?: Perfect Family Vacations and Other Fantasies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Are We There Yet?: Perfect Family Vacations and Other Fantasies:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Families and Travelers By A. flynn The premise of Scott Haas' book is not catchy or thrilling but I bought it anyway after scanning a few excerpts. He writes about

several vacations he has taken with his family over a period of 14 years. There are three things that Haas brings out in his book that make it irresistible: 1) travel descriptions about places and adventures that sound wonderful (or so horrible we are grateful NOT to be there), 2) "watching" his family grow, and 3) his personality that comes through the pages. Scott Haas is self-deprecating, humble, funny, confident, funny and honest. Although the book is mainly about traveling with his family, when he writes about them it is not sweeteningly obnoxious. Nor is he arrogant and smug when describing his travels and family. His anecdotes, observations and descriptions are wonderful and sometimes hilarious - I definitely recommend this book!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. House-Swapping Fantasies By JPS If, like me, you've daydreamed about your family swapping houses with other families in foreign countries, this funny, informative travel memoir may help you make that dream a reality. The account of one family's travel adventures over the course of a decade confirms my sense that living for a month or so like a local in another country would be much more culturally interesting than hotel travel - and definitely more affordable. Not to say that this family does things on the cheap. Their food expenditures in particular are hardly in the "affordable" category. Evidently the author is primarily a food writer and critic and his tastes reflect that. I can't say I know much about that topic. But all you "foodies" out there should enjoy his sensual description of some of his peak dining experiences.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not Very Helpful For Families By A Customer Scott Haas comes across in *Are We There Yet?* as completely moronic, over-educated, and childish. Many times in the book he complains that Americans talk too much about their feelings, but the entire book a stream-of-consciousness look at how Haas is feeling about himself, just when he happens to be on vacation. The book is not valuable to anyone but the most wealthy traveler (Haas' favorite places seem to be the "posh hotels" that only the most wealthy can dream of affording). Food that comes with a tab of less than about \$700 for a family of four is deemed "inedible". And I got tired of his ridiculous attempts to look and act like a European -- I groaned multiple times at the pride he felt when people thought he was French or Italian. Didn't we get over this game in college? The only partially redeeming section of the book is the chapter on Disney World. That chapter is a sad, and actually sort of moving, look at Haas' reaction to the events of September 11. It is laden with sarcasm, but somehow rings true -- in an over-educated, moronic sort of way...

Scott Haas thought that whisking his wife and eight-week-old daughter off to Europe was a wonderful idea. After all, wasn't great food, enriching travel, and a cultured, foreign locale the perfect recipe for family bonding? But after just one week in Switzerland, in a house with a leaky roof, an indoor beehive, and in-laws who wanted to be roommates, any illusions of an idyllic family sojourn fell to pieces. And this was just the beginning. With heartfelt honesty, *Are We There Yet?* chronicles the Haas family's trials, triumphs, exhaustion and elation as they travel-and eat-their way through vacations in Europe and America. Anyone who's ever taken the family anywhere will relate to these wonderful stories that illustrate the changes we go through when we travel, and the humor and possibility that exist in every journey.

From Publishers Weekly Early in this breezy, humorous collection of travel pieces, a pediatrician declares, "Babies are wonderful traveling companions." That's all the permission Haas and his wife needed to take newborn Madeleine on a monthlong stay in Switzerland. But the house they rented was infested with bees and had a roof that leaked during a major storm. They stayed on, and Madeleine received a hardy christening as a junior traveler. A couple of years later, son Nick got the same treatment. Haas's account doesn't offer tips on traveling with kids, but does share stories from various trips over the years, as the family favors house exchanges throughout Europe and America over wandering itineraries. The children's presence on these vacations-and their continuing development-allows Haas to observe travel from a father's perspective. In Italy, locals doted on the bambini; on the Cote d'Azur, Haas struggled to reconcile his familial responsibilities with the indolence of the Riviera. The family often bickered over decisions large and small, and much of the book features fast, funny dialogue. Haas, a producer and on-air talent for *Here and Now*, a nationally syndicated show broadcast from an NPR affiliate, captures precisely the ways the four of them behaved when confronted with the foreign, sometimes rallying as one, sometimes teetering on the verge of chaos. The kids weren't angelic, yet they were usually willing and responsive. A post-9/11 Disney World trip allows Haas to reflect on terror, fantasy and reality, but the whole of the book is charmingly lightweight.

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About the Author Scott Haas is a staff producer and on-air talent for "Here and Now," a nationally syndicated show broadcast from WBUR, an NPR affiliate. He also reports monthly for "The Splendid Table," syndicated nationally on Public Radio International. Haas received a James Beard nomination for Best Short Radio piece in the United States in 2003 and won First Place Awards from the Associated Press in 2000 and 2001. He has written for *Gourmet*, is a contributing editor at *The Robb Report*, and co-wrote *The Da Silvano Cookbook*. In addition to being a writer, Dr. Haas is chief psychologist at a teaching hospital associated with Boston University Medical School.