



Road Trip

By Gary Paulsen, Jim Paulsen

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Dad and Ben haven't been getting along recently and Dad hopes a road trip to rescue a border collie will help them reconnect. But Ben is on to Dad's plan and invites Ben's thuggish buddy, Theo. The family dog, Atticus, comes along too and the story is told by Ben and Atticus. When their truck breaks down, they commandeered an old school bus, along with its mechanic, Gus. Next, they pick up Mia, a waitress escaping a tense situation. Only sharp-eyed Atticus realizes that Theo is on the run—and someone is following them.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The prolific Paulsen has teamed up with his son in this story about a life-changing journey for 14-year-old Ben and his family. When Ben's dad drags him along for a trip to adopt another rescued border collie, they bring Atticus, their beloved canine who already thinks he's a human member of the family. Atticus gives his own perspective on their progress at the end of each of Ben's first-person narrated chapters. They're also joined by a motley crew made up of a thuggish yet reform-minded teen, an aura-reading waitress, and a macho auto mechanic. En route, they transfer to a school bus, put out a car fire, drag race with cops, and evade some bad guys, all while documenting the adventure for Facebook. Ben's realistic introspection, actions, and reactions along the way show that he and his parents have gone down some rough roads before, but this trip promises to be a positive fresh start for everybody. With its quick pace, straightforward plot, and focus on dogs, this novel is sure to have reluctant-reader appeal. Grades 3-7. --Andrew Medlar

Review

Starred Review, *Publishers Weekly*, November 26, 2012:

"The authors score on all fronts: they set an entertainingly frenzied pace, provide twists aplenty, create true dialogue that blends humor and pathos, and bring together a close-knit ensemble."

About the Author

GARY PAULSEN is the distinguished author of many critically acclaimed books for young people. His most recent books include *Crush*; *Paintings from the Cave*; *Flat Broke*; *Liar, Liar*; *Masters of Disaster*; *Lawn Boy Returns*; *Woods Runner*; *Notes from the Dog*; *Mudshark*; and *Lawn Boy*.

JAMES PAULSEN is a sculptor.

Gary Paulsen is available for select readings and lectures. To inquire about a possible appearance, please contact the Random House Speakers Bureau at rhspeakers@RandomHouse.com.

Users Review

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