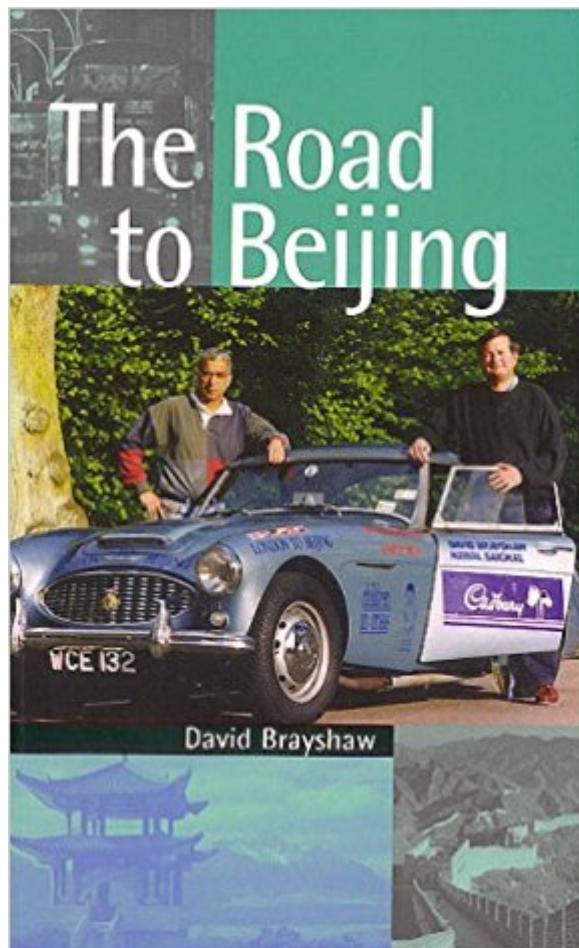


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# The Road To Beijing



## **Synopsis**

After taking early retirement, the author fulfills an ambitious dream and drives from London to Beijing in an unreliable but classic Austin Healey. This is the account of his encounters and experiences during the seven-week, 8,000-mile journey.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 186 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

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## **Customer Reviews**

A frank account of a London-Beijing journey in an old Austin Healey undertaken by a recently retired London banker and fellow Healey club member. The journey was taken under the auspices of the "children in need" charity though the author admits it was really a means of financing his grand adventure. Many pages are (to my mind) unwisely given over to discussing finances and bureaucratic diversions. The interesting part of the journey takes place in Siberia and the Healey was apparently the first vehicle to complete the Tran-Siberian route - it's amazing that the Healey stayed in one piece, it did only just! The bleakness of the Siberian landscape is conveyed but the writing is more journalistic and "factual" than artistic. I think it falls short of the story's potential. One of the weaknesses of this book is its lack of color. While the individuals encountered on the way were interesting - and uniformly pleasant - the terrain was unrelentingly dull and, eliminating the occasions where serious chassis damage was inflicted, the days can be distinguished only by the author's account of their lodgings and meals. This may have been the truth of the journey but it makes for slightly dry reading. What impressed me most is the fact that the journey was actually undertaken and the book serves as an encouraging guide to such a venture. It's not a great read in the way Genieve Obert's book (on the London-Peking race) is and there's not a whole lot in there

for Healey enthusiasts either. But as a piece of Healey folklore, it's great.

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