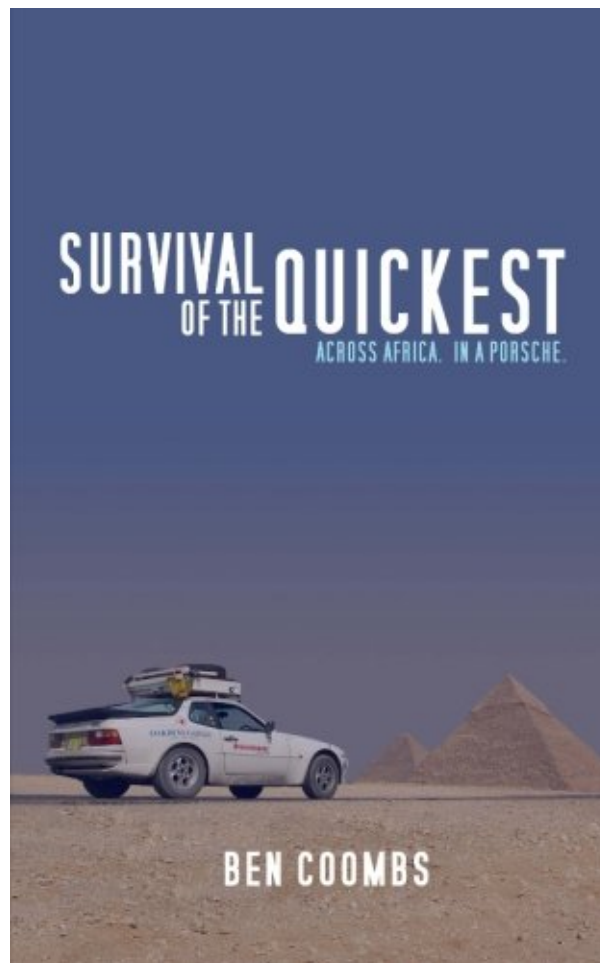
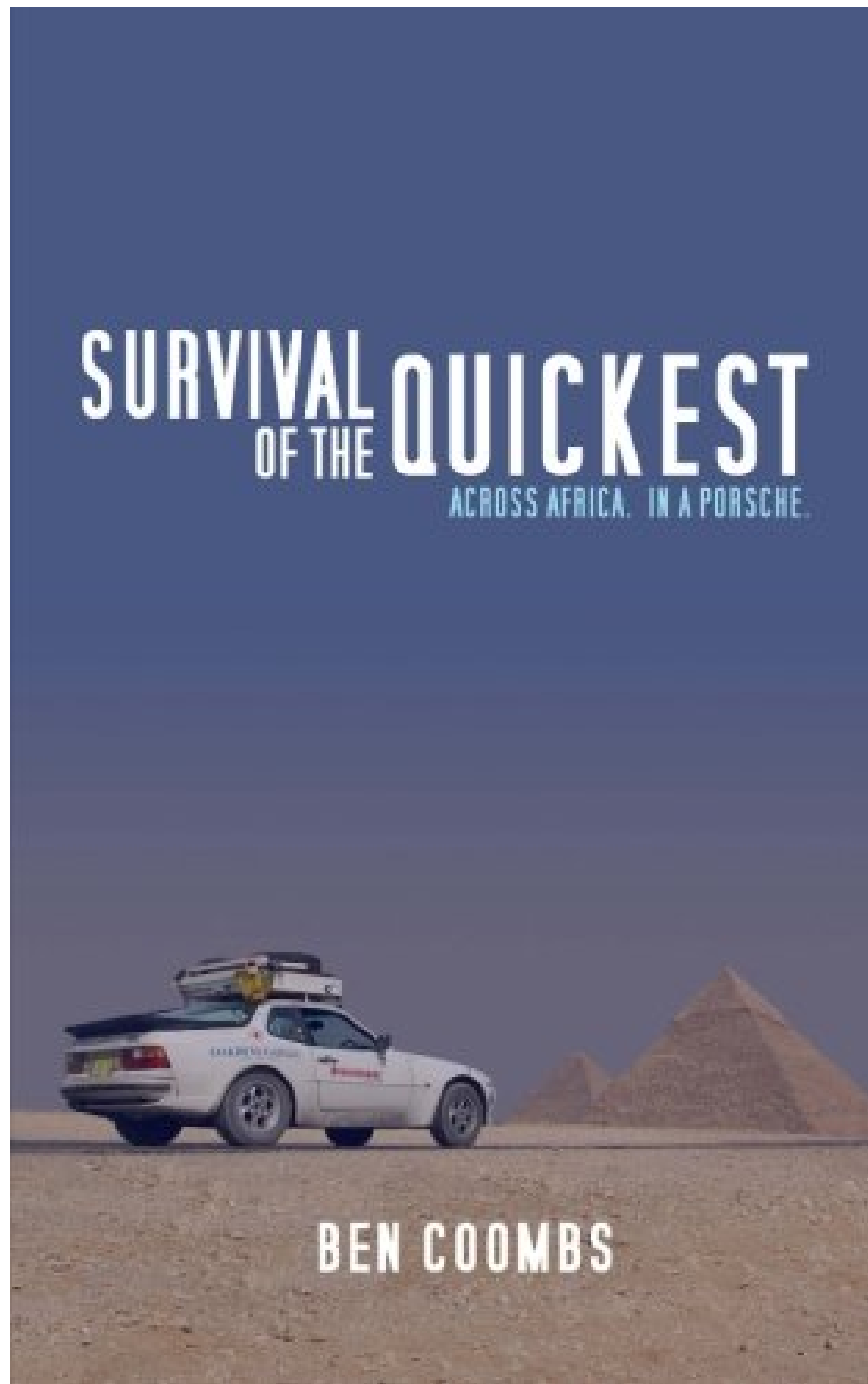


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"...as satisfying and moving as a good novel." - Classic Cars Magazine. "...a highly recommended read for any Porsche or travel fan." - PurelyPorsche. Survival of the Quickest - Across Africa. In a Porsche. 15,000 miles. 26 countries. One unforgettable adventure. In autumn 2008, Laura Reddin and Ben Coombs set off to drive from England to South Africa in a classic Porsche 944. No such journey had ever been made before, and everyone said it was impossible. They said the two young adventurers would end up broken down in the middle of some baking desert, or be robbed at knifepoint. They were right on both counts. But what they couldn't predict was that through the highs and the lows, the breakdowns and the bureaucracy, the red tape and the robberies, Laura and Ben would grow closer than they could imagine, and find romance amid Africa's epic vistas. From the edgy streets of Syria to the rutted tracks of Kenya, via the war-torn sands of the Sudan, Survival of the Quickest is the first book to describe the absolute cutting edge of adventurous road trips in gritty, honest detail. At turns inspiring, absorbing and thought-provoking, it shows just what can be achieved with a tough old car, a well-worn passport and a whole heap of determination.

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- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .99" w x 5.00" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 394 pages

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A gritty autobiographical journey to Cape Town by Porsche, with entertaining characters!

By BornTo Run

Survival of the Quickest is an automotive journey by Porsche from Plymouth to Cape Town, with an abundance of challenges and humour along the way.

The book begins with a sense of impending doom, as the reader realises that Ben is about to be thrown into an intense journey with a co-driver he is barely talking to. However, the journey throws up many a surprise as each of the characters deal with the intensity of the varied challenges faced in quite wildly different ways. Luckily for Ben and his co-driver, their strained relationship takes a surprising turn. The book strikes a great balance between the characters, colourful descriptions of the countries and their histories, as well as the trials and tribulations of the poor old Porsche. Being a female reader I was worried I'd have no interest in the inevitable breakdown problems with the car, however these were so random and eventful that it gave an interesting juxtaposition between characters, who either calmly came together to fix the problem (usually with the equivalent of gaffer tape), or the guy who wanted to throw everything in and have the poor old Porsche towed into Cape Town.

The author does a fantastic job of creating tension a great rapport with the main characters, to the point

where I was nervous as to whether the car's problems would overcome the trip, as failure appeared inevitable. By the end of the book I felt like I'd been along for the ride myself. An excellent read, am crossing my fingers the author writes a sequel!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A well-written and well-paced classic travelogue.

By Shawn Stanford

Coombs and his friends take on an almost inconceivable task: driving from England to the southern tip of Africa in a high-mileage Porsche 944. Coombs ups the difficulty by choosing a well-used, low-dollar 4x4 as his 'support' vehicle, a group of friends who don't get along, and a co-driver with whom he's having severe relationship difficulties.

This is a well-written and well-paced classic travelogue full of interesting observations about the places and events and people he encountered. Overall, Coombs spent more time talking about the areas through which he traveled; the difficulties of road, terrain and bureaucracy; the vagaries of road food in Africa; and the interpersonal relationships among his team than he did about the car and his attempts to keep it running. This is NOT a criticism of what Coombs has written, just an observation about what I was seeking as opposed to what Coombs he delivered.

I purchased this mainly because I'm a big fan of Porsche; I've owned three, none of them new and a couple of them well into their 'vintage' years. I get nervous when I drive to the next state over and here Coombs travels several thousands of miles crossing countries with poor roads, poor support and repair facilities and some of the worst 'governments' in the world. That took a lot of courage and self-confidence; and Coombs has my respect for even imagining such a trip, let alone pulling it off!

But, I was looking for something that focused a little more on the car. Of course, the car - while it didn't perform flawlessly (how could it?), performed well enough that it covered the distance with only a couple of significant problems. A testament to Porsche's engineering and construction prowess, more than to Coombs's self-admitted amateur mechanical abilities. This left Coombs freer to focus his book on things besides keeping the car moving along the road.

I would recommend this book to someone who likes adventurous travelogues more than to someone who likes Porsches.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great! I recommend it.

By Robert L. GeiserKli

The book is great, so far. I haven't finished reading it entirely. A nice touch would be some pictures to support the text. The main reason I bought the book was to see what problems the author ran into under extreme conditions. I also own a white Porsche 944 (1987). May I suggest that other readers run a search on the author's name to access pictures taken during the trip. Another feature I like is that the author gives insights on the various countries crossed. I did cheat and read what finally happened to the 944. It was not junked out, in spite of having been trashed during the trip.

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