

515 Soyowanna Street
Atlanta, GA 30320

January 1, 2000

Ms. Robin Straus
Robin Straus Agency, Inc.
229 East 77th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Straus,

My name is Bill Hawthorn and I am a third-year law student and the Managing Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. Together with my friend, Ben Von Italie, I have written a proposal for a book entitled, *Let's Stay – Debunking the Cult of Global Travel*. We would like to invite you to review our proposal and consider representing us.

Let's Stay is a satirical anti-travel guide that sandblasts the luster off the world's most famous tourist Meccas. From the Belfast riots of civilized Britain to the intriguing Pizza Huts of exotic Thailand, we validate the sedentary lifestyles of isolationist Americans. Each year 45 million Americans go abroad. That means 220 million stay here. This is the book for them.

Let's Stay is organized into three major sections. The first is a gloves-off critique of the glamour of foreign travel and why much of it is wild hyperbole. Then we peel back the mythology of specific countries, cataloging their cultural disappointments and offering suggestions on how to get the same experience at home. We conclude with crucial advice on spinning the travel endgame: returning to a regularly scheduled life while convincing yourself and your co-workers that it was all worth it. *Let's Stay* is a satire that doubles as an illustrated reference guide, so the tone is light and the criticism of other lands is good-natured.

Ben and I met at University of Michigan, where we both graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, myself *Summa cum Laude* in 1995 and he *Magna cum Laude* in 1997. I am a citizen of Britain and since being born there, have lived my entire life abroad – eight years in Libya, nine years in Malaysia, and now seven years in America. Ben grew up in Summit, New Jersey and has traveled to Europe and Asia. He currently works for CNN in Atlanta. With our very different backgrounds and combined trips to thirty-three countries, we complement each other's travel traumas and share compelling reasons to avoid spending time and money outside a first-world superpower.

We noticed your excellent credentials in Jeff Herman's guide to literary agents. We would be thrilled to have you represent us. If you are interested in seeing our proposal, please contact me as soon as possible. We will be showing it to only one agent at a time. You can reach me at 212-555-1212 until August 7, and thereafter at 203-555-1212, or by email at Hawthorn@yahoo.com.

Very truly yours,

Bill Hawthorn