

Deadpan comedian Jack Dee has written his autobiography, *Thanks For Nothing*, about his early years on the road to fame.

Jack and his wife Jane live in South-West London with their children, Hattie, 17, Phoebe, 14, and twins Miles and Charlie, 11.

MY best LIFE

Jack as a team captain on *Shooting Stars*



★ What's the best advice you've been given?

My mum told me: "Aim for the sky and you'll land on a high tree."

★ What do you like best about yourself?

I'm patient with other people. That was a useful virtue to have in the *Big Brother* house.

★ What are your best childhood memories?

I lived in the countryside, so my memories are of roaming around, making treehouses and going for bike rides. From the age of seven you could pack a picnic and be out all day. I sound like an old codger, but you can't do that since they invented paedophiles.

★ **What's been the best part of writing your memoirs?** That the publishers were pleased with it. I was also surprised how much memory is triggered by the process of writing.

★ What's the best rejection you've had?

I had a letter from a TV channel after my agent asked if they'd broadcast my stand-up. They wrote: *We don't think it's quite right for us, but would he like to do a cooking show?* You're always banging your head against a wall trying to get what you want made.

★ What's been your best moment on *Shooting Stars*?

When recording is over and I can go home. I feel like I'm

JACK DEE
'VEGETARIAN FOOD SHOULD BE EATEN WITH MEAT!'



Jack with his wife Jane

there more for health and safety, in case one of them sets fire to themselves.

★ What's the best chat-up line you've heard or used?

A bloke went up to a girl in a bar and said, "Where have you been all my life?" and she said, "I wasn't born for half of it." I didn't chat up Jane. I worked in a restaurant, so I just made her a cappuccino.

★ What's the best part of your day?

I like it when I get into bed. The house is quiet and the dogs are on the end of the bed. Usually, Jane's already asleep.

★ What's the best thing your kids have said?

When Hattie was small I said to her, "If I have to tell you to put your shoes on one more time, I'm going to go mad." She said, "Don't tell me then."

★ What's the best bargain you've found?

There's a shop in West Sussex where everything is cheap. A telly is £15! I visit when I'm buying presents – not for myself obviously!

★ What's the best reason for getting out of bed in the morning?

The smell of bacon. I like vegetarian food, but I like it with meat because that's what it's meant to be eaten with!

★ *Thanks For Nothing* by Jack Dee (Doubleday, £20)

BEST BOOK *The Butt* by Will Self. The idea is that somebody flicks a cigarette butt over a balcony and it has massive implications on that person, turning into a darker and darker disaster. I'm not a very fast reader but I do like to read all the time.

BEST TV I watch *Dragon's Den*. But when I watch it, I can't help thinking of Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse's impression of them, so I just find the whole thing funny now.

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