

## **AS A CHILD**

I come from Stamford in Lincolnshire. It's where a lot of TV and films are shot because it hasn't changed much in 500 years. My childhood was like most peoples - a mixture of lovely and very odd. Lovely because I spent a lot of time with good friends, music and tadpoles. Odd because I spent a lot of time worrying about everything - like war, murderers and poisonous mushrooms (don't ask). I was a bit weird. Like we all are.

## **AS AN ADULT**

After school I went to Hull University to study English Literature - which I LOVED. At that point the government actually still gave you money to study - so I GOT PAID to READ BOOKS for 3 years. I then worked in radio for 15 years. Firstly as the person who makes the adverts (all those annoying jingles that stay in your head for DAYS - that's me!) Secondly as a breakfast presenter. I got to interview lots of famous boy bands and once nearly broke Cheryl Cole's chair on stage. We don't talk about that. I got in trouble.

I've always written things but most of them were actually slightly rubbish. Or they were about people and I never wanted them to see it. I don't think I was any good at writing till I was 35 and that was after a lot of practice.

## **AS AN WRITER**

I have a shed in my back garden I go to. It's full of brilliant things - like a mini stable and horses, loads of stationery and a giant old railway station clock (slight 'Dr.Who' vibe). My first book 'My Mad, Fat Diary' was published a few years ago. Hattie is my third. My second is potentially the best book ever written since Shakespeare - but I can't make it work so at the moment it's just a bit rubbish. I haven't given up hope though.