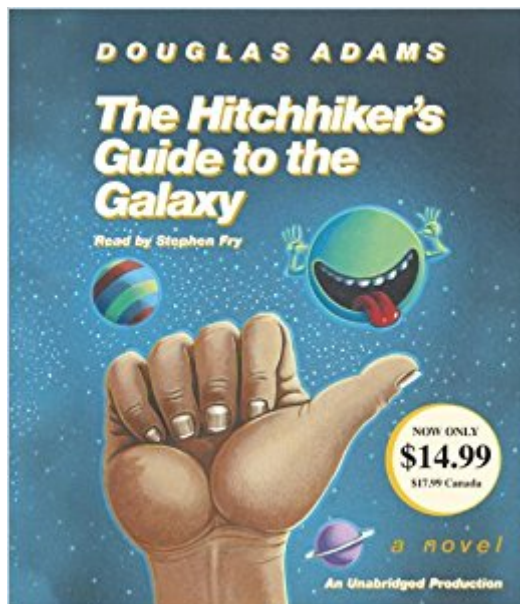


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# The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy



## Synopsis

“Extremely funny . . . inspired lunacy . . . [and] over much too soon.” *The Washington Post Book World* Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker’s Guide* (“A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have”) and a galaxy-full of fellow travelers: Zaphod Beeblebrox “the two-headed, three-armed ex-hippie and totally out-to-lunch president of the galaxy; Trillian, Zaphod’s girlfriend (formally Tricia McMillan), whom Arthur tried to pick up at a cocktail party once upon a time zone; Marvin, a paranoid, brilliant, and chronically depressed robot; Veet Voojagig, a former graduate student who is obsessed with the disappearance of all the ballpoint pens he bought over the years. Where are these pens? Why are we born? Why do we die? Why do we spend so much time between wearing digital watches? For all the answers stick your thumb to the stars. And don’t forget to bring a towel! Praise for *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* “A whimsical odyssey . . . Characters frolic through the galaxy with infectious joy.” *Publishers Weekly* “Irresistible!” *The Boston Globe*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Join Douglas Adams’s hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from

Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue. The Hitchhiker's Guide is rich in comedic detail and thought-provoking situations and stands up to multiple reads. Required reading for science fiction fans, this book (and its follow-ups) is also sure to please fans of Monty Python, Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, and British sitcoms. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Don't panic! Here are words of praise for The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy!"It's science fiction and it's extremely funny...inspired lunacy that leaves hardly a science fiction cliché alive."Washington Post"The feckless protagonist, Arthur Dent, is reminiscent of Vonnegut heroes, and his travels afford a wild satire of present institutions."Chicago Tribune"Very simply, the book is one of the funniest SF spoofs ever written, with hyperbolic ideas folding in on themselves."School Library Journal"As parody, it's marvelous: It contains just about every science fiction cliché you can think of. As humor, it's, well, hysterical."

The Hitchhikers guide to the galaxy is one of the most famous pieces of science fiction in the English language. The story has been adapted into almost every medium, from radio to novels to tv to movies. And it's easy to see why it's so popular. This was one of the funniest books I've ever read. Guide is primarily about the adventures of Arthur, an ordinary average guy forced to leave earth and go on a journey through the cosmos. He is joined by Ford Prefect, a writer for the Guide, Trillian, an astrophysicist from Earth, Zaphod Beeblebrox, the President of the Galaxy, and Marvin, an extremely depressed robot. Over the course of five books, they encounter a wide array of aliens, planets, and towels. The best element of these books is the humor. Adams is a master of satire, regularly stopping the plot to give a humorous take on everything he can think of. This book is almost impossible to put down it's so funny. The only downside is that he clearly had no idea where to go with the overall plot. After the second book, plots and characters would appear and disappear out of nowhere, and the ending fizzled out. That is the only reason I couldn't give this 5 stars. This is one of the best pieces of YA literature out there. Have fun.

As a nerd I have gotten recommendations to read this my entire life but I have just never gotten around to it, but now I wish I had done so sooner! The absolute preposterousness of the universe Mr. Adams has created is one that is very unique. His attention to detail when creating the math behind the improbability drive shows his attention to detail, while showing the drive's behavior

during its use shows Adam's refusal to take the universe he created too seriously. While I sometimes feel some undertones of nihilism, what I think Adams is really trying to do is put Earth in perspective while having too much fun creating a space adventure in the process.

This was one of those books that I find a lot of people have heard of but not a lot of people have read - if you're one of those people and you like dry, satire-style humor and imaginative science fiction, certainly give this book a try. This book is super easy to read and is a humorous take on space and time travel. It follows a 'normal' man who unknowingly befriends an alien hitchhiker and is taken along on some entertaining journeys through space. They go to other universes, meet interesting characters, discover futuristic technology (including a melodramatic, depressed robot), and discover the ACTUAL answer to the universe! The only question left now is... what exactly was the question? Sounds ridiculous, I know, but you really get sucked in!

My English teacher wasn't amused 35 years ago when I said this was my favorite line in literature. (It wasn't, but I do love it.) Douglas Adams was everything an sf writer should be: witty, humane and imaginative, and this work illustrates it all. A better quote is, "And then, one Thursday, nearly two thousand years after one man had been nailed to a tree for saying how great it would be to be nice to people for a change, a girl sitting on her own in a small café in Rickmansworth suddenly realized what it was that had been going wrong all this time, and she finally knew how the world could be made a good and happy place. This time it was right, it would work, and no one would have to get nailed to anything," but that's too long for a classroom discussion in freshman English

Either one would put the book down in first few pages, or would be very engaged and continue page after page. The story is intricate, and beautifully woven, involving inter/ intra galactic worlds, employing science and of course probability :D ( you'll understand why I put that emoji while reading the book) This sci-fi book takes some of the major metaphysics questions (or at times put some, if deeply thought, in its own way) - pertaining to cosmology, universe, epistemology in a humour, which is imaginative, innovative, and illuminating on the subject. Right from addressing philosophical questions to attending idiosyncrasies of each character to the description of each one of them - in books lingua - is humorous, very humorous, really humorous, humorously humorous. Apart from reviewed facts, some not so reviewed facts (according to the book) that comes to ones astonishment or curiosity: 1. Mind it we earthmen are the third most intelligent beings on Earth (and

not the most, and that too only on Earth). And universe also has some hyper intelligent beings, who we on Earth assume to be guinea pigs for our lab experiments.<sup>2</sup> You might have had new improved earth with Africa having glaciers with elegantly sculpted contours, soaring pinnacles of ice, deep majestic ravines if by the stroke of destiny Earthman Arthur Dent died in the earth's reduction to infinite fragments, then drifting around in an empty space. At last I think we on Earth also have people trained in Vogonian singing/ poetry (no offence) :D If you don't know about it, just Google "Vogon Poetry"

If you're reading this, chances are you're at least somewhat familiar with the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. I normally prefer hard science fiction, but after Douglas Adams' death I happened to see a leather-bound edition of the "trilogy", picked it up, and found it hilarious. Suddenly appearing flowerpots thinking "not again!", ugly aliens destroying the Earth and reciting bad poetry, the higher mathematics used in calculating the bill at a restaurant... It's impossible to take these books seriously, and the author makes no attempt to do so, but rather delights in the absurdity of it all. Who else would pen a novel in which the mice decide they should remove the last Earthman's brain to determine what question has the answer '42'? When the Kindle edition went on sale recently, I couldn't resist picking it up even though I still own the leather copy. The characters are as silly as ever, and it makes for nice light reading on a trip. If you don't mind the occasional bit of nonsense, this is the book for you.

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