

hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy

hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy is a seminal work in the realm of science fiction, renowned for its wit, satire, and imaginative storytelling. Originally conceived as a radio comedy series by Douglas Adams, the guide has since expanded into a series of novels, a film, and various other media, cementing its place as a cultural icon. This article explores the origins, themes, characters, and impact of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," offering a comprehensive overview for both new readers and longtime fans.

Origins and Development of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

From Radio Series to Literary Phenomenon

The journey of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" began in 1978 as a radio comedy broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Created by Douglas Adams, the series was initially intended as a one-off program but quickly garnered a dedicated following due to its clever humor and inventive storytelling. Its popularity led Adams to develop it into a series of novels, starting with the first book published in 1979.

Evolution into a Multimedia Franchise

Over the years, the franchise expanded beyond radio and books:

- **Novels:** A five-book trilogy (sometimes humorously called a "trilogy in five parts") that further explores the universe and its characters.
- **Film:** A 2005 feature film directed by Garth Jennings, bringing visual life to Adams' universe.
- **Television:** Several adaptations, including a TV series and animated versions.
- **Video Games and Merchandise:** Various interactive and collectible items that deepen fans' engagement.

Core Themes and Philosophical Underpinnings

Satire of Science and Society

At its heart, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" satirizes human society, bureaucracy, and the often absurd nature of scientific endeavors. Adams uses humor to critique:

- The complexity and often pointless nature of governmental and corporate procedures.
- The futility of human endeavors in the vastness of the universe.
- The blind faith in technology and progress without understanding.

Existential Questions and Humor

The series delves into profound questions about existence, purpose, and the universe, often with a humorous twist:

- What is the meaning of life?
- Is there an ultimate purpose or just chaos?
- How do individuals find meaning in a universe indifferent to their existence?

Adams famously answers the question of life's purpose with the number 42, emphasizing the absurdity and mystery surrounding such inquiries.

Key Characters of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Arthur Dent

The series' reluctant human hero, Arthur Dent, is an ordinary man thrust into extraordinary circumstances after Earth is demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. His journey reflects human curiosity and resilience amid cosmic chaos.

Ford Prefect

A researcher for the titular guidebook, Ford Prefect is an alien from Betelgeuse who has been stranded on Earth for years. His role is to collect information for the Guide and assist Arthur in navigating the universe.

Zaphod Beeblebrox

The eccentric, two-headed ex-President of the Galaxy, Zaphod is a reckless and charismatic figure whose antics drive much of the series' humor and action.

Trillian (Tricia McMillan)

A human woman who escapes Earth's destruction and joins the crew aboard the Heart of Gold. Trillian is intelligent, resourceful, and serves as a grounding presence.

Marvin the Paranoid Android

A depressed, perpetually pessimistic robot with a brain the size of a planet, Marvin provides comic relief with his bleak outlook on life.

The Hitchhiker's Guide: An In-Depth Look

The Guidebook as a Narrative Device

The "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" itself is a fictional electronic travel guidebook that characters refer to frequently. It is characterized by:

- Humorous entries and footnotes
- Irreverent tone and satirical commentary
- Practical advice for interstellar travelers, often with absurd or humorous caveats

The Guide's famous phrase, "Don't Panic," is displayed prominently on its cover, embodying Adams' comedic philosophy.

Technological and Cultural Satire

The Guidebook parodies real-world travel guides and technology, often highlighting the absurdity of modern life and the human tendency to rely on technology without understanding it.

The Impact and Legacy of The Hitchhiker's Guide

to the Galaxy

Influence on Science Fiction and Popular Culture

Adams' work has profoundly influenced science fiction, inspiring writers, filmmakers, and comedians. Its blend of humor, philosophy, and speculative fiction set a new standard for the genre.

Quotes and Phrases That Became Cultural Icons

Several lines from the series have entered popular lexicon:

- "The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is 42."
- "Don't Panic."
- "So long, and thanks for all the fish."

Continued Relevance

Decades after its debut, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" remains relevant, with new adaptations, merchandise, and fans discovering its humor and insights.

Why Read The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy?

Reading Adams' work offers more than just entertainment; it provides:

- An amusing perspective on life's big questions.
- Satire that encourages critical thinking about society and technology.
- Unique characters and inventive storytelling that inspire creativity.
- A timeless reminder to not take life too seriously.

Conclusion

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is a masterpiece that combines science fiction, humor, and philosophical musings into a compelling narrative. Its influence extends beyond literature into popular culture, inspiring

generations of fans and creators. Whether you're interested in exploring the absurdities of the universe, seeking a humorous critique of society, or simply looking for an entertaining story, Adams' universe offers a rich and rewarding experience. Remember, as the Guide wisely advises: "Don't Panic," and enjoy the cosmic adventure.

Meta Description: Explore the universe of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" with our comprehensive guide. Discover its origins, key characters, themes, and impact on pop culture in this SEO-friendly article.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' and who created it?

'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' is a science fiction comedy series created by Douglas Adams. It originally started as a radio series in 1978 and has since expanded into novels, a TV series, and a film.

What is the significance of the number 42 in 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'?

The number 42 is presented as the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything, according to the supercomputer Deep Thought. Its humorous and enigmatic nature has made it a cultural meme.

Who is the main protagonist in 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'?

The main protagonist is Arthur Dent, an ordinary human who is swept off Earth just before its destruction and embarks on intergalactic adventures.

How has 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' influenced popular culture?

The series has influenced pop culture through its humorous take on science fiction, the concept of the Guide as an electronic travel guide, the phrase 'Don't Panic,' and the iconic number 42, inspiring countless references, parodies, and adaptations.

Are there any recent adaptations or continuations of

'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'?

Yes, recent adaptations include a 2005 feature film, a 2019 radio series, and ongoing discussions about new book projects and stage adaptations, keeping the franchise alive for new generations of fans.

Additional Resources

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is a quintessential work of science fiction comedy that has captured the imaginations of readers worldwide since its debut. Written by Douglas Adams, this series of novels, radio broadcasts, and adaptations has become a cultural phenomenon, blending wit, satire, and philosophical musings into a uniquely engaging narrative. Its influence extends beyond literature, inspiring films, television series, and countless references within popular culture. This review aims to explore the various facets of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, analyzing its storytelling, humor, characters, themes, and overall impact.

Overview of the Series

Background and Origins

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy began as a radio comedy broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1978. Douglas Adams, the creator, initially conceived it as a humorous commentary on science fiction and the absurdities of modern life. Due to its popularity, it was adapted into a series of novels, starting with the first book published in 1979. The series eventually expanded to include five primary books, a stage play, a television series, and a feature film.

Plot Summary

The central plot revolves around Arthur Dent, an unremarkable human who is suddenly thrust into cosmic adventures after Earth is destroyed to make way for a hyperspace bypass. He is rescued by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the titular guidebook, who is an alien from a small planet. Alongside other eccentric characters—a depressed robot named Marvin, Zaphod Beeblebrox, the two-headed ex-President of the Galaxy, and Trillian, the only other human survivor—the story explores the universe's bizarre realities, satirical critiques of society, and philosophical questions wrapped in humor.

Literary Style and Humor

Wit and Satire

Douglas Adams's writing is renowned for its sharp wit and satirical tone. He employs humor to critique everything from bureaucracy and politics to religion and human nature. The tone is often light-hearted, but beneath the comedy lies a deep commentary on existential questions and the absurdity of life.

Language and Narrative Voice

Adams's narrative style is characterized by clever wordplay, memorable one-liners, and a conversational tone that makes complex ideas accessible. His use of irony and parody elevates the series beyond mere comedy, inviting readers to think critically while being entertained.

Humor Features

- Absurd scenarios (e.g., a planet-sized computer designed to find the "Ultimate Question")
- Funny character traits (Marvin the paranoid android's gloomy outlook)
- Puns and linguistic jokes (e.g., "42" as the Answer to the Ultimate Question)

Major Themes and Philosophical Underpinnings

The Meaning of Life and Existence

The series famously culminates in the revelation that the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything is "42," a humorous nod to the inscrutability of life's purpose. Adams uses this to satirize the human quest for meaning and the often futile search for definitive answers.

The Nature of the Universe

Through its depiction of bizarre planets, alien cultures, and cosmic phenomena, the series explores the idea that the universe is fundamentally unpredictable and often nonsensical, encouraging a sense of humility and curiosity.

Technology and Humanity

Adams reflects on how technological advancement impacts society, often highlighting human flaws and the bureaucratic inefficiency of large institutions. The Guide itself acts as a satirical symbol of information overload and reliance on technology.

Characters and Their Significance

Arthur Dent

The quintessential everyman, Arthur's mundane perspective provides a relatable lens through which readers experience the universe's chaos. His evolution from a bewildered human to a seasoned cosmic hitchhiker underscores themes of adaptability and resilience.

Ford Prefect

An alien researcher disguised as a human, Ford embodies curiosity and skepticism. His role as the Guide's researcher emphasizes the importance of

perspective and the value of questioning assumptions.

Zaphod Beeblebrox

The flamboyant, reckless two-headed ex-President embodies chaos and the absurdity of political power. His antics add humor while also satirizing leadership and corruption.

Marvin the Paranoid Android

A depressed robot with a dry wit, Marvin provides comic relief but also a commentary on existential despair and artificial intelligence.

Trillian

The intelligent and resourceful human woman who navigates the universe alongside Arthur, representing competence and adaptability.

Media Adaptations and Cultural Impact

Radio and Television

The original radio series remains a beloved classic, renowned for its inventive sound design and faithful adaptation of Adams's witty dialogue. The TV series, though less acclaimed, introduced the universe to a broader audience.

Novels and Book Series

The five primary novels—The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, The Restaurant at the End of the Universe, Life, the Universe and Everything, So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish, and Mostly Harmless—form a cohesive yet diverse exploration of the series' themes, each adding depth and humor.

Film and Other Media

The 2005 film adaptation brought the story to a new generation, though it received mixed reviews for its deviation from the source material. Nevertheless, it helped maintain the series's popularity.

Cultural Influence

The phrase "Don't Panic," the number "42," and the concept of a guidebook for hitchhikers have entered mainstream culture. The series's humor and philosophical insights continue to inspire writers, comedians, and fans worldwide.

Critical Reception

Strengths

- Inventive storytelling and humor
- Sharp satire and social commentary
- Memorable characters and quotable lines
- Philosophical depth beneath comedic surface

Criticisms

- Some feel the series's later installments lack the freshness of the original
- The narrative can be chaotic, sometimes challenging for new readers
- The film adaptation received mixed reviews, with some fans disappointed by deviations from the source

Pros and Cons Summary

Pros:

- Clever, humorous writing style
- Thought-provoking themes
- Enduring cultural impact
- Rich, imaginative universe

Cons:

- Some consider the humor to be niche or acquired taste
- Pacing can be uneven in later installments
- Film adaptation not universally praised

Final Thoughts

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy remains a landmark in science fiction and comedic literature. Its blend of sharp satire, philosophical inquiry, and whimsical adventure creates a universe that is both entertaining and reflective. Douglas Adams's masterful storytelling invites readers to ponder life's big questions while laughing at its absurdities. Whether enjoyed as a light-hearted comedy or as a profound commentary on human existence, the series continues to resonate with audiences around the world.

In summary, the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is more than just a humorous sci-fi saga; it's a cultural touchstone that challenges us to think differently about our place in the universe. Its enduring popularity and influence testify to its exceptional quality and Adams's genius as a storyteller. For anyone interested in exploring the humorous side of cosmic philosophy, this series is an essential read that offers both laughs and insights in equal measure.

[Hitchhiker S Guide To The Galaxy](#)

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams, 1981
Just before the Earth is demolished to make way for a new hyperspatial expressway, Arthur Dent is

plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect from the planet Betelgeuse and begins his hitch-hiking misadventures throughout the universe.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams, 2002-04-30 In one complete volume, here are the five classic novels from Douglas Adams's beloved Hitchhiker series. Now celebrating the pivotal 42nd anniversary of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, soon to be a Hulu original series! The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read) Seconds before the Earth is demolished for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is saved by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised Guide. Together they stick out their thumbs to the stars and begin a wild journey through time and space. The Restaurant at the End of the Universe The moment before annihilation at the hands of warmongers is a curious time to crave tea. It could only happen to the cosmically displaced Arthur Dent and his comrades as they hurtle across the galaxy in a desperate search for a place to eat. Life, the Universe and Everything The unhappy inhabitants of planet Krikkit are sick of looking at the night sky- so they plan to destroy it. The universe, that is. Now only five individuals can avert Armageddon: mild-mannered Arthur Dent and his stalwart crew. So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish Back on Earth, Arthur Dent is ready to believe that the past eight years were all just a figment of his stressed-out imagination. But a gift-wrapped fishbowl with a cryptic inscription thrusts him back to reality. So to speak. Mostly Harmless Just when Arthur Dent makes the terrible mistake of starting to enjoy life, all hell breaks loose. Can he save the Earth from total obliteration? Can he save the Guide from a hostile alien takeover? Can he save his daughter from herself? Includes the bonus story "Young Zaphod Plays It Safe" "With droll wit, a keen eye for detail and heavy doses of insight . . . Adams makes us laugh until we cry."—San Diego Union-Tribune "Lively, sharply satirical, brilliantly written . . . ranks with the best set pieces in Mark Twain."—The Atlantic

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hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy Omnibus Douglas Adams, 1995 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is a science fiction comedy series (created by Douglas Adams) that debuted as a radio comedy broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1978. Since then it has been adapted to other formats, slowly becoming an international multi-media phenomenon over a span of several years. The title The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is often abbreviated as HHG, HHGG, HHGTTG, or H2G2. The series is also often referred to as The Hitchhiker's Guide, Hitchhiker's, or simply [The] Guide. This title can refer to any of the various

incarnations of the story, of which the books, having been translated into more than 30 languages by 2005. Although the various versions follow the same basic plot, they are in many places mutually contradictory, as Adams rewrote the story substantially for each new adaptation. In all versions, the series follows the adventures of Arthur Dent, a hapless Englishman who escapes the demolition of Earth by a bureaucratic alien race called the Vogons with his friend Ford Prefect, an alien from a small planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse and researcher for the eponymous guidebook. Zaphod Beeblebrox, Ford's semi-cousin and part-time Galactic President, unknowingly saves the pair from certain death. He brings them aboard his stolen spaceship, the Heart of Gold, whose crew rounds out the main cast of characters: Marvin the Paranoid Android, a severely depressed robot, and Trillian, formerly known as Tricia McMillan, a woman Arthur once met at a party who he soon realises is the only other survivor of Earth's destruction. After this, the characters embark on a quest to find the legendary planet of Magrathea and the Question to the Ultimate Answer.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Douglas Adams, 2002 A one-volume edition charting Arthur Dent's odyssey through space, comprising: *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*: One Thursday lunchtime the Earth gets demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. For Arthur, who has just had his house demolished, this is too much. Sadly, the weekend's just begun. *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*: When all issues of space, time, matter and the nature of being are resolved, only one question remains: Where shall we have dinner? *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe* provides the ultimate gastronomic experience and, for once, there is no morning after. *Life, the Universe and Everything*: In consequence of a number of stunning catastrophes, Arthur Dent is surprised to find himself living in a hideously miserable cave on prehistoric Earth. And then, just as he thinks that things cannot possibly get any worse, they suddenly do. *So Long, and Thanks for all the Fish*: Arthur Dent's sense of reality is in its dickiest state when he suddenly finds the girl of his dreams. They go in search of God's Final Message and, in a dramatic break with tradition, actually find it.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Douglas Adams, 1979 Chronicles the journeys, notions, and acquaintances of reluctant galactic traveler Arthur Dent, accompanied by never-before-published material from the late author's archives as well as commentary by famous fans.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Original Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Radio Scripts Douglas Adams, 2012-07-26 March 1978 saw the first ever transmission of Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* on BBC Radio 4; the beginning of a cult phenomenon. March 2020 marks the 42nd anniversary of that first transmission - 42 being the answer, of course, to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. To mark the occasion, Pan Macmillan are bringing back into print *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Original Radio Scripts* with a brand-new introduction from Simon Jones. The collection also includes the previously 'lost' Hitchhiker script from the 25th anniversary edition, 'Sheila's Ear' and the original introductions by producer Geoffrey Perkins and Douglas Adams. This collection, which is a faithful reproduction of the text as it was first published in 1985, features all twelve original radio scripts - Hitchhiker as it was written and exactly as it was broadcast for the very first time. They include amendments and additions made during recordings and original notes on the writing and producing of the series by Douglas Adams and Geoffrey Perkins. For those who have always loved Douglas Adams, as well as for his new generation of fans, these scripts are essential reading and a must-have piece of Adams memorabilia. This special anniversary edition will sit alongside reissued eye-catching editions of the five individual Hitchhiker books coming in May 2020: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, *Life, the Universe and Everything*, *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish* and *Mostly Harmless*.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams, 2010-09-29 In one complete volume, here are the five classic novels from Douglas Adams's beloved Hitchhiker series. Now celebrating the pivotal 42nd anniversary of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, soon to be a Hulu original series! *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (Nominated as

one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read) Seconds before the Earth is demolished for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is saved by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised Guide. Together they stick out their thumbs to the stars and begin a wild journey through time and space. The Restaurant at the End of the Universe The moment before annihilation at the hands of warmongers is a curious time to crave tea. It could only happen to the cosmically displaced Arthur Dent and his comrades as they hurtle across the galaxy in a desperate search for a place to eat. Life, the Universe and Everything The unhappy inhabitants of planet Krikkit are sick of looking at the night sky- so they plan to destroy it. The universe, that is. Now only five individuals can avert Armageddon: mild-mannered Arthur Dent and his stalwart crew. So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish Back on Earth, Arthur Dent is ready to believe that the past eight years were all just a figment of his stressed-out imagination. But a gift-wrapped fishbowl with a cryptic inscription thrusts him back to reality. So to speak. Mostly Harmless Just when Arthur Dent makes the terrible mistake of starting to enjoy life, all hell breaks loose. Can he save the Earth from total obliteration? Can he save the Guide from a hostile alien takeover? Can he save his daughter from herself? Includes the bonus story "Young Zaphod Plays It Safe" "With droll wit, a keen eye for detail and heavy doses of insight . . . Adams makes us laugh until we cry."—San Diego Union-Tribune "Lively, sharply satirical, brilliantly written . . . ranks with the best set pieces in Mark Twain."—The Atlantic

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *And Another Thing...* Eoin Colfer, 2009-10-12 In this sixth installment of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series, Arthur Dent has finally made it home to Earth, only to discover that it is about to be blown up ... again. What could a pantheon of unemployed gods, everyone's favorite renegade Galactic President, a lovestruck green alien, an irritating computer, and at least one very large slab of cheese have to do with all of this?

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hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide* Douglas Adams, 1996 6 Science fiction-romaner.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *Hitchhikers* AudioGo, 2008-11-01

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Illustrated Edition* Douglas Adams, 2021-04-19 'One of the greatest achievements in comedy. A work of staggering genius' - David Walliams Gorgeous 42nd Anniversary gift edition of Douglas Adams's pop-culture classic, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, stunningly illustrated throughout by Costa Award-winner Chris Riddell. It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and Arthur's best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and a book inscribed in large, friendly letters: DON'T PANIC. The book is The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and the weekend has only just begun . . . Douglas Adams's mega-selling pop-culture classic sends logic into orbit, plays havoc with physics and twists time, but most importantly it's very, very funny.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Douglas Adams, 2014-10-21 THE COMPLETE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY SERIES Don't panic. First a legendary radio series, then a sequence of bestselling books, a television series, a computer game, a little-known Belgian progressive rock opera, a blockbuster movie, and finally this handsome hardback edition - primarily intended as a blunt object with which to bludgeon one's enemies - The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy is one of the greatest fictional enterprises of the twentieth century. Telling the long, circuitous and often inexplicable story of Arthur Dent, left homeless and rather annoyed after the Earth is destroyed in order to build a hyperspace expressway, this edition collects all five parts of the trilogy: · The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy · The Restaurant at the End of the Universe · Life, the Universe and Everything · So Long and Thanks For All the Fish · Mostly Harmless along with a wealth of extra material prefaced and contextualised by Jem Roberts, the official biographer of Douglas Adams, to complete the canon. Introduced by Richard Dawkins and Nick Harkaway

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* Douglas Adams,

1997 Just before the Earth is demolished, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Illustrated Edition Douglas Adams, 2021-05-04 This beautifully illustrated edition of the New York Times bestselling classic celebrates the 42nd anniversary of the original publication—with all-new art by award-winning illustrator Chris Riddell. SOON TO BE A HULU SERIES • “An astonishing comic writer.”—Neil Gaiman Nominated as one of America’s best-loved novels by PBS’s The Great American Read It’s an ordinary Thursday morning for Arthur Dent . . . until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly after to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and Arthur’s best friend has just announced that he’s an alien. After that, things get much, much worse. With just a towel, a small yellow fish, and a book, Arthur has to navigate through a very hostile universe in the company of a gang of unreliable aliens. Luckily the fish is quite good at languages. And the book is The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy . . . which helpfully has the words DON’T PANIC inscribed in large, friendly letters on its cover. Douglas Adams’s mega-selling pop-culture classic sends logic into orbit, plays havoc with both time and physics, offers up pithy commentary on such things as ballpoint pens, potted plants, and digital watches . . . and, most important, reveals the ultimate answer to life, the universe, and everything. Now, if you could only figure out the question. . .

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Complete Trilogy of Five Douglas Adams, 2012-03-01 Don't Panic: collected together in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Trilogy of Five are the five titles that comprise Douglas Adams' wildly popular and wholly remarkable comedy science fiction series. Contains exclusive bonus material from the Douglas Adams archives, plus special introductions by Russell T. Davies, Terry Jones, Simon Brett, Neil Gaiman and Dirk Maggs. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy One Thursday lunchtime the Earth gets unexpectedly demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass. For Arthur Dent, who has only just had his house demolished that morning, this seems already to be rather a lot to cope with. Sadly, however, the weekend has only just begun. The Galaxy may offer a mind-boggling variety of ways to be blown up and/or insulted, but it's very hard to get a cup of tea. The Restaurant at the End of the Universe When all questions of space, time, matter and the nature of being have been resolved, only one question remains - 'Where shall we have dinner?' The Restaurant at the End of the Universe provides the ultimate gastronomic experience, and for once there is no morning after to worry about. Life, the Universe and Everything Following a number of stunning catastrophes, Arthur Dent is surprised to find himself living in a hideously miserable cave on prehistoric Earth. However, just as he thinks that things cannot get possibly worse, they suddenly do. An eddy in the space-time continuum lands him, Ford Prefect, and their flying sofa in the middle of the cricket ground at Lord's, just two days before the world is due to be destroyed by the Vogons. Escaping the end of the world for a second time, Arthur, Ford, and their old friend Slartibartfast embark (reluctantly) on a mission to save the whole galaxy from fanatical robots. Not bad for a man in his dressing gown . . . So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish There is a knack to flying. The knack lies in learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss. It's not an easy thing to do, and Arthur Dent thinks he's the only human who's been able to master this nifty little trick - until he meets Fenchurch, the woman of his dreams. Fenchurch once realised how the world could be made a good and happy place. Unfortunately, she's forgotten. Convinced that the secret lies within God's Final Message to His Creation, they go in search of it. And, in a dramatic break with tradition, actually find it . . . Mostly Harmless Arthur Dent has settled down on the small planet Lamuella and has embraced his role as a Sandwich Maker. However, his plans for a quiet life are thrown awry by the unexpected arrival of his daughter. There's nothing worse than a frustrated teenager with a copy of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy in their hands. When she runs away, Arthur goes after her determined to save her from the horrors of the universe. After all - he's encountered most of them before . . . This publishing phenomenon began as a radio drama and now exists in a number of wildly contradictory versions (including a TV series, a movie and a towel) - this version, produced by

Douglas Adams' original publisher, is, at least, definitively inaccurate.

hitchhiker s guide to the galaxy: A Guide to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Kevin R. Smith, 2021-05-17 A comprehensive and cross-referenced listing of all the people, places and things in Douglas Adams' The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. An essential companion for readers of these cult SF novels, radio and television series, and film. Contains adult humour.

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