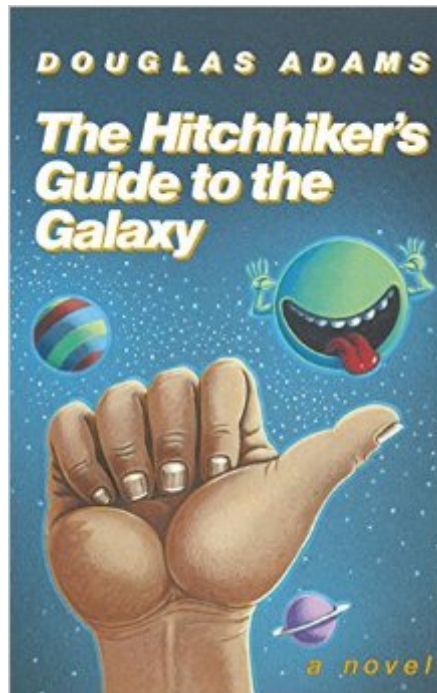


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The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy, 25th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

How shall we begin? This is the story of a book called *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*—not an Earth book, never published on Earth and, until the terrible catastrophe occurred, never seen or even heard of by any Earthman. Nevertheless, a wholly remarkable book. Or this is the story of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, a number-one best seller in England, a weekly radio series with millions of fanatic listeners, and soon to be a television spectacle on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Or this is the story of Arthur Dent, who, seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, is plucked off the planet by his friend, Ford Prefect, who has been posing as an out-of-work actor for the last fifteen years but is really a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together they begin a journey through the galaxy aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, with the words *don't panic* written on the front. (A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have.) In their travels they meet: Zaphod Beeblebrox—the two-headed, three-armed ex-hippie and totally out-to-lunch President of the Galaxy; Trillian—Zaphod's girl friend, formerly Tricia McMillan, whom Arthur once tried to pick up at a cocktail party; Marvin—a paranoid android, a brilliant but chronically depressed robot; Veet Voojagig—former graduate student obsessed with the disappearance of all the ballpoint pens he bought over the years. To find the answers to these burning questions: Why are we born? Why do we die? And why do we spend so much time in between wearing digital watches? read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. But remember . . . *don't panic*, and *don't forget to bring a towel*.

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Customer Reviews

No matter how many times I read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and I've read it quite a few times already, it never fails to thrill me and induce bouts of almost uncontrollably hearty laughter. With this novel, Douglas Adams gave life to a phenomenon that will long outlive his tragically short life, delighting millions of readers for untold years to come. I'm not sure if science fiction had ever seen anything like this before 1979. This is science fiction made to laugh at itself while honoring its rich tradition, but it is much more than that. Adams' peculiarly dead-on humor also draws deeply from the well of sociology, philosophy, and of course science. Whenever Adams encountered a sacred cow of any sort, he milked it dry before moving on. Beneath the surface of utter hilarity, Adams actually used his sarcasm and wit to make some rather poignant statements about this silly thing called life and the manner in which we are going about living it. This is one reason the book is so well-suited for multiple readings—a high level of enjoyment is guaranteed each time around, and there are always new insights to be gained from Adams' underlying, oftentimes subtle, ideas and approach. Arthur Dent is your normal human being, and so he naturally is more concerned about his house being knocked down than facing the fact that the world is about to end. His friend Ford Prefect, he comes to learn, is actually a researcher from a planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse, but before he can even begin to comprehend this fact, he finds himself zipped up into the confines of the Vogon space cruiser that has just destroyed the planet Earth.

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