

## The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide Five Complete Novels and One Story By Douglas Adams

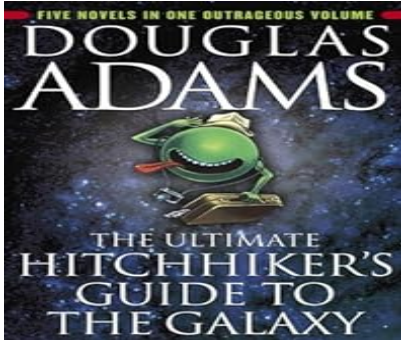
### **The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide Five Complete Novels and One storybird**

25 stars I ended it after four books because I felt like the fourth book epilogue not included had a nice ending and also I'm bloody sick of it Zombies I definitely am overdue to reread this comic scifi classic I remember laughing all the time at the uirky universe that Adams conjured up but admit to have forgotten many of the detailson my 2018 TBR Zombies I first read what was then the Hitchhiker's Guide trilogy in high school I remember sitting on the bleachers in the gym reading while other people played volleyball or some other indoor sport and being swept away on a rollicking ride across the universe and even to its end Much fun than volleyball You brought much joy and laughter to my life Douglas Adams So long and thanks for all the fish Zombies I think I might need to lie down and cry a little now Prtf Zombies I was thinking about the radio version of this which I heard scraps of at odd times when from time to time it was repeated One in particular stuck in my head which was that one of the characters was stuck on a planet inhabited by particularly intelligent birds who had evolved out of the human population when their economy collapsed due to an excess of shoe shops I liked this because it reminded me of Bromley which as a child to my mind had far too many shoe shops all of which it seemed I was doomed to be dragged round whenever my childish feet ever yearning for freedom threatened to escape the bounds of my current pairThe business of the planet inhabited by the intelligent birds was I'm sure recycled and tidied up into Zaphod Beeblebrox's visit to the Total Perspective Vortex and that in a way is my experience of the whole series Originally there was the radio series a television series a series of books They overlapped It was anarchic It didn't make sense And it was fun Then the books left all the rest behind Things grew progressively neater orderly a plot emerged For me it became dull the jokes laboured down to the final experience in Mostly Harmless of finding all the loose ends tied up by the author only the understand that it was better from my perspective at least when they were all undone and missiles or maybe it was spaceships it certainly didn't matter eitherway could turn into a bowl of petunias and a whale that thinks oh no not again characters could escape certain death Candide style or a piece of cake could be used to show you in relation to the whole of creation As a series then I suppose I think of it as Mostly Flawed but with occasional nice moments A flood of detail and invention that washes away the story in a glorious incoming tide the author in an unfortunate and unnecessary move though repeatedly sticks his fingers in the plot holes and throws down sandbags full of story even though it is unpredictable joy of the circling poets of Arium and the exchange rates of galactic currencies that best reflect the galaxy we live in and our experience of hitchhiking through it than any kind of story Zombies At last in paperback in one complete volume here are the five novels from Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker series The Hitchhiker's Guide to the GalaxySeconds 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 spaceThe Restaurant at the End of the UniverseFacing 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 eatLife the Universe and EverythingThe 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 crewSo Long and Thanks for All the FishBack 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 conspires to thrust him back to reality So to speakMostly HarmlessJust 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?Also includes the short story Young Zaphod Plays It Safe The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide Five Complete Novels and One StoryOK Where do I start with this one It's a doozyLet's first of

all say that I think this is one of the best uses of the English language It's right up there with well anything else I mean just read the sentences He is a lot like Tolkien in that he makes the words themselves the art But where Tolkien will take English and make it into a lush broad canvas Mr Adams turns English into a plaything Let's put my last sentence another way The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy is the literary equivalent of juggling chainsaws You read it through the first time and you have no freaking clue how he did that with those words OK we got that out of the way How bout the story now? Sure that sounds good Nick There is no plot For all of you who need one I'm very very sorry But frankly it's better that way Life doesn't have a plot right? You just sort of muddle through your week doing the best you can with what Life can throw at you Well that's the point with this He takes the most regular guy the guy you'd like to hang out with someone decent that you can introduce to your sister And then Adams throws him out into space and just sees what happens Certain parts of this book especially at the beginning are an adaptation of the BBC Radio programme aired in 1977 which was also written by Douglas Adams And he wrote H2G2 episodically but also with no clear goal in mind So when his characters come to a problem Adams had no idea what would happen to them until he wrote the solution Some rather large pieces of the story stuck in H2G2 this way This is most true in the earlier books in the Trilgy yes it's five books in a series; The trilogy is inaccurately named when the writing is fresher and better But the best part of H2G2 and all of DNA's books frankly even Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency is his worldview Basically it's all about taking what life gives you with patience humor and tea Yes he was an Atheist Yes I'm a Christian whose favorite thinkerwriter guy was an Atheist Calm down calm down and he disliked people using ideas and beliefs as a crutch This is the part where it's hard to really write a coherent review for me because so many loved ones of mine hi Mom and Dad would see this as a Very Bad Idea So why don't you shoot me an email and we can have a discussion about it? Maybe sit down and have some coffee and some nice nosh and chat? You'll get and better ideas out of me that way Anyways I've just lost my train of thought so I'll just say you'll love the part about the Vogon poetry And H2G2 is an inaccurately named trilogy because it is composed of five books I recommend reading them all at once even though there's no plot and things in one book will sometimes contradict things in another Anyways this trilogy is still one of my favorites Zombies The universe is a joke Even before I was shown the meaning of life in a dream at 17 then promptly forgot it because I thought I smelled pancakes I knew this to be true and yet I have always felt a need to search for the truth that nebulous ill treated creature Adams has always been to me to be a welcome companion in that journey Between the search for meaning and the recognition that it's all a joke in poor taste lies Douglas Adams and luckily for us he doesn't seem to mind if you lie there with him He's a tall guy but he'll make room For all his crazed unpredictability Adams is a powerful rationalist His humor comes from his attempts to really think through all the things we take for granted It turns out it takes little than a moment's uestioning to burst our preconceptions at the seams yet rarely does this stop us from treating the most ludicrous things as if they were perfectly reasonable It is no surprise that famed atheist Richard Dawkins found a friend and ally in Adams What is surprising is that people often fail to see the rather consistent and reasonable philosophy laid out by Adams' uips and absurdities His approach is much personable and less embittered than Dawkins' which is why I think of Adams as a better face for rational materialism which is a polite was of saying 'atheism' Reading his books it's not hard to see that Dawkins is tired of arguing with uninformed idiots who can't even recognize when a point has actually been made Adams' humanism however stretched much further than the contention between those who believe and those who don't We see it from his protagonists who are not elitist intellectuals they're not even especially bright but damn it they're trying By showing a universe that makes no sense and having his characters constantly uestion it Adams is subtly hinting that this is the natural human state and the fact that we laugh and sympathize shows that it must be true It's all a joke it's all ridiculous The absurdists might find this depressing but they're just a bunch of narcissists anyhow Demnading the world make sense and give you purpose is rather self centered when it already contains toasted paninis attractive people in bathing suits and Euler's Identity I say let's sit down at the bar with the rabbi the priest and the frog

and try to get a song going Or at least recognize that it's okay to laugh at ourselves now and again It's not the end of the world It's just a joke but only some of us are in on it Zombies Just as funny as advertised but I made the mistake of reading the collection of all five novels and what's trying to read them all in one go Once I got about halfway through Life the Universe and Everything it had stopped being funny and had gotten a little confusing Adams is excellent at humor not so much at plot So for clarification 5 stars for the original Hitchhiker's 4 for The Restaurant at the End of the Universe and 3 stars for the others Zombies So my journey with The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide to Galaxy finally came to an end What an enjoyable journey it was The characters the stories the writing and the essence of Douglas Adams's work - it was fantastic I had heard a lot about this cult series and finally got to read it - thanks to a friend A very big thank you to you indeed This book contains the entire Hitchhiker's Guide to Galaxy series by Douglas Adams ie 5 novels and 1 story 1 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy 2 The Restaurant at the End of the Universe 3 Life the Universe and Everything 4 So Long and Thanks for All the Fish 5 Mostly Harmless 6 Young Zaphod Plays It Safe story There is a sixth novel And Another Thing by Eoin Colfer also I shall see if I can get hold of it The foreword by Neil Gaiman was pretty informative I was indeed thrilled to learn that Adams had been influenced by P G Wodehouse himself I knew that I was in for a big treat I don't have to say it - but what a skilled storyteller Adams was That too as Gaiman says in the foreword when he did not enjoy the task of writing So much has been written about this cult series that I wonder if I should write a review Instead of writing a review for each book I will write about the series in general and try to convince you why you should give it a try I am sure you are aware of it but still I will say that the series is a sci fi comedy Hats off to the author's imagination - what technologies he had imagined and of course to his writing - I always loved clever use of language and Adams in my humble opinion is a master of the craft First of all let me tell you about the Hitchhiker's Guide to Galaxy As the name suggests it is a guide for people or rather aliens who hitchhike their way through the galaxy and comes in the form of an electronic book The said book resembles a largish electronic calculator and on its four inches square screen any one of its million pages could be summoned at a moment's notice This reminds of you of Kindle right? This is a science fiction book and it has its share of outrageous technologies alien races space travel time travel and whatnot If you can see beyond the aliens and spaceships then you would see the brilliance of the stories The behavior and thoughts of the aliens actually portray the various human foibles The stories would let accompany the wonderful if somewhat eccentric characters like Arthur Dent Ford Prefect Zaphod Trillian Marvin among others on their adventures through space and time There is action suspense drama and the best of all - the famous wit of Douglas Adams That man could make fun of almost anything - philosophers scientists political leaders party lovers warmongers bureaucrats unions marketing professionals corporate and even God himself There are brilliant dialogues and statements I thought of including some but later decided that it would be better if you discover them on your own Oh Did I tell you about the question and answer to the Life Universe and Everything When I read about God's Final Message to His Creation I was floored Through his ridiculous creations the author has actually said the ultimate thing about life I better stop before I give away spoilers Highly recommended for people who love sci fi You guys have probably read it by now If you are not into science fiction then I would suggest that you try the first book in the series The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and then decide if you want to proceed further Zombies It's that book you pick up and feel obligated to love if only to escape grievous fan persecution Well Here goes Let's start with the humour Yes it's everything that humour should be For a while you are oh so amused and impressed but then you weary of being so amused Akin to being kept on the edge of your seat for a good few hours something's going to get sore It's just such a strain I skipped ten or so pages near the middle but I'm sure those ten pages were like the rest of the book terribly witty and sickeningly clever The plot takes twists like ah what's a good analogy? A snake on LSD? That'll do Don't get me wrong they're good twists and Adams is admittedly superb at making the inherently illogical seem orderly and precise but they just don't stop coming And after a while the worst happens and the reader just stops caring I can see why this book has achieved its cult status It

deserves its cult status in many ways There are moments of startling originality that knock you back and spin your world to a crazy new angle but when the whole book is all but filled with these moments the crazy new angle begins to make you dizzy and irritated At the end I'm still feeling oh so amused and impressed but also oh so relieved I can stop Zombies



Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series Hitchhiker's began on radio and developed into a trilogy of five books which sold than fifteen million copies during his lifetime as well as a television series a comic book series a computer game and a feature film that was completed after Adams' death The series has also been adapted for live theatre using various scripts; the earliest such productions used material newly written by Adams He was known to some fans as Bop Ad after his illegible signature or by his initials DNA In addition to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Douglas Adams wrote or co wrote three stories of the science fiction television series Doctor Who and served as Script Editor during the seventeenth season His other written works include the Dirk Gently novels and he co wrote two Liff books and Last Chance to See itself based on a radio series Adams also originated the idea for the computer game Starship Titanic which was produced by a company that Adams co founded and adapted into a novel by Terry Jones A posthumous collection of essays and other material including an incomplete novel was published as.

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