

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Douglas Adams

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Arthur Dent was just living his daily life, blissfully unaware that the Earth was about to get destroyed by an alien race known as the Vogans. Fortunately for him, Ford Perfect was there to rescue him and get him off the planet. From there the two hitchhike until they are dropped off in space, only to be picked up by Ford's cousin Zaphod Beeblebrox. Zaphod and his companion, a Trillian (an alien that resembles a human) welcome Ford and Arthur, and the four of them go on an adventure to find the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything.

The series started off with a bang. The Earth was ending and the Heart of Gold was stolen. This really was an exciting time for the cosmos. The events of the novel keep it fast paced and an amazing read that readers will be unable to put down. I loved the way the point of view didn't really focus all that much in the feelings of the characters because part of the fun of reading this book was inference from the context. For example, we didn't directly read that Arthur Dent was flustered at the beginning of the novel but we knew this based on how he ran out of the bar, trying to save his house. Furthermore, the descriptions of settings and characters were brilliant. It made me feel like I too was in outer space, trying to find my way after the world ended.

I quite enjoyed the level of cynicism that went into this novel. For instance, straight from the beginning, Adams describes how humans achieve artificial happiness through money, but end up carrying on with their mundane lives. He also creates a sort of dilation of the situation Arthur Dent faced before the world ended, by having the Vogans 'bulldoze' Earth to make room for an interstellar highway. Adam's descriptions break the rules of physics but add much more to the overall enjoyment of the story, such as how Ford turns into a penguin briefly while being stranded in space for a few seconds.

This is really a timeless classic to be enjoyed by readers of all ages and interests. No matter whether you're a sci-fi fan, a history buff, or a romance enthusiast, some part of this book is for you. Ages fourteen and up will be more suited to reading this novel, however new middle schoolers may be able to handle the kind of language used in the novel.

Recommended Titles:

Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury

The Great Gatsby – F Scott Fitzgerald

The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins

A Wrinkle in Time – Madeline L'Engle