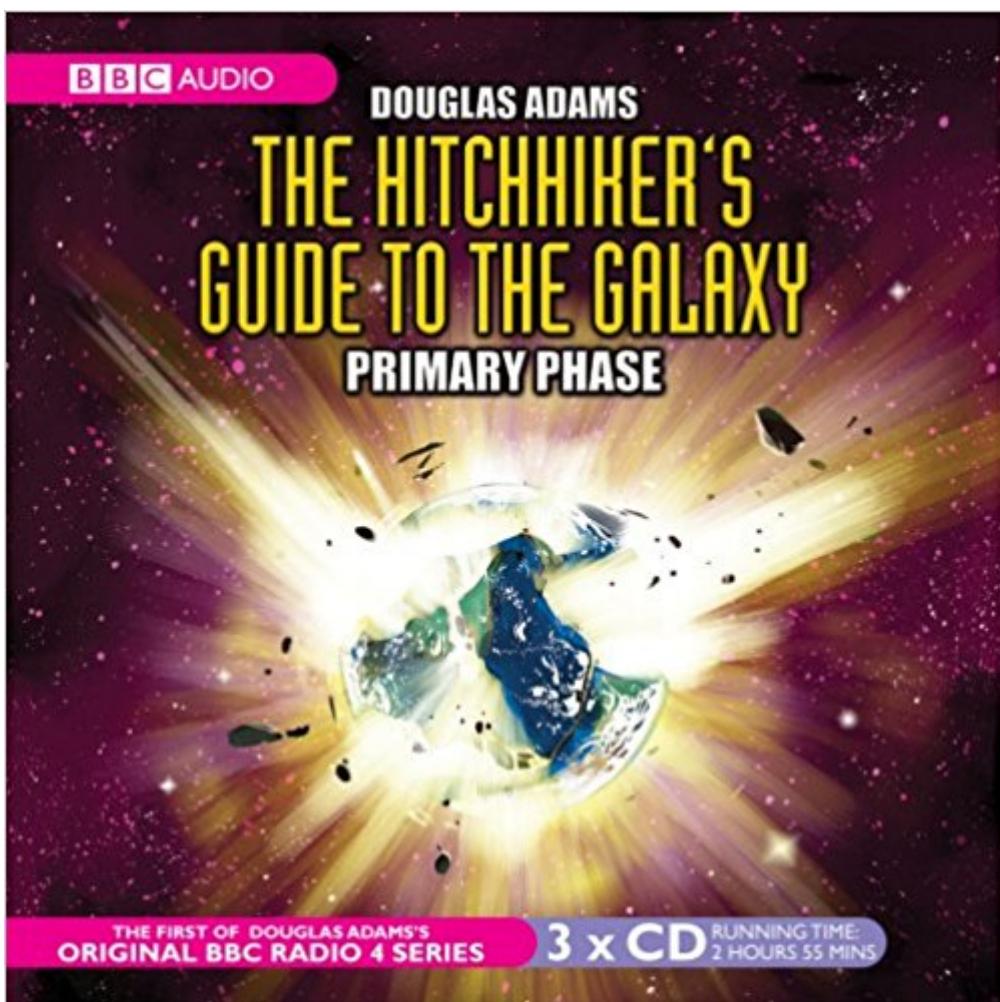


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# The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy: The Primary Phase (BBC Radio Collection)



## Synopsis

The most useful advice ever given, 'Don't panic', can be found within the 'Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy'. The day aliens demolish the Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass is the day when Arthur Dent realises the futility of such advice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The original full-cast performances and playful script sound positively gleeful and as irreverent as ever... For the longtime fan this recording will be like listening to an old friend. And for the neophyte looking to sample Douglas Adams's gentle comic genius, this is the perfect place to start." AudioFile

DOUGLAS ADAMS was born in Cambridge in March 1952. He is best known as the creator of The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which started life as a BBC Radio 4 series. The book went on to be a No. 1 bestseller. He followed this success with The Restaurant at the End of the Universe (1980); Life, The Universe and Everything (1982); So Long and Thanks for all the Fish (1984); Mostly Harmless (1992) and many more. He sold over 15 million books in the UK, the US and Australia. Douglas died unexpectedly in May 2001 at the age of 49.

I first stumbled on THGttG on BBC's World Service (shortwave), ca. 1989, around halfway through the second installment, and fell in love at first listen. Some will find Douglas Adams's humour too cute by half, but I predict that if you liked Monty Python's Flying Circus, The Goon Show, or Fawlty Towers (among others), you enjoy this. Lampoons the human race (which deserves it, after all),

sparing no one (not even philosophers or God) in the process.

This is the original BBC radio full-cast dramatization of Douglas Adams' Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. It's subtitled Primary Phase, meaning the first in the series of the whole set of Adams' books. I used to own the cassette version of this, ten cassettes in a box set. Now, I have the convenience of this version on its three disc CD set... easier to listen to and better sound quality. If you've never heard the dramatization of HGTTG, this is the version to buy. Audio note: the tracks are in a special format cd-audio file... which means they cannot be ripped or copied, and are best suited for listening by certain devices or audio programs. If you try to listen to them on your computer with the standard Windows Media Player, they will be very poor quality, sounding distorted. But, they work fine with such audio programs as Blaze DVD (comes standard with Windows 7). I'm sure the CDs will play well in most audio programs, but just not in Windows Media Player. For any lovers of Adams' HGTTG series, I recommend buying this version.

As an instant fan of the book many years ago it was a real surprise to find out the book was written after the radio broadcast, but the surprise was also a pleasant one. The radio series is/was really well done and it's clear why the books were the next step in the world of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy". Now, as much as I love the radio series and the books, I will say that there is one thing that I consider a drawback about the radio series: the slightly over-the-top use of sound effects on a few of the character voices. Realizing that this was a radio broadcast originally, the producers likely wanted to enhance the listeners' experience and rightly so. However, the amount of effect used on a few of the character voices almost, and in a couple of cases completely, obscures the words. It may be that my hearing these days isn't quite what it was but that notwithstanding, I still feel that the amount of "effect" used in a few cases really could have been pulled back to let the words be more easily understood. That said, I listened to all three CDs in a matter of just a few trips in the car, and the story was over all too soon. But along the way there are numerous laugh-out-loud moments throughout as well as the story just being fun overall and presented very well with solid performances from everyone, with all those elements combining to bring a great and funny story to life.

Any review I write about The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy will be skewed to the most positive review possible because I completely enjoy everything written by Douglas Adams. This is British, this is Sci-Fi, and this is completely different and bonkers. Any trilogy that is comprised of five books

should tell you that it is unusual and possibly in a class of its own. Some people I've recommended this book to have not been caught up in it as completely as I was. That's fair, especially since British humor may be an acquired taste.

A good clean copy of the original BBC radio show. These scripts predate the book and contain much delightful humor not found in the published version. The voice talent is terrific and typically British: in other words, a hoot! I had previously found these shows online but without the wonderful clarity of the CD. A must listen for serious HHGTTG fans!

The original radio broadcasts! I recently had to make a multi-hour trip to L.A. Listening to these CDs helped pass the time. The sound quality is perfect. The mind of Douglas Adams was wondrously creative. So sad to lose him so early. It is the original plot, so don't expect it to follow the movie (which was beautifully adapted, but different from this original series).

For some reason the very ending wasn't on my copy. I'm not sure if it wasn't part of the original recording, or if it is a disk error. Otherwise I love it, and this is definitely my favorite rendition.

I've read the books, listened to the books on tapes, watched the BBC tv series, and saw the disappointing movie, but never heard the original BBC radio series. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The series is so much fun and still seems fresh after all these years. If you are a fan, and haven't heard these, then you are in for a treat. It brought me back to my younger days,

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