



THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY



ARTHUR DENT

Planet of Origin: Earth
Species: Human

Arthur Dent is having a bad day – his house is being demolished to make way for a new freeway, he's learned that his best friend is from a different planet, and the girl of his dreams just hooked up with a total idiot. Still, it's not exactly the end of the world – that's not for at least another six minutes. It turns out (thanks to his alien best friend) that the end of the world is just the beginning...

FORD PREFECT

Planet of Origin: Vicinity of Betelgeuse
Species: Unknown

Ford Prefect, best friend of Arthur Dent, is actually an alien posing as an out-of-work actor. His real job involves compiling research for The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Stranded on Earth for 15 years, he finally gets the opportunity to leave when a most unpleasant alien race announces their plans to destroy the primitive planet. And because Arthur once saved his life (a long, slightly embarrassing story), Ford decides to return the favor and plucks his friend off Earth before its annihilation. Fortunately for Arthur, Ford is the perfect companion to have on a Galactic adventure.



TRILLIAN

Planet of Origin: Earth
Species: Human

Trillian's tale is a simple one of girl meets boy, girl immediately ditches boy for alien president of the galaxy, girl meets boy again after Earth is destroyed (under very improbable circumstances), boy professes feelings for girl, girl plays hard to get, boy gives up, girl discovers she made a mistake with alien president of the galaxy.

ZAPHOD

Planet of Origin: Betelgeuse Five

Species: Yes Please

Cool, adventurous, arrogant, and dim-witted, Zaphod Beeblebrox is also the President of the Galaxy. He became President for the sole purpose of stealing the Heart of Gold spaceship – the most remarkable and unique ship in the history of the Galaxy. Zaphod recently popped in to Earth to pick up a female companion (Tricia McMillan, a.k.a. Trillian), luring her away with that tried and tested line – “I’m from a different planet. Would you like to see my spaceship?”



MARVIN

Manufacturer: Sirius Cybernetics Corporation

Make: GPP (Genuine People Personalities)

Marvin is a new generation of robot, infused with GPP (Genuine People Personalities). Chronically depressed, Marvin finds little job satisfaction in his menial tasks and he's quick to remind others that he won't enjoy them. To be fair, opening doors and fetching things can be a little dreary when you have a brain that can compute your personality problems to thirty decimal places, while predicting the weather of an entire planet. As a result of his gloomy disposition, he often worries that he is making those around him miserable as well.

PROSTETNIC VOGON JELTZ

Origin: Vogosphere

Species: Vogon

Prostetnic Vogon Jeltz is the commander of the Vogon Constructor Fleet, and is not a pleasant sight, even for other Vogons. His dark green rubbery skin is thick enough for him to play the game of Vogon Civil Service politics, and play it well, and waterproof enough for him to survive indefinitely at sea depths of up to a thousand feet with no ill effects.



HUMMA KAVULA

Planet of Origin: Unknown

Species: Prophet

Humma Kavula is an intergalactic missionary with only the slightest grasp of sanity, which is, perhaps the only pre-requisite necessary for becoming a megalomaniacal, religious cult leader. He can be found preaching to Jatravartid people of Viltvodle VI as they await the arrival of the big Handkerchief.

SLARTIBARTFAST

Planet of Origin: Magrathea

Species: Magrathean

Slartibartfast is a planetary construction engineer from the legendary world of Magrathea. Magrathea provided a luxury planet building service for the most refined and – let's face it – richest clientele in the galaxy. Magrathea catered to every taste. Slartibartfast is a real craftsman, and sometimes views with dismay the newer, flashier planets. If truth be told, Slartibartfast would rather be left alone to build beautiful coastlines with intricate fjords. After all, he's won awards for them.

PHASE II

THE GUIDE

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy is exactly what it sounds like – a guide to everything you need to know about anything. The Guide is essential for anyone traveling through the Galaxy. Its easy-to-use interface, and affordable price make it wildly popular. Ford Prefect logged his most recent update for the Guide under the entry for Earth. After 15 years of meticulous research he was able to expand upon the entry from "Harmless" to "Mostly Harmless."

HEART OF GOLD

Have you ever thought "I can't be everywhere at once?" Well, with the Heart of Gold Spaceship you can! Travel everywhere in the Galaxy at once, and then decide where to get off. Sound impossible? It's not – just improbable. So improbable, that the ship is powered by an Infinite Improbability Drive. The Heart of Gold improbably picked up two hitchhikers, Arthur Dent & Ford Prefect – rescuing them from certain death in the cold regions of space.



VOGONS

Vogons are bad-tempered, bureaucratic, officious, and callous. They are also responsible for destroying Earth in order to make way for an interstellar highway. Vogons are notorious for their cruel and unusual form of punishment – poetry readings. Vagon poetry is well known to be the third worst in the Universe, and it is common for audience members to gnaw off their own limbs to escape.

UNIVERSE

The Universe is big, REALLY BIG! You just won't believe how vastly hugely mindbogglingly big it is.

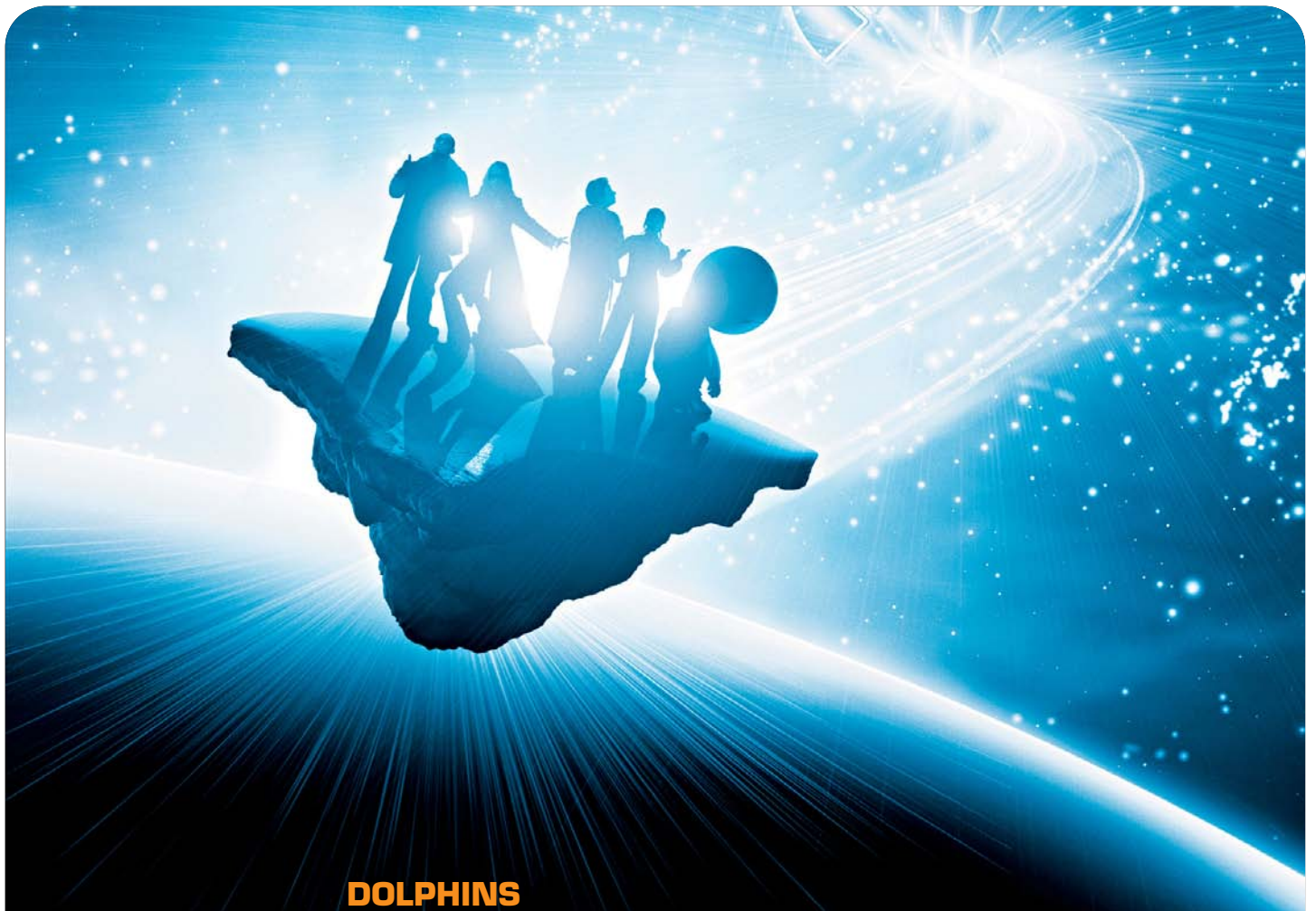
EARTH

Earth is a planet where it is not possible to be more than sixteen thousand miles from your birthplace, which in space terms isn't very far at all. Earth was scheduled for demolition by a Vagon Constructor Fleet in order to build a hyperspatial express route. Populated by humans, mice and whales amongst other, less interesting species, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy describes Earth as "mostly harmless."

Needless to say, Ford Prefect has been able to expand on this entry during his fifteen years on Earth, and although some sub-editing has taken place, his newer and more comprehensive entry will soon grace the pages of the Guide. The new entry reads as follows: "Mostly harmless."

DEEP THOUGHT

Deep Thought is an amazingly intelligent computer that was built many millions of years ago by a race of hyperintelligent pan-dimensional beings who were fed up with the constant bickering about the meaning of life. When Deep Thought was finished, they asked it to tell them the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, The Universe, and Everything. There was a delay while Deep Thought calculated the answer. A delay of seven and a half million years, in fact, after which Deep Thought announced that the answer was '42'.



DOLPHINS

Man has always assumed that he is more intelligent than dolphins because he has achieved so much – the wheel, New York, wars and so on – whilst all the dolphins have ever done is muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely, the dolphins had always believed that they were far more intelligent than man – for precisely the same reasons. Dolphins have long known of the impending destruction of the planet Earth and have made many attempts to alert mankind of the danger; but most of their communications are misinterpreted. For instance, the last ever dolphin message was misinterpreted as a surprisingly sophisticated attempt to do a double-backwards-somersault through a hoop whilst whistling the "Star Spangled Banner", but in fact the message was this: So long and thanks for all the fish.

BABEL FISH

Believe it or not, this small, yellow creature is quite probably the strangest thing in the Universe. Through a series of complex brain wave emissions, a process that is far too complicated to go into right now, the Babel Fish enables all races and cultures to effectively communicate by decoding the brain wave matrix that is fed into your mind. Simply stick it in your ear; difficult to come to grips with but quite useful really.

TOWELS

A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have. Partly it has great practical value, but more importantly, a towel has immense psychological value. For some reason, if a strag (strag: non-hitchhiker) discovers that a hitchhiker has his towel with him, he will automatically assume that he is also in possession of a toothbrush, face flannel, soap, tin of biscuits, flask, compass, map, ball of string, gnat spray, wet weather gear, space suit etc., etc. Furthermore, the strag will then happily lend the hitchhiker any of these or a dozen other items that the hitch hiker might accidentally have "lost". What the strag will think is that any man who can hitch the length and breadth of the galaxy, rough it, slum it, struggle against terrible odds, win through, and still knows where his towel is, is clearly a man to be reckoned with.

42

Deep Thought, the second greatest computer ever built, took seven and a half million years to calculate the meaning of life, and in the end announced that the answer was in fact 42. This made a lot of people very angry and was widely regarded as a bad move. Deep Thought then explained that the problem was that nobody really understood what the question was in the first place. So another, even bigger, computer had to be built to find out what the actual question was.

POINT OF VIEW GUN

The Point of View Gun is a very unusual weapon – put simply, when you fire the gun at someone, they instantly see things from your point of view. It was invented by a group of housewives who had become utterly sick of ending every domestic argument with the words “You just don’t get it, do you?” The gun was immediately in huge demand by marketing agencies, governments and religions, but was deemed to be too dangerous in the wrong hands, and so was locked away in a secret location to prevent it from ever being used again.

PAN GALACTIC GARGLE BLASTER

The Hitch Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy says that the best drink in existence is the Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster. It says that the effect of a Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster is like having your brains smashed out by a slice of lemon wrapped round a large gold brick. The Guide also tells you on which planets the best Pan Galactic Gargle Blasters are mixed, how much you can expect to pay for one and what voluntary organizations exist to help you rehabilitate afterwards. The Guide even tells you how you can mix one yourself, but for legal, health and safety reasons we are unable to reproduce that information here.

HEART OF GOLD

When you absolutely need to get somewhere fast, the best way is to immediately arrive everywhere at the exact same time. Obviously you can’t do this. But if you could, then you could just choose where to get off. Clearly, this would be impossible. However, the spaceship ‘Heart of Gold’ uses this idea for its main form of propulsion. Clearly, this spaceship won’t work. Or at least, it’s very improbable. In fact, it’s so improbable that the Heart of Gold’s engine is called the ‘Infinite Improbability Drive’. Surprisingly, it seems to work.

INFINITE PROBABILITY DRIVE

The Infinite Improbability Drive is a wonderful new method of crossing vast interstellar distances in a mere nothingth of a second, without all that tedious mucking about in hyperspace. Due to a sensational new breakthrough in Improbability Physics, as soon as a spaceship using this new propulsion technology reaches Infinite Improbability, it passes through every point in the Universe. Then you just choose which of these particular points you want to arrive at, and there you are. It’s almost too easy.

LOVE

The Encyclopedia Galactica describes ‘Love’ as being a debilitating psychosomatic illness that is caused by production of various hormones in the victim’s body that they are either unaware of or simply unable to control, and goes on to list the various medical treatments available, how to deal with your friends’ unwanted support, and which planets in the galaxy are the best for tearfully listening to poignant songs on.

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy has this to say on the subject of love: “Mostly painful.”