

Douglas Adams

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Douglas Noël Adams (11 March 1952 – 11 May 2001) was an English author, comic radio dramatist, and musician. He is best known as the author of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series. *Hitchhiker's* began on radio, and developed into a "trilogy" of five books (which sold more 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'; he was born the year before the elucidation of the structure of "*the meaning of life*" or D.N.A. by Francis Crick and James Watson in Cambridge i.e. where he was born.

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 *The Salmon of Doubt* in 2002.

His fans and friends also knew Adams as an environmental activist, a self-described 'radical atheist', and a lover of fast cars, cameras, the Macintosh computer, and other 'techno gizmos'. The biologist Richard Dawkins dedicated his book *The God Delusion* to Douglas Adams and in it described how Adams came to understand evolution. Douglas was a keen technologist, writing about such topics as e-mail and Usenet before they became widely known. Toward the end of his life he was a sought-after lecturer on topics including technology and the environment.