



The Salmon of Doubt

By Douglas Adams

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The Salmon of Doubt By Douglas Adams

On Friday, May 11, 2001, the world mourned the untimely passing of Douglas Adams, beloved creator of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, dead of a heart attack at age forty-nine. Thankfully, in addition to a magnificent literary legacy—which includes seven novels and three co-authored works of nonfiction—Douglas left us something more. The book you are about to enjoy was rescued from his four computers, culled from an archive of chapters from his long-awaited novel-in-progress, as well as his short stories, speeches, articles, interviews, and letters.

In a way that none of his previous books could, *The Salmon of Doubt* provides the full, dazzling, laugh-out-loud experience of a journey through the galaxy as perceived by Douglas Adams. From a boy's first love letter (to his favorite science fiction magazine) to the distinction of possessing a nose of heroic proportions; from climbing Kilimanjaro in a rhino costume to explaining why Americans can't make a decent cup of tea; from lyrical tributes to the sublime pleasures found in music by Procol Harum, the Beatles, and Bach to the follies of his hopeless infatuation with technology; from fantastic, fictional forays into the private life of Genghis Khan to extended visits with Dirk Gently and Zaphod Beeblebrox: this is the vista from the elevated perch of one of the tallest, funniest, most brilliant, and most penetrating social critics and thinkers of our time.

Welcome to the wonderful mind of Douglas Adams.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Edited by Peter Guzzardi and with an introduction by Christopher Cerf, this bittersweet collection comprises letters, fragments of ideas for books, films and TV, ruminations on a diverse array of subjects and a good bit of a final unfinished novel by the author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series, who died in May of last year. Included are a letter to the editor of a U.K. boy's magazine (written in 1965, when Adams was 12); a reminiscence about his lifelong love for the Beatles, written when he was in his 40s; a 1991 piece from *Esquire* entitled "My Nose"; and an undated article for the *Independent* espousing his preference for whiskey. Also on hand are a q&a in which he identifies the most interesting natural structure as being a "2,000-mile-long fish in orbit around Jupiter, according to a reliable report in the *Weekly World News*"; a spiritual encounter with a giant manta ray while testing a mechanical diving device at Australia's Great Barrier Reef; an affecting introduction to P.G. Wodehouse's unfinished novel, *Sunset at Blandings*; an account of a Save the Rhino pilgrimage across Africa; ruminations on computerization; and a philosophical address about the authorship of the universe entitled "Is There an Artificial God?" Two sketches "The Private Life of Genghis Khan" and "Young Zaphod Plays It Safe" from the *Utterly Utterly Merry Comic Relief Christmas Book*, 1986, are also here, as are 10 chapters from various versions of the title novel-in-progress. National advertising.

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From Library Journal

When Adams died unexpectedly in May 2001, he had not written fiction in ten years. The success of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series and the peculiar adventures of Detective Dirk Gently had made Adams an sf icon. His fans kept hoping for at least one more weird and wonderful galactic adventure. *The Salmon of Doubt* is a loving tribute to the author by his friends, who decided that the best way to salute his life and work was to collect some of the more unusual bits of it and let the world share the mind of a wonderfully talented man, with a unique viewpoint on almost everything. The book comprises selections from a huge amount of material, a fascinating collection of bits and pieces of a busy writer's life. Articles on a variety of subjects written for various magazines and newspapers, introductions to books, speeches, personal interviews, and glimpses of a well-enjoyed life are included. Adams describes the traumas of his school days, his love for the Beatles and Bach, an illicit liaison with someone else's dogs, and his fascination with evolutionary theory. Among the fiction entries is a tale from the private life of Genghis Khan and a Zaphod Beeblebrox short story. The narrators were all personal friends of Adams's: actor Simon Jones reads the largest portion of the book and does a wonderful job; Stephen Fry also takes a turn, and Christopher Cerf reads a eulogistic introduction that he wrote for the print version. Fans will be both happy and sad to experience this final chapter of Adams's journey through the galaxy. Highly recommended, but libraries will want to repackage this audio for circulation.

Barbara Rhodes, *Northeast Texas Lib. Syst.*, *Garland*

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From [Booklist](#)

Adams died last year. The Monty Python of science fiction, he left us with the wonderful *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (1979), from which its fans took the enduring expression of gratitude, "And thanks for all the fish," and the meaning of life itself: "42." Adams' friend Christopher Cerf here gathers Adams' occasional pieces, bon mots, and a short third entry in the Dirk Gently series. If they didn't already know, readers will now learn of Adams' passion for the Beatles (and disdain for the Rolling Stones), his hard work for endangered species, his attitude toward his prominent nose, his gratitude for his family (who put up with his

quirky personality), and even of the prolonged writer's block he experienced in trying to produce another novel after *Dirk Gently*. It is plain from the editing that Cerf had to extract nuggets from fragments, but even minor Adams seems like a message from an old friend. An essential purchase for public and school libraries.

John Mort

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beverly Dewitt:

Here thing why this The Salmon of Doubt are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content than it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. The Salmon of Doubt giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no publication that similar with The Salmon of Doubt. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your technique home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of The Salmon of Doubt in e-book can be your alternate.

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