

Philosophy and The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy #Nicholas Joll #308 pages #2012 #Palgrave Macmillan, 2012 #9780230291126

I had heard of something called The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979), which was supposed to be clever and funny. It was, and I've never traveled without a towel since. The idea of the ever-expanding line-up of Hitchhiker and Philosophy books that use pop culture to introduce people to philosophy is to use television shows, movies, comic books and so on, such as this one, as a vehicle to explore basic (and sometimes not-so-basic) concepts in philosophy. Some of these books turn out better than others. This collection is perhaps one of the best examples to date (although I also truly enjoyed Doctor Who and Philosophy, which I reviewed in Philosophy Now Issue 89). Marvin: Your plastic pal who's fun to be with © Sirius Cybernetics Corp. Don't Panic: Douglas Adams & The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Neil Gaiman. 4.5 out of 5 stars 307. [A more comprehensive review of this book will appear in Philosophy Now magazine] Years ago I was about to spend a full weekend in my apartment while it was forecast to snow outside. I decided that I needed some good readings to keep me company, and I had heard of something called The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which was supposed to be clever and funny. It was, and I've never traveled without a towel since. "We [...] are Philosophers." (Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, chapter 25) Andrew Aberdein is Associate Professor of Logic and Humanities at Florida Institute of Technology. Much of his research is concerned with the interplay of formal and informal accounts of human reason. He read the first Hitchhiker book as a ten-year-old schoolboy and has been a fan ever since. It was Hitchhiker's that first kindled his interest in philosophy, an interest that he has been delighted to be able to make his career "not least since he is so unsuited for employment in the customary alternatives: hospital por