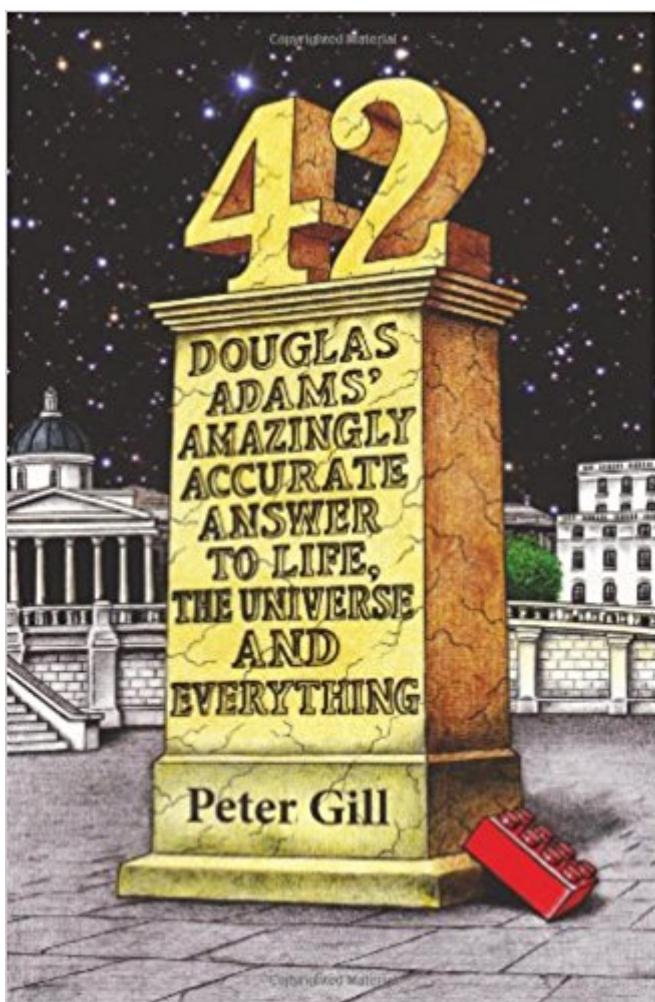


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42: Douglas Adams' Amazingly Accurate Answer To Life, The Universe And Everything



Synopsis

In The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, author Douglas Adams famously proposed that the answer to the question "What is the meaning of Life?" was the number 42. Why that number? Over the years, many theories have been put forward, but Adams steadfastly refused to clarify. It has taken a dedicated fan and investigator, Peter Gill, ten years to establish just why 42 is the answer. In this brilliantly detailed, maniacally meticulous and hilariously offbeat volume, Gill gives us a whole range of reasons why 42 really is the answer. On page 42 of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry discovers he is a wizard. Adolf Hitler turned vegetarian at the age of 42. Elvis Presley choked on his hamburger at the age of 42. Washington is the 42nd State. Channel 42 in the Stanley Hotel in Colorado, where Stephen King stayed prior to writing The Shining, shows Kubrick's film of the book in one non-stop loop.

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Customer Reviews

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disappointed. After all, it's just a book of facts that happen to be more or less loosely connected with the number forty-two. Whoop-tee-doo. I was expecting it to more be a book about, you know, like the title says: Douglas Adams' Amazingly Accurate Answer to Life, the Universe and Everything. A way of explaining how it could be the Answer, more like Indiana Jones than Trivial Pursuit. Instead, it's just a book of facts. However, toward the end, it goes into how Douglas Adams came to choose the number (there have been various explanations given over the years, but it mainly boils down to that it was a random number, kind of humdrum yet still kind of funny). And I enjoyed that. I also enjoyed the facts, just ... well, they were facts, not a "and here's why this nicely inconspicuous number could indeed be the Answer we've been looking for". So I'm a bit undecided. It's an interesting book listing an amazing number of facts stemming from one integer. The big plus, a major plus, of the book is how it's written. It's funny. It's not too far off something Douglas Adams himself could have written, and that in itself is something I value. This is Peter Gill's first book, and I hope there's more writing in him. Perhaps not funny factoid books but rather something else, be it fact or fiction, but I really think it could work. Keep going and keep up the good work! Three and a half towels out of five. Four if it's a present to a Hitchhiker's fan or just for a laugh, two if you got it because you wanted to know more about the number 42.

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