

Hi! I'll be talking to you about the adaptations of Douglas Adams' work and why adaptations of his work are controversial. [next slide]

Douglas Adams is the author of many successful books. These have had varying degrees of success. I will be talking about the adaptations of these books, how they differ from the original text, and why there is such a stark contrast in their acclaim. Specifically, I will be speaking about *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*. [next slide]

Douglas Adams usually writes comedy novels that have dark and twisted storylines. An example of this is this quote:

*"You know," said Arthur, "it's at times like this, when I'm trapped in a Vogon airlock with a man from Betelgeuse, and about to die of asphyxiation in deep space that I really wish I'd listened to what my mother told me when I was young."*

*"Why, what did she tell you?"*

*"I don't know, I didn't listen."*

There are also some more extreme examples that I probably should not read aloud. The author loves to depict all kinds of gore in his work and uses it as shock comedy, or as a legitimate plot point. [next slide]

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is one of the most acclaimed science fiction novels of all time. It is well loved by those who have read it and has a 4.22/5 rating on Goodreads. One of the catchphrases from the book has even made it to space, with a book reading "don't panic" floating around mars right now. [next slide]

The movie is generally accepted as a failure by those who have seen it. With the kind of wacky and wonderful adventures that the Hitchhikers get themselves into in every chapter, it is impossible to expect that nothing will be cut from the source, however, scenes to cut must be chosen well. A lot of references made in the movie would be missed by people who have not read the book. There were also many iconic scenes from the books which were not explained properly or altogether cut, leading to the creation of many plot holes and flow issues. That being said, the movie was well cast, and had some excellent special effects for the time. This movie also has a hardcore fanbase who will defend any and all of

its flaws. [next slide]

Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency falls into an entirely different genre as The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Although not as popular, this book has become one of my all time favorites because of its mystery elements and mind bending plotline. It has birthed even more adaptations than The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which are more popular by far. [next slide]

This show, like the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy movie, is extremely well casted. With Elijah Wood, Samuel Barnett, and Hannah Marks killing it as the main three characters. The sets are beautifully designed and depict exactly what you picture when reading the book. It is also very well written. It turns the fantastic (albeit hard to follow) book into an equally if not more fantastic TV series with a fairly understandable plot. [next slide]

There are also many other adaptations of Adams' work. The three that you see before you are some of the most popular written adaptations of the books. Even though the movies and shows are sometimes a hit and a miss, these three have become extremely popular in recent years. [next slide]

Now I'll talk a bit about how all of this applies to auteur theory. The budget of the TV show is comparable to the budget of the film, however there is a difference between how those funds were used. They both spent money on hiring good actors and set design, like I said before, but a lot of the budget for Dirk Gently's was spent on hair, makeup, and physical traits of the many alien characters. This was one of the things that was noticeably different in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, because all the aliens just look like humans. The directors in these two adaptations differ immensely. Garth Jennings, the director of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, has a more laid back approach to the editing process and the pacing of the film. Compared side by side with Dirk Gently's adaptation, fast paced scenes from the movie do not even compare to the fastest scenes in the TV show. Max Landis also brings his unique style to the Dirk Gently adaptation by reinforcing the paradoxical qualities of the original book, even going past what happens in it. In terms of cinematography, the two are very similar. The only difference is that in Dirk Gently's there is a lot more variation and there are a lot more top-down shots. [next slide]

Lastly, I would like to thank you for listening and I hope you feel inspired to watch any of the adaptations I have mentioned. [next slide]