

*Ditch the faster-than-light travel, cryosleep, or generation ships!*



*How to*  
**settle the**  
**galaxy**  
*in* **3** *easy*  
**steps!**

- 1** Settle the comets of our Oort cloud. Comets are easier and more plentiful than planets. Thousands or millions of people can live in a comet!
- 2** Wait for a star to pass near our solar system. Alpha Centauri arrives in only 28,000 years. It's not as long as you think in the span of human evolution!
- 3** Join the Oort cloud of the passing star as it mingles with ours. Congratulations, we are now an interstellar species!\* Repeat with the next star.

*\* Some terms & conditions apply. But interstellar migration is not fiction. See reverse for details.*



# Galactic Settlement by Hitchhiking Among Passing Star Systems

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Interstellar SF so far isn't plausible; it's more fantasy than SF. People may take that to mean everything we love dies when the sun dies, so life is pointless. But SF can show realistic, achievable interstellar travel if it shows:

**Stars move:** Alpha Centauri is 4.3 light years away, but moving closer. In 28,000 years it will be just 2.9 light years away. Other stars, past and future, come even closer.

**We can live in comets:** We can place O'Neill-like space habitats in comets, using nuclear fission or fusion power. A region called the Oort cloud has over a trillion comets orbiting as far as 1.5 light years from the sun.

Alpha Centauri is far away now, but its Oort cloud reaches to less than 1 light year from ours. In 28,000 years, Alpha Centauri's Oort cloud will mingle with ours. If we already live among Sol's comets by then, it's easy to cross over to Alpha Centauri's comets when the clouds overlap. From those footholds, we can spread across Alpha Centauri's solar system while it moves away from Sol. We can keep comet-hopping from Sol and Alpha Centauri when other stars pass nearby, settling the whole Milky Way in under a billion years.

**This pace matches prior human expansions.** 28,000 years ago, low sea levels allowed humans to cross the land bridge to the Americas. We have always expanded when conditions are right, whether crossing continents, seas or stars.

**Implications outside sci-fi:** Interstellar migration isn't fantasy! We need not die with the sun. Further, we can take other species with us and plant them in new homes among the stars. We aren't doomed to be a cancer; we can be Earthseed *a la* Octavia Butler.

