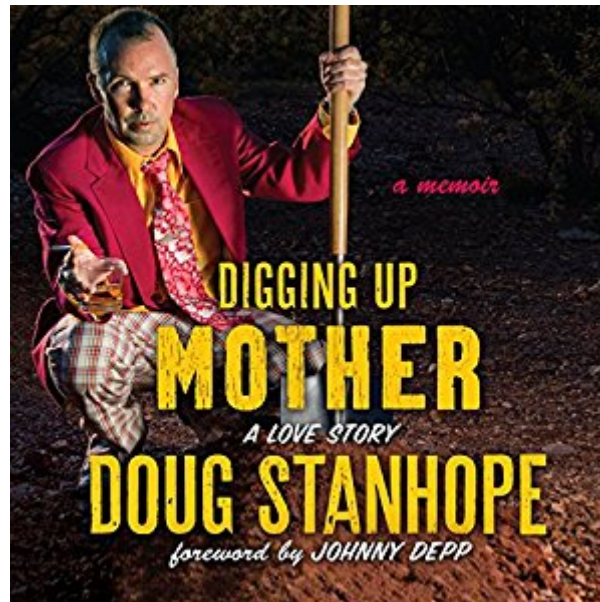




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Digging Up Mother: A Love Story



Synopsis

Doug Stanhope is one of the most critically acclaimed and stridently unrepentant comedians of his generation. What will surprise some is that he owes so much of his dark and sometimes uncomfortably honest sense of humor to his mother, Bonnie. It was the cartoons in HER Hustler magazine issues that molded the beginnings of his comedic journey, long before he was old enough to know what to do with the actual pornography. It was Bonnie who recited Monty Python sketches with him, who introduced him to Richard Pryor at nine years old, and who rescued him from a psychologist when he brought that brand of humor to school. And it was Bonnie who took him along to all of her AA meetings, where Doug undoubtedly found inspiration for his own storytelling. Bonnie's own journey from bartending to truck driving, massage therapy, elder abuse, and stand-up comedy and acting never stopped her from being Doug's genuine number one fan. So when Bonnie's alcoholic, hoarding life finally came to an end so many weird adventures later in rural Arizona, it was inevitable that Doug and Bonnie would be together for one last journey. Digging Up Mother follows Doug's absurd, chaotic, and often obscene life as it intersects with that of his best friend, his biggest fan, and the love of his life: his mother, Bonnie. And it all starts with her death - one of the most memorable and amazing farewells you will ever hear. BONUS: As fans of his stand-up and listeners of his podcast will attest, Doug is not a "by-the-book" type of guy. This audiobook is no exception. In what he refers to as the "director's cut commentary," Doug forgoes the confines of a straight-read and creates a truly unique listening experience, going off-script to riff throughout its sections and bringing in a cast of colorful characters - childhood friends, his podcast co-host, and fellow comedians and musicians - to voice letters from teachers and guidance counselors, diary entries from his mother, and even old homework assignments. Additionally, Doug has several of the folks mentioned in the book expound on and give their version of events and stories, often remembered quite differently. The result is a wildly fun audiobook that's as distinct as the comedian's own brand of humor. A special note from the author: Good news for all my blind and/or illiterate fans! The audio version of my book Digging Up Mother is now available on Audible! It's read podcast-style by myself and the golden-throated Chad Shank and features guest performances from those who appeared in the book, dropping in to share their own blurred memories of our sloppy pasts and ugliest stories. Guests include my childhood delinquent partner in crime Chris O'Conner, and Greg Chaille, Bingo, Mat Becker, Sarah Hyland (now Sarah Hylander) and more. If you are wondering what "podcast-style" means, it means we were drinking a lot. For days. And f*cking up a lot. They've assured me that they left the best f*ck-ups in the finished product. Most of them no doubt are my own. I read like Bill Burr learning a foreign language. Thanks in

advance for listening and sharing, Facebooking, Tweeting, Instaf*cking, Redditing, Water-Cooler Chattering and all other means of spreading the word. I'm only gonna listen to the Chad Shank chapters. Goddamn does he sound delightful.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've seen Doug live a number of times and have also read his earlier book ("Fun with Pedophiles"). I came to this one expecting it to be (like most comedians' autobiographies) done with a "heavy edit" by a professional writer (maybe Anthony Bozza), but this work has Doug's fingerprints (and bodily fluids) all over it, and is all the better for it. The book deals mainly with Doug's relationship with his mother, a deeply-flawed but sweet woman who always encouraged her son to follow his dreams in comedy, while pursuing her own dreams of being a professional massage therapist, actress, dominatrix, and leader of an army of constantly-shedding house cats. The relationship between Doug and "Mother" (as he insists on calling her, like a comedic Norman Bates) is sweet without being saccharine, and when it comes to his mother's assisted suicide, the comic is both brutally honest and frank. The book is many things, including a meditation on mortality, ageing, and the right-to-die; Doug is a libertarian, but doesn't browbeat you with it like Penn Jillette. The parts I enjoyed most were the passages detailing Doug's long tenure at cold-calling centers/boiler rooms, where he met a host of crazy and desperate characters that helped shape his view of life and his stand-up routine. The hazards of the road and his developing comedy act are dealt with, as are Doug's own brushes with fame and the famous (like the late, great Mitch Hedberg). It should be emphasized that the book is not the traditional Hollywood "fish-out-of-water" tale you sometimes get

from people who work in the entertainment industry while hating it (like Tom Green's "Hollywood Causes Cancer"). This is not a book mainly about the evolution of a comedian's career, but is rather a sometimes funny, many times sad portrait of the woman who formed Doug and never ceased to support him in his goals, even after she lost her mind. Recommended.

As his fans already know, Doug's a stellar storyteller. He has managed to fashion one of the sweetest tributes ever written without using a single molecule of sentiment. If you're looking for someone to learn ya some grammar or explain the difference between "uninterested" and "disinterested," move along. (Johnny Depp's no Hunter S. Thompson, too.) But if you want to be blindsided by exemplary tales of a man who lives by a code (a twisted code but an internally consistent and admirable one), this is the book. Yeah. I'm talking about principles. Thoughtful readers will have a hard time finishing the book without taking a close look at their own lives and asking if they're really behaving in ways that are consistent with their own principles. I wouldn't be surprised if the work inspires a few midlife crises that include a road trip to Bisbee. If you've got friends who have lost someone dear, slipping this under the Hanukah Bush would likely save them the price of a dozen psychotherapy sessions. It's a moving book that I hope reaches a lot of people.

Just finished it in one sitting. It was vulgar, disturbing, profane, profound, thought provoking, and generally unbelievable, unless you possess a previous familiarity with the lifestyle proclivities of the author. Then, you know every word was the gospel truth, at least as much as a lifelong illicit drug and alcohol addled brain can be trusted. Stanhope's story, as is his life and career, is brutal and brilliant, sad and sagacious, a double edged sword of pathos and, well, pathos, but as he has always taught anyone who got past the drunken exterior, there is genius in madness and eternal truths to be found in the detritus of life, if you are just willing to scrape the layer of s*** off the top. In conclusion, I feel the same way about this book as I have always described the man himself. Stanhope is certainly not for everyone, but he should be. I own thousands of books. When I finished this one, I placed it on a shelf next to my copy of George Carlin's autobiography. I think the 2 of them will get along just fine.

It turns out Doug is a great writer too! There are moments of hilarity that catch you off guard. He knows how to set up a thought and deliver the punch line! That makes them seem even funnier, especially when tackling such a typically dark subject. Not only does Stanhope provide his unique insights into this subject, he offers some beautiful poignant thoughts that may help others through a

potentially devastating emotional experience. We get some insight into his upbringing and the unusually yet touching relationship between him and his mother. As one comedian said, "You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll kiss ten bucks goodbye!" It's WORTH it! Highly recommended!

Simply put, fans of Doug are going to love it. Readers who have lived safer and more responsible lives will enjoy vicariously debauching throughout Doug's journey. Killer Termites, give this book to someone clueless once you're done reading it. I'm giving mine to my mother.

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