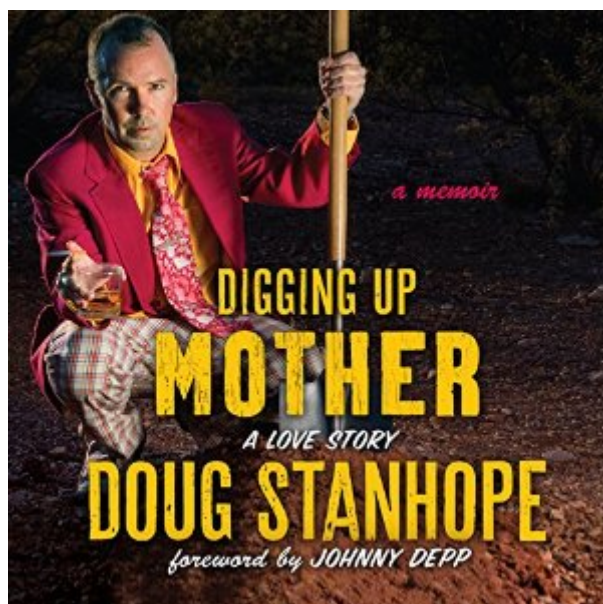


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# Digging Up Mother: A Love Story



## 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\*ing 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

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 48 minutes

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## Customer Reviews

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.

The fact that Mr Depp has kept his near thirty year homosexual relationship with his 'soulmate' Douglas Gene Stanhope a secret from the tabloid press is nothing short of a miracle. This co-written account of their turbulent affair finally lifts the lid on Johnny's true sexuality and confirms that his multiple female companions over the years have been nothing short of well-paid 'beards'. Hear how

Johnny's famous 'Wino for ever' tattoo is far from being a correction but the intended message all along - Mr. Stanhope being the Wino with a hold on his heart all these years. Laugh along at the elaborate disguises used to smuggle Doug onto movie sets - pirate, oompa loompa and Tonto's horse - to name but a few. Shockingly this material was written under the working title, 'The Bum Diary' during Johnny's free time on the set of his film adaptation of Hunter S Thompson's first novel in 2011. Five stars!

I had pre-ordered this and I was thrilled when it arrived this morning. I can not put into words how beautifully Doug's masterful storytelling has filled the inch and a half thick void under the bent third leg of my dining room table. Now my beer doesn't spill when I sit alone, drunkenly weeping. Thanks to Doug and his dead mom I was finally able to bury the dead frog that I've been using to level off the table for all these months. I can't recommend this enough.

"I always feel sorry for people who don't drink, because when they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're gonna feel all day." • Lawrence Roman (1921-2008) as delivered by Jack Lemmon in Under the Yum Yum Tree (1963) The line, incorrectly credited to Frank Sinatra, might well have been said by a much older less hip Doug Stanhope about persons of my ilk; we might be utterly boring recluses but we love good comedy. That is obvious, we bought the book didn't we? He lives this life so the rest of us don't have to, and it's truly comforting that Doug is out there fighting the good fight. A mere mortal man would surely perish in the wake of such depravity and substance abuse, but it's clear Doug is no ordinary human being. He is the liver of life, the teller of truth, and the slayer of pretense. In America we might have the freedom to engage in this kind of outrageous debauchery and moral degradation, except in further contemplation we don't. There is little question that many of the activities described in this book would land any one of us for a long stretch in federal prison, so don't try this at home. You have to marvel at Doug's stamina and ability to slip the grasp of Johnny Law. It proves without question that love conquers all, especially when it's a mother's love. So who knew that this ex-telemarketing scam artist drunken reprobate mama's boy could write. Damn you Doug Stanhope for getting me all misty eyed on the last page. Damn you for making me spend another \$15.46 to send a copy to my sister because of our mother. Doug, you lucked out writing a good book this time, you even got Johnny D to write the foreword. We all know about the lawsuit, it was payback wasn't it? But let's see if you can do it again with a follow up book, I mean you half way promised to tell us the story of Adderal Jack and Rebecca

Jean. But the sophomore effort is always tougher, do you have the stones to try it? We'll be waiting. Five Stars.

Doug Stanhope is one of the most important voices out there today. His writing is brilliant in ways and on levels which my poor vocabulary and passable writing skills cannot possibly do justice. Bukowski, Thompson, Estep – these are the names that come up for me when thinking of Stanhope's writing. Many people can write, but few can write so well and with such candor and laser-beam intent – and still be funny as all hell. Stanhope pulls no punches here, and his ability to weave a page-turning story is incredible. But the thing that stands out more than anything to me is that this man has heart and narrative integrity. He not only is accepting of humanity, he revels in it, from the good details to the not-so-good details. The tale of his life and journey with his mother Bonnie is one you really should not overlook unless you don't like reading good books. If you just don't like reading, I imagine an audio version will be coming along soon. Whatever the case, you will look at life (and probably yourself) a little differently after taking this ride with Doug Stanhope, and you will appreciate that his mother raised him in the unconventional and often hysterically funny manner that she did.

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