

The story of a young boy and his alcoholic mother, whose love is only matched by her pride

This is the unforgettable story of young Hugh “Shuggie” Bain, a sweet and lonely boy who spends his 1980s childhood in run-down public housing in Glasgow, Scotland. Thatcher’s policies have put husbands and sons out of work, and the city’s notorious drugs epidemic is waiting in the wings.

Shuggie’s mother Agnes walks a wayward path: she is Shuggie’s guiding light but a burden for him and his siblings. She dreams of a house with its own front door while she flicks through the pages of the Freemans catalogue, ordering a little happiness on credit, anything to brighten up her grey life. Married to a philandering taxi-driver husband, Agnes keeps her pride by looking good—her beehive, make-up, and pearly-white false teeth offer a glamorous image of a Glaswegian Elizabeth Taylor. But under the surface, Agnes finds increasing solace in drink, and she drains away the lion’s share of each week’s benefits—all the family has to live on—on cans of extra-strong lager hidden in handbags and poured into tea mugs. Agnes’s older children find their own ways to get a safe distance from their mother, abandoning Shuggie to care for her as she swings between alcoholic binges and sobriety. Meanwhile, Shuggie is struggling to somehow become the normal boy he desperately longs to be, but everyone has realized that he is “no right,” a boy with a secret that all but him can see. Agnes is supportive of her son, but her addiction has the power to eclipse everyone close to her—even her beloved Shuggie.

A heartbreaking story of addiction, sexuality, and love, *Shuggie Bain* is an epic portrayal of a working-class family that is rarely seen in fiction.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Douglas Stuart graduated from the Royal College of Art in London and went on to become a fashion designer as well as an author. Born and raised in Glasgow, he currently resides in New York City.

READ BY ANGUS KING

Angus King is a Scottish actor based in London and Glasgow. He trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and works regularly on television, Motion Capture, and the West End, and his voice can be heard on audiobooks, radio drama, corporate videos, computer games, political campaigns, ADR, and more.



Running Time: Approx. 17.5 Hours • Unabridged

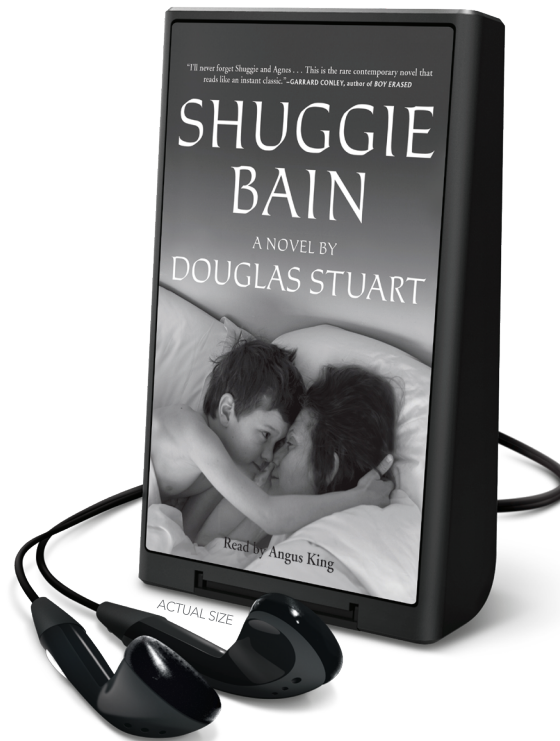
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