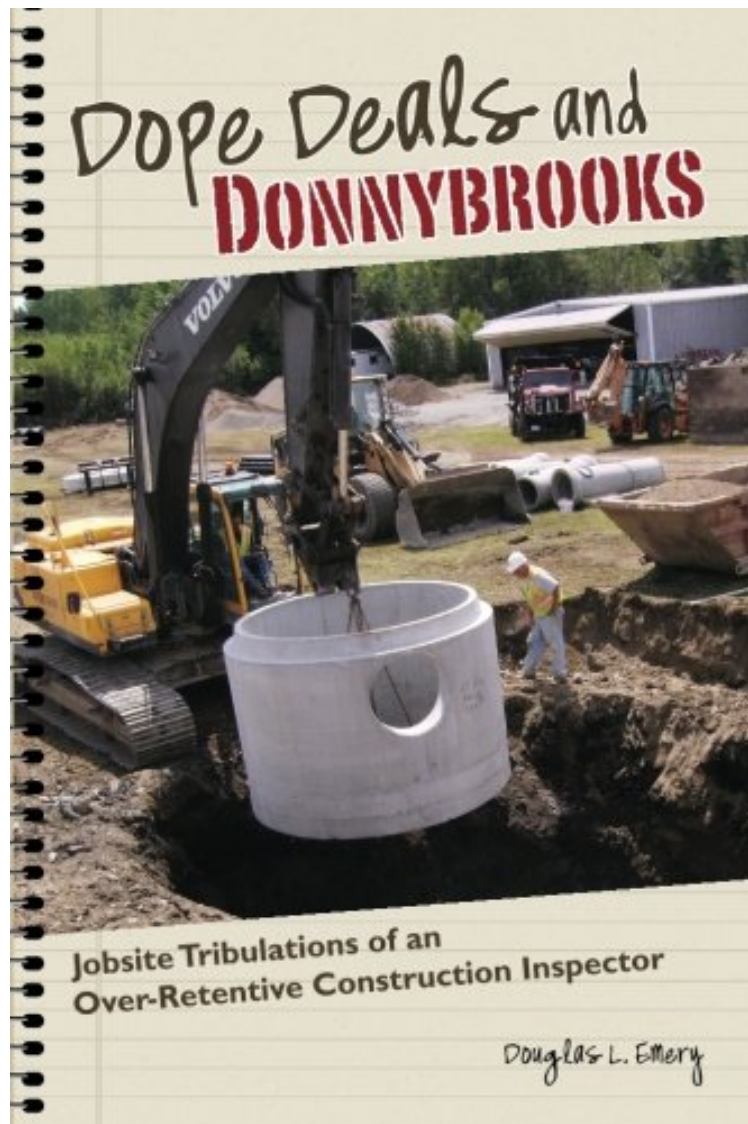


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Dope Deals and Donnybrooks: Jobsite Tribulations of an Over-Retentive Construction Inspector

Douglas L Emery

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Douglas L Emery : Dope Deals and Donnybrooks: Jobsite Tribulations of an Over-Retentive Construction Inspector before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dope Deals and Donnybrooks: Jobsite Tribulations of an Over-Retentive Construction Inspector:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought - provoking and enjoyable reading....By trawlonThis well-

written book is divided into 3 main parts: an introduction to construction generally; anecdotal tales from a construction inspector's point of view (using composite characters as a kind of storytelling shorthand); and a thoughtful review / mentoring section particularly valuable to aspiring engineers and inspectors. Although I had been only marginally interested in construction activities, the book drew me in and made me aware of many fascinating aspects of construction. Very thought-provoking, and told with a light touch of humor that made reading enjoyable. The author is clearly one of those people who loves his job, and is only too willing to share his enthusiasm with others. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Learn While Laughing* By Happy Northerner Whether you are a veteran or a newbie in the construction field, are thinking about a career in construction, or perhaps are just a homeowner who thinks that being your own contractor for your new addition will be a piece of cake, you will enjoy this book--and learn a lot in the process. Drawing from his store of wisdom earned from years of experience and a humble attitude, Emery shares many entertaining and enlightening tales from his time in the field. I found myself laughing out loud at some of the Lake Wobegon-style cast of characters and the ridiculousness he encountered. Emery gently but effectively captures the foibles of human nature as found on the construction site, and his insights and advice on how to handle challenging people and situations are invaluable. An easy and pleasant read, **Dope Deals** ensures you will arrive at the next jobsite better equipped to handle whatever is thrown at you--and to do so with a sense of humor. You also may find yourself scouring the ground for the elusive furbish lousewort. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Great Construction Inspectors Tool* By Tony from Philly This ebook was very interesting to me due to the fact that I once worked as a construction inspector. The stories told in this book, although different from the field of construction I was in, had a lot of similarities. I would recommend this book to all who are seeking or are presently in the construction inspection/engineer field of occupation.

Exasperating dilemmas arise on construction jobsites more often than people might realize. *Dope Deals* and *Donnybrooks* examines these along with some good old-fashioned screw-ups that the human component inevitably brings to construction activities. Remedies are found and progress resumes, but episodes of interest to the casual observer transcend mixing concrete and nailing wall studs together. As an experienced construction inspector, Douglas Emery light-heartedly confronts stereotypical misperceptions that the nature of his work is mundane. He shares intriguing jobsite war stories, complete with colorful characters that have played every imaginable supporting role in his various tribulations. Contractors, co-workers, clients, government officials, and furbish lousewort activists are well represented. While the narratives successfully annihilate misperceptions, they also affirm that an effective inspector needs to comprehend more than just technical specifications. Doug credibly maintains that his profession demands a proactive understanding of his clients' expectations, a recognition of contractors' motivations, and even some ability with basic social skills! Dissecting jobsite tribulations with the benefit of hindsight reveals that a construction inspector's livelihood is, in truth, quite positive, very satisfying, and even humorous at times. This collection of tales will undoubtedly offer useful guidance to aspiring construction inspectors out there. Perhaps it will imply the ideal course of action for a future project. Accordingly, the highway will be finished ahead of schedule, the entire cast of jobsite characters will be delighted, and the thriving colony of endangered furbish louseworts that was discovered just ahead of the bulldozer will be forever protected.

From Kirkus sEmery's thorough workplace memoir takes readers inside a world they drive by every day: construction. For decades, the pseudonymous Emery has served as a construction inspector for civilian and military projects around the world. His job is to make sure that all work is done properly according to the specifications in the project's contract. At first glance, such activity would seem as dry as the dust that hangs in the air at most work sites. But Emery successfully brings this industry to life with his colorful descriptions of construction workers and his interactions with them. In doing so, the attentive author truly fulfills the description set forth in his book's subtitle. Take, for example, his picture of Scruffy, a sewer cleaner: "Scruffy donned his Michelin-man coveralls, Sopwith-Camel style goggles, and headphone-type hearing protectors. With a couple of ancient and decrepit brick shipyard tool sheds as a backdrop, we could have filmed a *Mad Max* movie right there." Emery writes that he initially planned to create a guidebook for young construction inspectors, and there's still plenty of instructional content here. But after combing through the anecdotes he'd collected through the years, Emery thankfully realized that he had a lot more to put into his book: "It is the unpredictable nature of busy jobsites along with the human element that inherently makes them fascinating." After a brief section explaining the various roles on a construction site, the author rolls out profiles of a series of composite characters—such as "Jerry, The Stressed-Out Project Manager," "Chad, the Boastful Senior Construction Inspector" and "Carl, the Mentoring Senior Engineer"—while changing their names to protect the guilty. As he tells his stories, he shows a surprisingly deft writing touch for an engineer, and his gift for narrative will propel readers forward. He admirably succeeds in opening up a little-known realm of tiny specifications, huge construction equipment and colorful characters. A glance behind the construction curtain that unveils how structures are built all around us. - Kirkus sAbout the Author Douglas L. Emery is a pseudonym for a civil engineer who has worked extensively as a designer and project manager for transportation and other types of public infrastructure projects. His

most satisfying role, however, has been that of a construction inspector. Doug's experience includes highway, airport, and building projects in the United States and in several countries abroad. He retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following 24 years of service in active, reserve, and National Guard components. He has been employed for over 25 years by several private engineering firms, has also worked as an independent consultant, and has authored and published several construction-related articles. He is a civil engineering graduate of the University of Vermont, completed post-graduate studies at the University of Maine, and is licensed as a professional engineer in both states. Doug strives to recognize an element of humor in his jobsite tribulations in real time rather than doing so exclusively with ample hindsight. He finds himself instinctively drawn to construction activities and, when not working in an official capacity, struggles to resist the role of a "sidewalk superintendent."