



# The Godfather of Poker: The Doyle Brunson Story

*Doyle Brunson, Mike Cochran*

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Fascinating true-life adventure of an American treasure, a man who bluffed death, survived the mean streets of Fort Worth and mob-run Las Vegas, and bet millions of dollars on everything from poker to golf, to become a two-time world champion poker player.

The story of Doyle Brunson, an American treasure and the greatest poker player of all time, is one for the ages. It's a story of guts and glory, of good luck and bad, of triumph and unspeakable tragedy, of courage and grace. He has survived whippings, gun fights, stabbings, mobsters (the real-life ones portrayed in the movie *Casino*), murderers, and a death sentence when, riddled with incurable cancer, he was given months to live by doctors who told him his hand was played out. Apparently, fate had never played poker with Brunson—he lived. Of a group of 32 men he played poker with in the tough alleys of Texas, just he and one other survived the treacherous perils of that life. A master of the bluff, his most outrageous bluff came after being pistol-whipped and told he's going to die with a gunman pointing a pistol at his forehead. Again, he lived. He's gambled for millions of dollars—and with his life against the real-life mobsters and killers made famous in the movie *Casino*—and was the biggest sports bettor in the world with a reputation of betting enormous sums of money on just about *anything*. Doyle has not only made more money at golf than anyone else until Tiger Woods came along, he once bet one million dollars on a single hole—that, when he was virtually wheelchair-bound and could barely stand. He's been hard-up flat broke more times than he's got fingers and has won millions of dollars just as many times. Brunson has seen it all: from the athletic dreams and a leg shattered by a freak injury which waylaid his path to the NBA (he was drafted by the Lakers), to the devastating death of his first-born daughter, to outrageous exploits like trying to discover Noah's Ark and raise the Titanic. Doyle's rollercoaster of a life defines the saying: Truth is stranger than fiction.

Twice a winner of the prestigious World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, he's won millions and lost millions—sometimes in seconds—but decidedly more of the former than the latter. Brunson can still be found playing in the highest stakes poker games in the world, often with as much as one million dollars in front of him. To every one of the 250 million people worldwide who play poker each year, Doyle Brunson, is the legendary “Babe Ruth of Poker”—the greatest gambler and poker player who has ever lived.

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