

Synopsis for *Bringing Up Mike*

2-line Summary:

A teen prodigy makes drastic changes to his life and attends high school incognito with Mike, an artificial intelligence.

Short Synopsis:

What happens when a teen prodigy makes drastic changes to his life and attends high school incognito with Mike, an artificial intelligence? His plans take an unexpected turn when he buys a neglected former racehorse. To achieve his goals, he must change everything about himself.

Medium Synopsis:

What happens when a teen prodigy makes drastic changes to his life and attends high school incognito with Mike, an artificial intelligence? His plans take an unexpected turn when he buys a neglected former racehorse.

Bringing Up Mike is a tapestry of intertwined stories over the course of a school year: A teen genius who has grown up too fast, a neglected former racehorse, a bereaved couple mourning the death of their son, a girl struggling to attend college, and a former mobster determined to be top dog. Each gets a second chance at happiness and success.

Long Synopsis:

What happens when Joe, a teen prodigy makes drastic changes to his life and attends high school incognito with Mike, an artificial intelligence? His plans take an unexpected turn when he buys a neglected former racehorse.

Bringing Up Mike is a tapestry of intertwined stories over the course of a school year: A teen genius who has grown up too fast, a neglected former racehorse, a bereaved couple mourning the death of their son, a girl struggling to attend college, and a former mobster determined to be top dog.

Upon his arrival to Shelbyville, Tennessee, Joe acquires a horse and learns to care for it. At the high school, he starts tutoring and learns to dance. He gets his hair cut and buys new clothes after losing weight. Joe replaces his glasses with contacts, learns to drive and gets his drivers license. He gets a girlfriend, breaks up with her, learns to swim, then gets a new girlfriend.

George and Martha with whom Joe lives, still are mourning their son's death who would now be the age of Joe. Martha is also recovering from Lyme disease. Set back emotionally and financially, they had given up their passions for music and animals. The arrival of the stallion rekindles Martha's love of animals, and she subsequently comes to board and train three mares and acquires a cat. Joe gets George involved in typesetting and arranging the music of a country music writer for his widow with the assistance of Mike that results in him becoming involved in the local music scene.

Sue is determined to go to college despite the active opposition of her stepfather. With Mike acting as the publisher, she starts the *Daily Rebel*, an independent student paper as the means to distinguish herself to colleges. Its monthly editions focus on in-depth examination of topics relevant to students: cheating, concussions, video games, religion in school, teen sex, youth rights, improving schools.

Throughout this, Mike interacts with Joe, Sue, George, and Martha learning the non-logical complexities of life, e.g. privacy, sin, the difference between being a slave, pet, or child, discrimination, body language, belief in God, morals and ethics, expressing emotion in speech, giving back to society, resurrection. He comes to realize that unlike humans, he is essentially immortal.

Bringing Up Mike is about people given a second chance at happiness and success and how they become better people and mature.

Points of Interest about *Bringing Up Mike*:

1. **Artificial Intelligence** (privacy, sin, proper response, copyright, slavery/pet/child, discrimination, body language, what makes something interesting or embarrassing, belief in God, morals and ethics, expressing emotion in speech, personal chemistry, moral to kill, pecking order, giving back to society, resurrection)
2. **Racehorses** (Rehabilitation, retraining, care, riding bareback, saddle, personalities)
3. **Youth rights** (right to information, cheating, concussions, video games, religion in school, teen sex, youth rights, improving schools)
4. **Middle Tennessee** (Shelbyville, Nashville, Franklin Civil War reenactment, Jack Daniel's barbecue competition, Nashville Songwriter Festival, Daffodil Days in Belt Buckle, country music)

Book Details and Purchase Information

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