

Interview Questions for Mark Duncan

1. Why did you write *Bringing Up Mike*?

Dan Kaufman, Director of the Information Innovation Office of DARPA, spoke at the Computer History Museum on July 24, 2012. During his talk he reflected on a major problem with today's artificial intelligence systems—sooner or later they tell you something stupid. He suggested that one avenue of solving this would be to have a baby AI that grows up with you, with which you would have a two way conversation, correcting and educating it over time—I thought this would make an interesting novel.

2. Was there any one person who was your inspiration for Joe, the main character?

On Wednesday, I have lunch with a small group of friends. One of them was a child prodigy who passed his high school equivalence test when he was eight. He doesn't drive, gets around on a bike, and has long hair. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics in his early twenties.

3. In the book, you say, "That's what the sword said. Nobody asked if I wanted to be forged." Why do you feel that way?

It's easy to complain about the problems in one's life. But what doesn't kill you, makes you tougher.

4. What's the most important thing readers will learn from *Bringing Up Mike*?

Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. It is all too easy for those in authority to erode or deny rights. It is a constant struggle to maintain and uphold them.

5. People listening to this often struggle with adversity. What's your best advice on how they can deal with that?

Try to tilt the odds in your favor. Exercise, get enough sleep, be aware of your diet and weight. Take steps to minimize risk like wearing a helmet and leathers when riding a motorcycle.

6. When do you write? Is it easier to write in the morning or at night?

My most productive time writing is at night when the phone doesn't ring and I can work uninterrupted.

7. Who's your favorite author?

I love Robert Heinlein, but enjoy a wide range of well written books.

8. Where can we buy the book?

The ebook is available on Amazon, Apple, Barnes&Noble, Google, and Kobo. The print book may be ordered from Createspace.