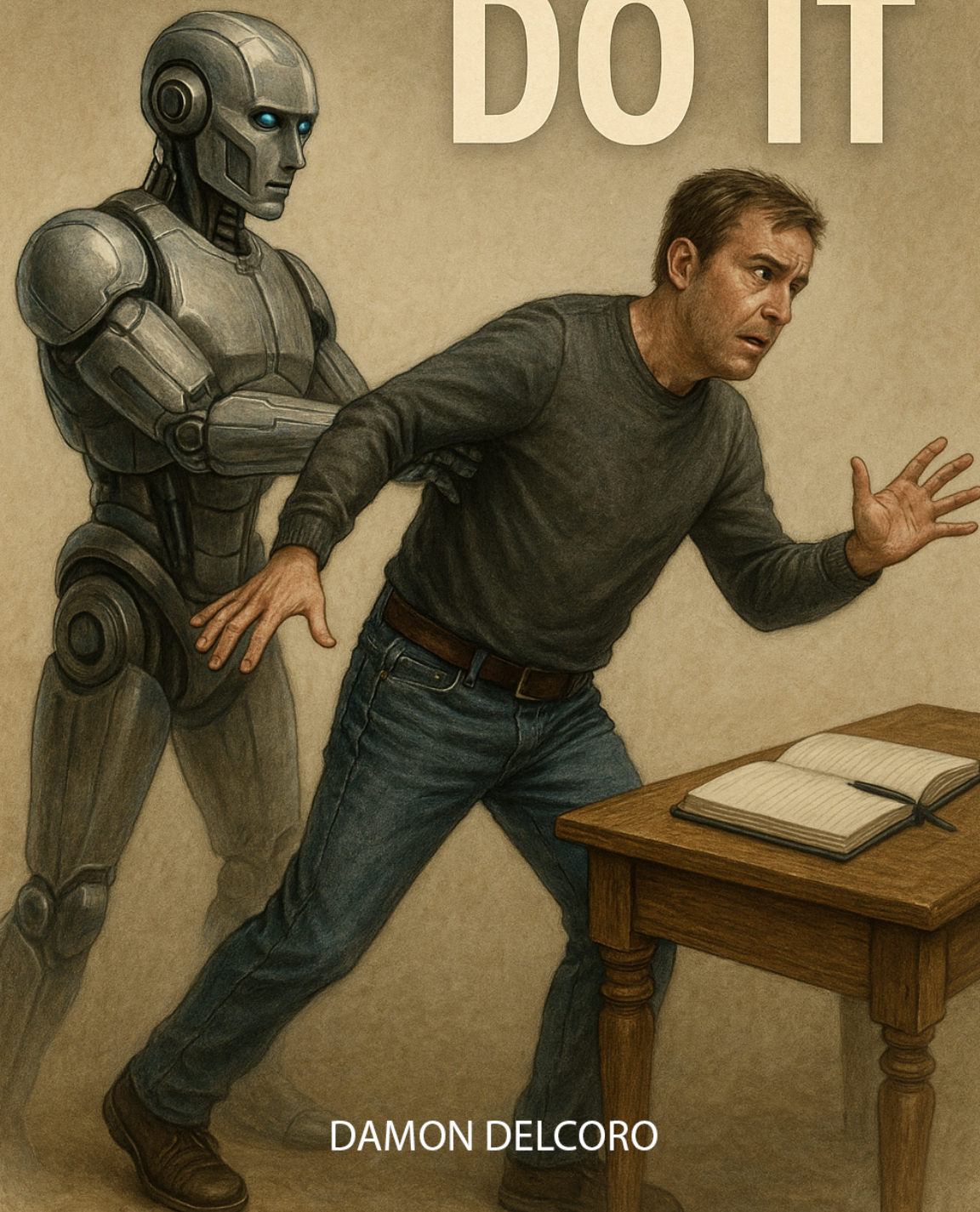


AI MADE ME DO IT



DAMON DELCORO

© 2025 Damon Delcoro

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations used in critical reviews or articles.

This is a work of Non-fiction.

Self-published by Damon Delcoro

First Edition

Printed in the United States of America

AI Made Me Do It – A Story About a Story

This is my true-life experience in writing *The Bridge: Fallen Beginnings*. More than just about the book itself, this is about the pushback I've faced, the conversations I've had, and the thoughts I've wrestled with while using AI to help me finally tell a story that has lived in my head for decades.

The Story That Wouldn't Go Away

For 20 or 30 years, I carried this idea with me. Whenever friends and I talked about movies we'd like to make or ideas for stories, this one always came up. I never had the patience or confidence to write it, but the story never left me.

Now, the book is finished and available on Amazon. But the surprising part is that I've spent more time defending how it was created than talking about the story itself. People hear "AI" and assume the machine wrote the book while I sat back and watched. That is not reality.

The Pushback

Some people—especially those skeptical of AI—tell me flat out: "*You didn't write a book. AI wrote it.*"

I understand why they think that. Viral videos on TikTok and YouTube make it look like AI can spit out a bestselling song or a perfect short story in seconds. But as an experienced AI user, I can tell you: those videos don't show the real process.

This wasn't easy. It was hours of writing, re-writing, planning, and thinking. AI was a tool, yes—but it was never a shortcut.

My Perspective

I don't call myself an "author," because I don't want to offend the many people who write professionally and traditionally. But I also don't hide the fact that I used AI. To me, AI was like an editor. Professional authors hire editors, proofreaders, and use writing tools to refine their books. I just used the tools available to me.

It's like this: two people can sit behind the wheel of a car, but their performance will be very different on a racetrack. AI works the same way. The better you know how to use it, the better the outcome. "Garbage in, garbage out," as they say.

The story, the characters, the twists—they were mine. AI simply helped me bring them to life.

The Work Behind It

Behind the scenes, I was constantly jotting down ideas—sometimes in the middle of the night. I

recorded thoughts, filled notebooks, typed notes into Word. I had to figure out storylines, create characters with depth, explain why events unfolded the way they did, and keep the whole thing consistent.

I rewrote chapters when something didn't line up. I spent hours editing, tweaking, and refining. AI didn't just hand me a finished book—I put in the work.

And just like Spielberg didn't "grow real dinosaurs" to make *Jurassic Park*, I didn't do this without technology. He used CGI. I used AI. Both are just tools to make a vision real.

Resistance from Artists

Some of the strongest pushback came from within my own family. I have close relatives who are artists and teachers, people who have dedicated their lives to their craft. To them, AI feels like a threat.

One told me: *"I've spent my entire life learning to be a true artist."*

I understand that perspective. But my response was: *"If your painting hangs next to another artist's in a gallery and both sell, why does it matter how the vision was brought to life?"*

It's not a perfect argument. But it's my reality. I used the tools I had to complete something I've wanted to do my entire life.

Embracing Change

I've lived through Y2K, the invention of the internet, and the rise of mobile devices. Every new technology brings warnings—lost jobs, cultural shifts, downsides. But they also bring progress and new opportunities.

AI is no different. Yes, it will change things, but I'd rather embrace it and use it than sit on the sidelines.

Beyond Writing

This process didn't stop with just the book. I had to learn how to publish, how to format for Kindle, how to create a paperback, even how to make an audiobook.

I also experimented with AI illustrations. Not because it was the “easy way,” but because I wanted readers to see parts of the vision I had in my head. Getting the images right took just as much trial, error, and effort as the writing.

The Result

At the end of the day, I'm proud. This story has weight, characters I care about, and a twist that I hope resonates with readers. I never set out to make money or call myself an author.

I set out to finish.

And now I have one printed copy that sits on my desk. When I look at it, it reminds me that if I put my mind to something, I can see it through. That's enough for me.

But yes—you should still buy my book on Amazon.

Final Thought

I'm not taking anything away from traditional authors, writers, or artists. This is simply my way. I had a story to tell, and AI gave me the chance to finally tell it.

— Damon Delcoro