



A Reading List About AI

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Here's a reading, listening, and watching list about the larger world of artificial intelligence, as you're interested!

It's intended for a smart person who'd like to get better acquainted with larger questions we all naturally have as we use generative AI. Some of these entries require some technical awareness, but on most, good reading skills are all you need. This list is not inclusive, by any means.

Nobody really knows what the world will look like, not even 5 years from now. The material I suggest just happens to be good at rendering the technologies I think are possible. What we do with it, and what world it brings, is up to us. *The goal of this list is to increase your AI literacy, get you familiar with the potential capabilities of these tools, understand the speed of their progress, and its implications for us. I do not predict any given outcome for how AI will shape our future, other than confidence knowing it will.* **My goal at Paramis.ai is working with you to provide better outcomes for your business and community, so we might avoid some of the mess suggested by many of these works.**

I do **not** recommend relying on AI news from social media, and most mainstream media. This is slowly changing, but the majority of mainstream writers do not understand the technologies, have not used the tools, and have an uninformed view of how AI will affect work and society. Stick to the podcasts, articles, and journalists cited here for now. There are credible "influencers" out there on social media, but too much of it is simply confusing junk meant to sell something.

Ask ChatGPT for help understanding any of these I suggest. In fact, I might suggest giving this document to ChatGPT and asking for a summary and outline of each to better guide you, based on where you're at on your own AI journey. There is something here for everyone.

Nonfiction:

Newspapers, Magazines, and Long-form Articles:

- [Ethan Mollick's Substack "One Useful Thing"](#). (2021–present). Virtually all of his posts are highly readable and very enjoyable. Sign up for his mailing list. He's simply the best.
- [Wired](#). (Ongoing). WIRED magazine currently maintains an excellent staff who write thoughtfully about AI from multiple perspectives.
- ["The AI Revolution: The Road to Superintelligence," Tim Urban. \(2015\)](#). Two longform articles that do a superb job explaining superintelligence. I do not endorse Tim Urban's political views. This is simply a great explainer.
- [AI 2027. \(2025\)](#). A troubling but credible scenario sketch of what might unfold once we attain AGI in just a few years. *A must-read, because things are happening very fast.*
- [Situational Awareness: The Decade Ahead, Leopold Aschenbrenner. \(2024\)](#). A concise essay series arguing that today's foundation-model scaling puts AGI on track for the late-2020s, with a fast follow-on to super-intelligence, intense U.S.–China security competition, and an urgent need for hardened alignment and containment measures. *Another must-read, written by a former Open AI safety researcher.*



- [The Structure of Scientific Revolutions](#), **Thomas S. Kuhn (1962)**. Origin of the term “paradigm shift.” Shows how normal science hits anomalies, then flips wholesale to a new worldview—useful lens for today’s AI upheaval.

Podcasts:

- [Hard Fork](#), **The New York Times. (2022–present)**. Two reporters explore tech’s cutting edge every week and translate it for regular humans.
- [The Ezra Klein Show](#) – **AI Miniseries, The New York Times. (2023–present)**. Recurring episodes where Ezra Klein interviews leading AI researchers and policy thinkers, offering accessible, deeply reported conversations on AI’s societal impact. Note that most episodes are not about AI.
- [The AI Daily Brief \(formerly The AI Breakdown\)](#). **(2023–present)**. A fast daily update that digs into the latest releases, news, and implications with a realistic, industry-savvy host.

Books:

- [Co-Intelligence](#), **Ethan Mollick. (2024)**. An influential and approachable book about integrating Assistants into your life. The calmest and most practical guide for introducing people to generative AI.
- [The Singularity Is Nearer](#), **Ray Kurzweil. (2024)**. Ray Kurzweil’s predictions in 1999 in *The Age of Spiritual Machines* about how we when build to AGI...he predicts 2029...were unique at the time and the technical progress he describes has proven correct so far. This sequel outlines to 2005’s *The Singularity is Near* talks about where he thinks we’ll go next.

Documentaries:

- [AI: Unpacking the Black Box](#). **(2024–present)**. Eight-part PBS series that breaks down AI’s benefits, risks, and societal impacts. Very good and broad introduction to the world of artificial intelligence.
- [The Social Dilemma](#), **Jeff Orlowski. (2020)**. A sobering look at how social media exploits us—problems AI will likely magnify.
- [NOVA: A.I. Revolution](#), **Miles O’Brien. (2024)**. A concise overview of how AI works, where it’s heading, and why it matters. Great general introduction.

Fiction:

Books:

- [World War Z](#), **Max Brooks. (2006)**. Not a book about AI, but an interesting book about how society reacts to transformative change. In this case, it’s a zombie invasion. Max Brooks (Mel’s son!) is brilliant and models this book after Studs Terkel’s “The Good War.” The book is different (and so much better) than the film!
- [Golem XIV](#), **Stanisław Lem. (1981)**. Presented as lectures by a superintelligent computer, this short novel offers a profound, early meditation on AI consciousness, evolution, and humanity’s future.
- [Neuromancer](#), **William Gibson. (1984)**. The seminal cyberpunk novel that coined “cyberspace,” exploring emergent AIs, virtual reality, and corporate power in a gritty near future matrix.
- [Snow Crash](#), **Neal Stephenson. (1992)**. A high octane satire that introduced the “Metaverse,” viral code, and memetic hacking. Hugely influential on modern tech culture.



- [The Diamond Age: Or, A Young Lady's Illustrated Primer](#), Neal Stephenson. (1995). Follows a girl whose interactive AI powered book educates and guides her, exploring nanotechnology, societal stratification, and personalized learning. Super interesting relative to AI and education.

Television:

- [Black Mirror](#), Charlie Brooker. (2011–2025). A dark anthology on technology and human nature. Start with Season 6, Episode 1 (“Joan Is Awful”) if you want the least depressing entry. I did a research event with ChatGPT [to rate the plausibility of the technologies](#) you see in the first few episodes of the show, as you’re interested.
- [Sunny](#), Apple TV+. (2024). A mystery-thriller series starring Rashida Jones that shows plausible domestic interactions with humanoid assistants. Slow moving, interesting enough. Based on the book *A Dark Manual* by Colin O’Sullivan.
- [Better Than Us](#), Netflix. (2018–2019). Russian sci-fi drama about advanced domestic robots and drone tech that feels very plausible and very near-term, especially the surveillance technologies.

Movies:

- [2001: A Space Odyssey](#), Stanley Kubrick. (1968). For me, this is still the most accurate depiction of near-term AI capabilities. We are likely already at this point, in capability. Developed alongside Arthur C. Clarke’s novel of the same name
- [Blade Runner](#), Ridley Scott. (1982). Imagines sentient (but not superintelligent) humanoids and the techno-capitalist world they inhabit. Based on Philip K. Dick’s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*
- [Minority Report](#), Steven Spielberg. (2002). A kinetic thriller in which Precrime predicts murders before they happen; its fugitive chief must expose the system’s flaws and reassert free will. Based on Philip K. Dick’s 1956 short story “The Minority Report.”
- [Her](#), Spike Jonze. (2013). A wistful near-future romance in which a lonely writer falls for his operating-system assistant, probing how voice-based AI can meet (and strain) human emotional needs.
- [Ex Machina](#), Alex Garland. (2014). A taut chamber thriller in which a young coder is invited to give a Turing-style test to Ava, a beguiling humanoid android, sparking a game of manipulation and escape. An original screenplay (not adapted from a specific novel) that riffs on Alan Turing’s 1950 paper “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” and long-standing “Frankenstein” creator-creation themes.