

An AI Diffusion Framework and Elizabeth Stone's Throwback Reads

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Aaron Levie highlights Clifford Sosin's framework for understanding why AI adoption is faster in software than in industries governed by real-world feedback loops. Elizabeth Stone adds two personal, Wall Street-connected book recommendations shared during a podcast lightning round.

Most compelling: AI diffusion is constrained by reality feedback

Clifford Sosin's post on AI diffusion

- **Content type:** X post / article
- **Author:** Clifford Sosin
- **Recommended by:** Aaron Levie
- **Key takeaway:** Levie recommends the post for understanding AI diffusion, arguing that AI-driven progress is ultimately limited by interaction with the real world. [1] Coding can be adopted quickly because one person can write, test, and deploy it without requiring external parties to change behavior; life sciences, sales, and contracts instead depend on testing, negotiation, or other real-world interactions. [1]
- **Why it matters:** The recommendation draws a practical distinction between model capability and applied AI: useful systems must reshape industry workflows and handle their real-world feedback loops, rather than simply produce model outputs. [1]

“Coming up with ideas was never the hard part. The hard part is how fast reality answers them.” [1]

This is the day's strongest recommendation because it offers a clear lens for

assessing where AI adoption can move quickly—and where the limiting factor is experimentation and coordination outside the model.

Two personal “throwback” book picks

Elizabeth Stone shared both books during a podcast lightning round, connecting them to her Wall Street background. [2]

Into Thin Air

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author:** Jon Krakauer
- **Link:** No direct book URL was supplied; watch Stone’s recommendation
- **Recommended by:** Elizabeth Stone
- **Key takeaway:** Stone named it among the books she still recommends, describing her choices as “throwback” reads. [2]
- **Why it matters:** It is a direct personal recommendation from a technology leader, offered in a non-promotional interview context. [2]

Liar’s Poker

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author:** Michael Lewis
- **Link:** No direct book URL was supplied; watch Stone’s recommendation
- **Recommended by:** Elizabeth Stone
- **Key takeaway:** Stone recommended it alongside *Into Thin Air*, saying she likes revisiting books that remind people what Wall Street was like “in the way back time.” [2]
- **Why it matters:** The recommendation is rooted in Stone’s own Wall Street experience, giving the selection a clear personal context rather than a generic reading-list endorsement. [2]

Sources

1. X post by @levie
2. Why Netflix is betting on systems thinkers—not specialists—in the AI era | Elizabeth Stone (CPTO)