

Asimov’s Robot Stories Lead Today’s Picks, With The Beginning of Infinity and a Crime-Tech Essay Also Surfacing

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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The strongest signal today is Isaac Asimov: in the Sam Altman–Francois Chollet AGI conversation, his Robot stories and Foundation series surfaced twice as formative reading. Andrew Chen also shared a practical article on crime, tech, and how to make things better.

What stood out

Only a small number of recommendations cleared the authenticity bar today, but one stood out because it surfaced twice in a serious AGI conversation and was framed as formative rather than casually interesting.

Most compelling recommendation

Isaac Asimov’s *Robot* stories and *Foundation* series

- **Content type:** Books / science fiction series
- **Author/creator:** Isaac Asimov
- **Link/URL:** None provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Both speakers in *AGI: Francois Chollet + Sam Altman* [1]
- **Key takeaway:** One speaker said Asimov’s Robot stories were a major influence behind wanting to build human-level AI since age 16, while the other said Asimov may have had more impact when younger than *The Beginning of Infinity* [1]

- **Why it matters:** This is the strongest pick today because it appears twice, unprompted, in a conversation about AGI and is tied to long-run intellectual formation rather than a passing endorsement [1]

“I’ve wanted to build human level AI since I was like 16. And I think one of the big influences on me at the time was Asimov’s Robot Sto-



ries.” [1]

AGI: Francois Chollet + Sam Altman (27:07)

Also worth saving

The Beginning of Infinity

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material
- **Link/URL:** None provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** A speaker in *AGI: Francois Chollet + Sam Altman* said it was the book they were going to choose as most impactful [1]
- **Key takeaway:** It surfaced as the first answer in a discussion of the most impactful book, before that speaker added that Asimov may have had more impact earlier in life [1]
- **Why it matters:** Even with limited context, it was positioned at the top of a very short list of personally important books in the same AGI discussion [1]

Crime-and-tech writeup (*title not provided*)

- **Content type:** Article

- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material
- **Link/URL:** <http://x.com/i/article/2041160953094639617> [2]
- **Who recommended it:** Andrew Chen [3]
- **Key takeaway:** After describing personal experiences with car break-ins, a garage break-in, and stolen bikes in San Francisco, Chen called it a “great writeup about crime and tech and how to make it all better” [3]
- **Why it matters:** This is the most practical recommendation in today’s set: it is framed as a resource on a concrete problem and possible improvements, not just commentary on the problem itself [3]

Across today’s picks, the split is clear: the books are presented as deep formative influences, while the article is recommended for its applied thinking on a live civic issue [1, 3].

Sources

1. AGI: Francois Chollet + Sam Altman
2. X post by @davidu
3. X post by @andrewchen