

Caitlyn Kalinowski's Classics List and Tobi Lütke's Death's End Endorsement

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Today's authentic recommendations were all books: Caitlyn Kalinowski named three titles from a classics-heavy reading list, and Tobi Lütke gave a concise endorsement of the trilogy discussed through *Death's End*. The clearest single pick was Herodotus's *Histories*, because it came with the strongest explanation of why it matters.

What stood out

Today's authentic recommendations were all books. Caitlyn Kalinowski surfaced a classics-heavy reading list in conversation, while Tobi Lütke gave a terse but direct endorsement of the trilogy being praised in a post about finishing *Death's End* [1, 2, 3].

The strongest single recommendation was *Histories* because Kalinowski explained exactly why she values it: as the first history book, built from firsthand and secondhand accounts, and as a window into a very different era [1].

Most compelling recommendation

Histories

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Herodotus
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Caitlyn Kalinowski
- **Key takeaway:** Kalinowski called it “pretty incredible” and highlighted it as the first history book, noting that it often relies on firsthand or

secondhand accounts and lets readers look into a completely different era [1]

- **Why it matters:** This was the richest recommendation in today's set because it came with a clear explanation of both the book's method and its enduring value [1]

"Herodotus histories is pretty incredible... it's the first history book... It's a way to look into the world at a completely different era than it



is now." [1]

Why we're at the beginning of the AI hardware boom | Caitlin Kalinowski (ex-OpenAI, Meta, Apple) (92:46)

Also worth reading

Mrs. Dalloway

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Virginia Woolf
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Caitlyn Kalinowski
- **Key takeaway:** She described it as "a very interesting book about transitions" and noted its post-war context [1]
- **Why it matters:** The recommendation is specific about what the reader gets from it: a literary treatment of transition rather than a generic classic-novel endorsement [1]

Book of the New Sun

- **Content type:** Book (fiction)
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material

- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Caitlyn Kalinowski
- **Key takeaway:** Kalinowski called it “a great fiction book” that she really recommends [1]
- **Why it matters:** It is the clearest fiction-forward pick in her list and stands on a direct, unqualified endorsement [1]

Death’s End trilogy

- **Content type:** Book series / trilogy
 - **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material
 - **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
 - **Who recommended it:** Tobi Lütke
 - **Key takeaway:** Lütke replied “incredible series” to a post that said, “Just finished *Death’s End*. My god, what a trilogy” [2, 3]
 - **Why it matters:** The signal is brief but clean: it is an explicit founder endorsement of a specific trilogy, not a vague comment about reading in general [2, 3]
- “incredible series” [2]

Bottom line

If you only pick one item from today’s set, start with *Histories* for the clearest articulated reason to read it [1]. More broadly, the day’s organic signals were entirely book-focused: Kalinowski’s classics-heavy list on one side, and Lütke’s direct trilogy endorsement on the other [1, 2, 3].

Sources

1. Why we’re at the beginning of the AI hardware boom | Caitlin Kalinowski (ex-OpenAI, Meta, Apple)
2. X post by @tobi
3. X post by @boycereads