

From “Ingressing Minds” to Chris Arnade: recommendations with an actual point of view

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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A selective resource list built around strong personal endorsements and recommendations that come with a usable lens—from Michael Levin’s theory of minds to Samsung’s AI-memory architecture, Musashi’s model of skill transitions, and practical sales craft.

The strongest picks here are the ones where the recommender supplies either an unusually strong personal verdict or a concrete way to use the resource. The standout is the paper below; the rest are ordered by the specificity of the endorsement and the usefulness of the accompanying lens.

Start with the paper that has a real thesis

Ingressing Minds

- **Type / creator:** Revised, peer-reviewed paper by Michael Levin.
- **Recommended by:** Packy McCormick in *Weekly Dose of Optimism*.
- **Key takeaway:** Levin proposes that minds are patterns in a structured, nonphysical space, with biological or engineered bodies—including computers—acting as interfaces through which those patterns become embodied. Packy calls it potentially Levin’s most important paper and the most compelling argument he has heard that AI might become “conscious” or “alive,” closing with: “Worth a read.”
- **Why it matters:** This gives the AI-consciousness question a specific conceptual frame—patterns, agency, and embodiment—to examine instead of another broad forecast. [1]

Strong personal endorsements

Walking the World

- **Type / creator:** Blog; Chris Arnade.
- **Recommended by:** Patrick Collison, who says the blog “continues to be one of the very best.”
- **Key takeaway:** Collison does not point to a particular post or argument, so this is an author-level quality signal rather than a recommendation of one essay.
- **Why it matters:** It is a clean addition to a trusted independent-reading queue, with unusually strong endorsement and no commercial framing. [2]

Lost and Found

- **Type / creator:** Essay; Colston Whitehead.
- **Recommended by:** Packy McCormick, who says he reads it every September 11 and calls it “the best thing I’ve read on what it means to be a New Yorker.”
- **Key takeaway:** The recommendation is less about a new argument than about a durable piece of writing that Packy returns to annually for its account of New York after the attacks.
- **Why it matters:** The repeat-reading signal is stronger than a passing link: it identifies a specific essay as a lasting interpretive resource. [1]

Short ESPN documentary on Welles Crowther

- **Type / creator:** Short documentary; ESPN. The captured source does not supply an official title; the video is embedded here.
- **Recommended by:** Packy McCormick.
- **Key takeaway:** He describes it as “a sober reminder of the real people who died in, and survived, the attack.”
- **Why it matters:** It complements Whitehead’s essay with a documentary account centered on individual lives rather than abstraction. [1]

Technical and practical lenses

The Elec’s report on Samsung’s zHBM and zNAND-O

- **Type / creator:** Technical news article by JEONG IL JOO, published by The Elec.
- **Recommended by:** Tim Sweeney, who calls the development “very exciting” and highlights a wide data bus for high bandwidth and on-package design for low latency.
- **Key takeaway:** The article explains Samsung’s zHBM architecture, which vertically stacks HBM on top of AI accelerators to shorten the data path. Samsung says the design can deliver up to eight times the data-processing performance of HBM5, three times the performance

per watt, and more than half the thermal resistance; those figures are company claims, not independently established results in the article.

- **Why it matters:** It is a concrete hardware-design read for understanding how memory packaging is being reshaped around AI processors. [3, 4]

The Book of Five Rings

- **Type / creator:** Book; Miyamoto Musashi, in a translation not specified by the recommender. No edition link was supplied.
- **Recommended by:** John Carmack, who says he recently worked through a translation.
- **Key takeaway:** Carmack found the introduction’s account of martial arts moving from battlefield necessity to sport, historical curiosity, and hobby useful as a parallel for programming. He argues that AI is making more hand-written coding skills less critical, while older skills can remain worthwhile as deliberate practice rather than as the center of the profession.
- **Why it matters:** The book becomes a framework for deciding which technical skills to preserve for craft and which to abandon as default production methods change. [5]

Alec Baldwin’s *Glengarry Glen Ross* sequence

- **Type / creator:** Film sequence; the transcript identifies the Alec Baldwin scene but does not provide film credits or a direct clip URL.
- **Recommended by:** Tim Ferriss, in a live founder-coaching session.
- **Key takeaway:** Ferriss says viewers should watch the short sequence and uses it to explain AIDA—attention, interest, decision, action—while arguing that a startup should lead with a customer testimonial rather than a generic description of the product.
- **Why it matters:** It turns a familiar sales scene into a concrete messaging test: put the proof first, then structure the path from attention to action. [6]

Sources

1. Weekly Dose of Optimism #210
2. X post by @patrickc
3. X post by @TimSweeneyEpic
4. Samsung Debuts zHBM Prototype, Stacking Memory Directly on AI Accelerators
5. X post by @ID_AA_Carmack
6. Why Kids Can Learn 10x Faster Than We Think — Niels Hoven of Mentava (Tim Coaching Session)