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Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

2026-10-22

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By Recommended Reading from Tech Founders • October 22, 2026

This round's recommendations: two investors on Foursquare cofounder Dennis Crowley's account of the company's end, a reading list from Tim Ferriss's latest Q&A, Tobi Lütke on DHH's "AI delirium" talk, and shorter endorsements from Delian, Keith Rabois, Guillermo Rauch, Patrick Collison and Sarah Guo.

Sarah Guo and Ryan Hoover: Dennis Crowley, "Some final words on Foursquare"

Foursquare cofounder Dennis Crowley (@dens) wrote about the company's final years after it was acquired last month, an outcome he called "disappointing." He wrote it to honor the team and to get "some closure" (essay). [1]

Sarah Guo called it "super important honest advice to founders." Her takeaway: if you're working on a dead end, get out. Founders don't owe it to investors to keep going, because investors "regularly forgive and experience failure" and ideally care more about you doing your life's work than about a subpar outcome. [2] She added that being responsible with investors' money is a different thing from trying to make a company you've lost faith in "work." [3] **Ryan Hoover** also shared the piece ("Appreciate the retro"), pulling out Crowley's line "I was heartbroken by this ending." [4]

Tim Ferriss: books from his new Q&A episode

Ferriss recommended several resources in his Q&A episode. Links are in the show notes. [5]

- **Ramit Sethi’s podcast**, which Ferriss calls “great.” He borrows its question about what it would look like to invest ten times more in the one or two areas that matter most. For him those are health and relationships. [6]
- **James Clear, *Atomic Habits*** (and BJ Fogg’s work), for people stuck overthinking. Both explain how small actions add up. His advice is to start with small daily actions so you rebuild trust in yourself. [6]
- **Michael Singer, *The Surrender Experiment***, which Kevin Rose recommended to him as a counterexample to over-planning your life. Ferriss “very much enjoyed it” and found it “very helpful.” It did leave him with questions about total versus selective surrender. [6]
- **Terry Real, *Fierce Intimacy*** (audiobook only). Ferriss calls Real “a beacon of clarity in a world of handwavy relationship advice.” If you pick one resource between this and *Crucial Conversations*, he says to choose this one. [6]
- **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler, *On Grief and Grieving***. It has helped friends after a death, and it is the book on grief recommended most by people he trusts. He notes he hasn’t read it in ages. [6]

He also repeated a recommendation from the last brief: Drucker’s *The Effective Executive*, as an “old book” that is “very short” and dense with principles. [6]

Tobi Lütke: DHH’s “AI delirium” speech

At a fireside chat with Guillermo Rauch, Lütke called DHH’s recent speech about “AI delirium” “a fantastic one.” He gave his own reading, adding that DHH might not agree with it. In that reading, the term describes people who have moved past the p(doom) debate and are focused on bringing into the world the things that “previously were impossible.” Lütke says he is at that stage or close to it. [7]

Delian: Wajahat on Varda and “space drugs”

Delian Asparouhov said it was the “first time I’ve seen someone understand space drugs on Twitter. Worth a read” (thread). [8] The thread explains that complex cancer drugs such as PROTACs form uneven crystals on Earth. As a result, they dissolve poorly and their bioavailability is hard to predict. Varda’s bet is that growing the crystals in microgravity yields purer, more stable drugs. [9] Note that Delian cofounded Varda. [9]

Shorter mentions

- **Keith Rabois** called a post by @jhong “good.” [10] The post argues that people who haven’t run companies underrate how much the team matters compared with “some imagined structural moat.” [11]
 - **Guillermo Rauch** recommended @DilumSanjaya’s Arduino explainer app to educators, homeschoolers and learners. His point is that a coding agent can now produce engaging explainers. [12]
 - **Patrick Collison** called Ben Thompson “for many years ... the best analyst in tech” when announcing the Stratechery–Stripe partnership. [13]
 - **Sarah Guo** pointed again to the No Priors episode with Greg Brockman, citing his view that security spending should “vastly outstrip” software spending. [14] The episode’s topics include cybersecurity in the AI age. [15]
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Sources

1. X post by @dens
2. X post by @saranormous
3. X post by @saranormous
4. X post by @rrhoover
5. X post by @tferriss
6. Q&A with Tim — The 4-Hour Workweek in a World of AI, The 4-Hour Body After 40, and More
7. The Third Customer: A Fireside with Tobi Lütke and Guillermo Rauch
8. X post by @zebulgar
9. X post by @Wajahat
10. X post by @rabois
11. X post by @jhong
12. X post by @rauchg
13. X post by @patrickc
14. X post by @saranormous
15. X post by @saranormous