Tim Ferriss Names the Books He Rereads Most; Fred Wilson Backs USV's "Manufacture vs. Construct" Thesis

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

2026-11-21

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By Recommended Reading from Tech Founders • November 21, 2026

Ferriss's most-reread books, the essay behind a USV investment theme, Casado's DHH conversation, and endorsements from Chamath, Belsky, Levie and Naval on Nvidia and agent-first business.

Ferriss: "my greatest hits books"

In his new episode, *Timeless Principles for Fast-Changing Times*, **Tim Ferriss** lists the books he keeps rereading. He says he has reread every one he mentions at least four or five times [1, 2, 3].

- **Peter Drucker, *The Effective Executive*:** Ferriss's reason is that "doing the right things matters a lot more than doing things well," so start by picking your targets [3].
- **Anthony de Mello, *Awareness*:** He has read it "probably 50" times. He says it helps you see "the stories and the beliefs that govern your life," and everything else is downstream of that [3].
- **Oliver Burkeman, *4,000 Weeks*:** Ferriss takes from it that "priority" was singular for a long time, so you need to know your one priority [3].
- **Richard Branson, *Losing My Virginity*:** He calls it a "great read… full of adventures," though "I'm sure it dates very poorly." He uses it as a lesson in asymmetric bets, pointing to how Branson negotiated with Boeing to nearly eliminate the downside when starting Virgin Atlantic [3].
- **Paul Graham's essays:** Ferriss names maker versus manager schedule and the essay on labels. He sums up the labels essay as "the more labels

you apply to yourself, the dumber you become" [3].

Wilson: *Manufacture vs. Construct*

Fred Wilson shared USV's *Manufacture vs. Construct* by @livjenkss. He said it explains one of his favorite USV themes: turning traditional construction projects into mass-produced products, which the firm "want[s] to do more of" [4]. The essay's core line is that construction is a project and manufacturing is a product [5]. It argues that AI lowers the upfront cost of manufacturing. Combined with a shortage of trade labor and the urgent need for more power on the grid, that makes factories make sense for things that never justified the capex before [5]. Livjenkss invites founders "turning a project into a product" to get in touch [6].

Casado: a16z's DHH conversation

Martin Casado promoted a16z's conversation with DHH, which he co-hosted. He called it "pure excitement about the AI wave" from someone who shaped "the technical and cultural tone of the last 30 years," and said it is "crammed full of '90s/00s pop culture" [7]. The episode covers Omarchy, DHH's agent-first Linux distribution, along with open models and whether taste matters when AI writes code [8]. During the conversation, DHH recommends a quote of his own. He says the only prediction of the future he enjoys is William Gibson's "The future's already here. It's just not evenly distributed" [9].

Chamath: the NYT on Jensen Huang

Chamath Palihapitiya quoted a link to the New York Times piece on Nvidia's culture under Jensen Huang [10]. He said it "makes me want to work for him MORE." His reasoning is that leaders with "ridiculous expectations, impatience and vision" filter out people who "can't take the heat," leaving a team that can build the world's most valuable company [11].

Belsky: the front door is an agent

Scott Belsky highlighted Savneet S.'s essay *The Front Door Is an Agent. Most Companies Are Remodeling the Lobby.* His takeaway is that GTM is increasingly "the sum of your quote latency, uptime, fee transparency, and the machine-readable surface you expose" [12]. The essay argues that companies are adding chat widgets when buyers' agents will judge everything behind the front end, so the real work is "a rebuild, not an upgrade" [13].

Levie and Naval: two X posts

- **Aaron Levie** quoted KSimback's "Most of us are managing agents all wrong", which argues you should "hire agents as experts, not interns" [14].

Levie agreed that this year's jump in model capability means agents should get goals and freedom rather than step-by-step instructions. He expects this to play out in finance, legal, life sciences and cyber [15].

- **Naval** quoted PersianMacroGuy's Nvidia thread, specifically its line "NVIDIA has to become a frontier lab faster than frontier labs are becoming chip companies" [16]. The thread argues that labs are building custom silicon and that Nvidia will struggle to make that shift without Jensen Huang [17].

Shorter picks

- **Packy McCormick** told Not Boring readers to watch SpaceX's slow-motion footage of Mechazilla catching Ship 42 after an orbital flight. He called the catch "one of the greatest engineering feats in human history" [18].
- **Tobi Lütke** wrote "Agreed. Use it" about Vercel's DeepSec harness, quoting Dillon Mulroy's advice to run it over your services and code [19, 20].
- **Matt Mullenweg** called Paul Graham's 2022 prediction of a bimodal distribution of remote work "prescient and correct" [21, 22].

Sources

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2. X post by @tferriss
3. Timeless Principles for Fast-Changing Times — Asymmetric Bets, Identity Diversification, and More
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5. X article by @livjenkss
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9. Why AI Has DHH Working 16-Hour Days
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