

Bookshelf and Learning Resources

The Thinking Machine: How AI Is Reshaping the Future of Work – and Why That’s a Good Thing Ian Anderson, 2025

An essential, thought-provoking guide for anyone who wants to understand how AI is transforming careers, businesses, and society. Written in an engaging, clear, and practical style, this book explores how AI is already changing the workplace—and what you can do to thrive in the years ahead. With a focus on real-world examples, future scenarios, and actionable insights, it helps readers cut through the hype and fear to see the full picture regarding:

- What jobs will likely disappear—and what roles will grow or emerge
- How freelancers, professionals, and entrepreneurs can harness AI
- Ways AI is already improving productivity, learning, and creativity
- The real (but manageable) risks of AI: bias, privacy, inequality
- How to prepare for different future scenarios—from steady growth to disruption

Whether you’re a student choosing your career, a business leader navigating change, or simply someone curious about the future, *The Thinking Machine* will equip you with the knowledge and mindset needed to face the AI era with confidence.

The Thinking Machine: Jensen Huang, Nvidia, and the World’s Most Coveted Microchip Stephen Witt, Penguin, 2025

This is the original book that inspired the documentary by the same name that is linked in this month’s edition. *The Thinking Machine* is the astonishing story of how a designer of video game equipment conquered the market for AI hardware, and in the process re-invented the computer as a learning machine.

You Look Like a Thing and I Love You: How Artificial Intelligence Works and Why It’s Making the World a Weirder Place by Janelle Shane – A fun and accessible intro, full of quirky examples showing how AI works (and sometimes fails) in everyday terms.

Artificial Intelligence For Dummies: A highly accessible introduction for absolute beginners. Good for demystifying AI, understanding what it is (and isn’t) and how it’s used in everyday life.

Artificial Intelligence Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction: Also aimed at non-technical readers, covers how AI works at a conceptual level and its applications across industries.

Essentials of AI for Beginners: Unlock the Power of Machine Learning, Generative AI... A practical guide for beginners to gain understanding of ML & generative AI and how to apply or at least engage with it in career/personal context.

LEARNING and Certification Links*

*While CharacterTowns.Org does not endorse any online learning platforms, we share the following links as examples of on-line education and certification programs.

For Profit Online Learning –

<https://www.udemy.com/topic/chatgpt/>; [FORBES Advisor AI Certification Programs](#); [Coursera AI Learning](#); [LinkedIn Learning](#)

University and Higher Education –

[University of Florida AI Fundamentals](#); [UCF Artificial Intelligence](#); [Valencia College](#); [National Applied AI Consortium](#)