

This is the story of the twenty-first century's Manhattan Project: the race to create artificial general intelligence.

For the last decade, a handful of AI companies have been racing to build the most powerful technology in history: artificial general intelligence, or AGI—a computer system capable of outdoing humans at almost anything. Some of them hoped AGI would cure diseases and heal the planet. Others feared it could kill everyone on Earth. They decided to build it anyway.

Kevin Roose's *The AGI Chronicles* is the definitive behind-the-scenes account of the trillion-dollar sprint to create AGI. Drawing on more than 150 interviews with insiders at OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google DeepMind, as well as unpublished company documents and research memos, Roose reconstructs the most consequential decade in tech history. He takes us inside the rooms where researchers watch large language models learn to talk, reason, and code at superhuman speed. He brings us to the White House, where top officials grapple with a technology that is improving too quickly to understand, let alone regulate. He offers new details on the disagreements that led the founders of Anthropic to defect from OpenAI, and fresh reporting on Sam Altman's dramatic firing—and equally dramatic reinstatement—as CEO. He tells the inside story of Google's frantic attempt to catch up to the AI frontier. And he ushers us inside the San Francisco AI scene, where “accelerationists” in hacker houses and “doomers” at AI safety summits battle each other for the upper hand.

With reportorial rigor and page-turning suspense, *The AGI Chronicles* reveals the true story of the most momentous technological quest in history—an audacious attempt to create a new form of intelligence that could either save humanity or destroy it.

Kevin Roose is an award-winning journalist and the bestselling author of three previous books: *Futureproof*, *Young Money*, and *The Unlikely Disciple*. From 2017 to 2026, he was the technology columnist for *The New York Times*, where he hosted the podcasts *Hard Fork* and *Rabbit Hole*. He is now the cohost, with Casey Newton, of *Machine Gods*, a podcast about artificial intelligence. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his family.

Read by the Author



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