

Enlightened. Educated. Shimmering with potential. You have before you a world of almost limitless possibilities. Your dilemma will be to find the places where your talents and interests can shine.

Being human can be difficult, and the larger and longer our lives, the more random and external events will get in the way of the plot. Unlike writers, we are not in control of our material.

The delightful sensation of immersion in a controlled universe is one reason we enjoy reading or being told stories.

I know I share with many of you an abiding love of books, and I have also come to adore their recent counterpart, the podcast, which is frankly, in my view, one of the marvels of our age.

An example of today's converged media products, that bring together audio, the internet, and our ubiquitous devices, podcasts bring to our avid ears a seemingly endless stream of stories. Stories that we can listen while doing other things, such as walking to work, or doing dishes, or avoiding writing a term paper. I have become addicted to the buzz of smart stories, well told, spilling intimately into my ears as I go from point A to B or attend to other tasks.

As it happens, some of the attributes that make podcasts interesting apply just as well in our lives.

That perception allowed people to risk setting aside the old and the known, to break with tradition, in favour of what became ultimately the explosive technological and economic developments we are familiar with.

So, my first