

Zen and the Art of Vibe Coding

A Small Book About a Giant Change

Curiosity
Builds
Brighter
Tomorrows

Forrest Greenwood

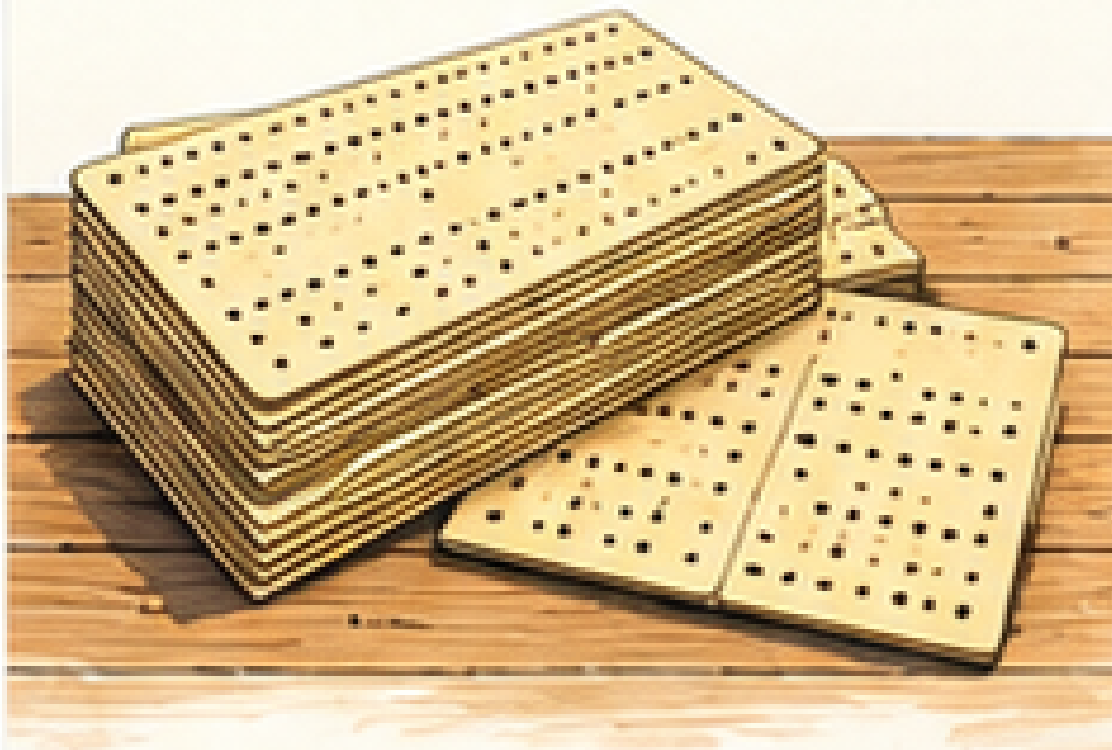
Contents

1	A Different Kind of Beginning	1
2	What Is Vibe Coding?	2
3	The Gate Is Opening	3
4	The Joy of Building	4
5	Lessons from the Journey	5
6	The Responsibility	6
7	The Dark Side	7
8	Authorship in the Age of AI	8
9	What This Book Is (and Isn't)	9
10	The Invitation	10

*Better questions.
Better creations.
A brighter tomorrow.*

1. A Different Kind of Beginning

In 1974, I learned programming on an IBM 360. We wrote instructions on punched cards. A deck of cards became a program. If you dropped the deck, you had a problem.



*"The tools were different,
but the feeling was the same —
curiosity, possibility, and a belief
that the future could be better."*

2. What Is Vibe Coding?

Vibe coding isn't about everyone becoming a programmer.

It's about everyone with something valuable to contribute having a new way to build it.



Different paths. Same destination.

3. The Gate Is Opening

For a long time, technical ability acted as a gatekeeper. That gate is opening. Teachers, nurses, mechanics, farmers, musicians, retirees, caregivers, entrepreneurs, students and dreamers can now bring their ideas to life.



"The world needs what you know."

4. A Different Kind of Conversation

Fifty-two years later, I describe what I want to build in ordinary English. The AI asks questions. We talk. We argue. I change my mind. Eventually I give the order:



And something begins to emerge.

5. Lessons from the Journey

Not every build goes smoothly.
Sometimes nothing happens.
Sometimes we misunderstand
each other. Sometimes we learn
the most from what doesn't work.



Lesson:

Communication isn't complete
until what was understood matches
what was intended.

6. The Responsibility

In 1977, I reported aboard
USS Tarawa as a young Naval
Supply Corps officer. Computers
were processing payroll, but a
manual backup remained.
The sailors still had to get paid.

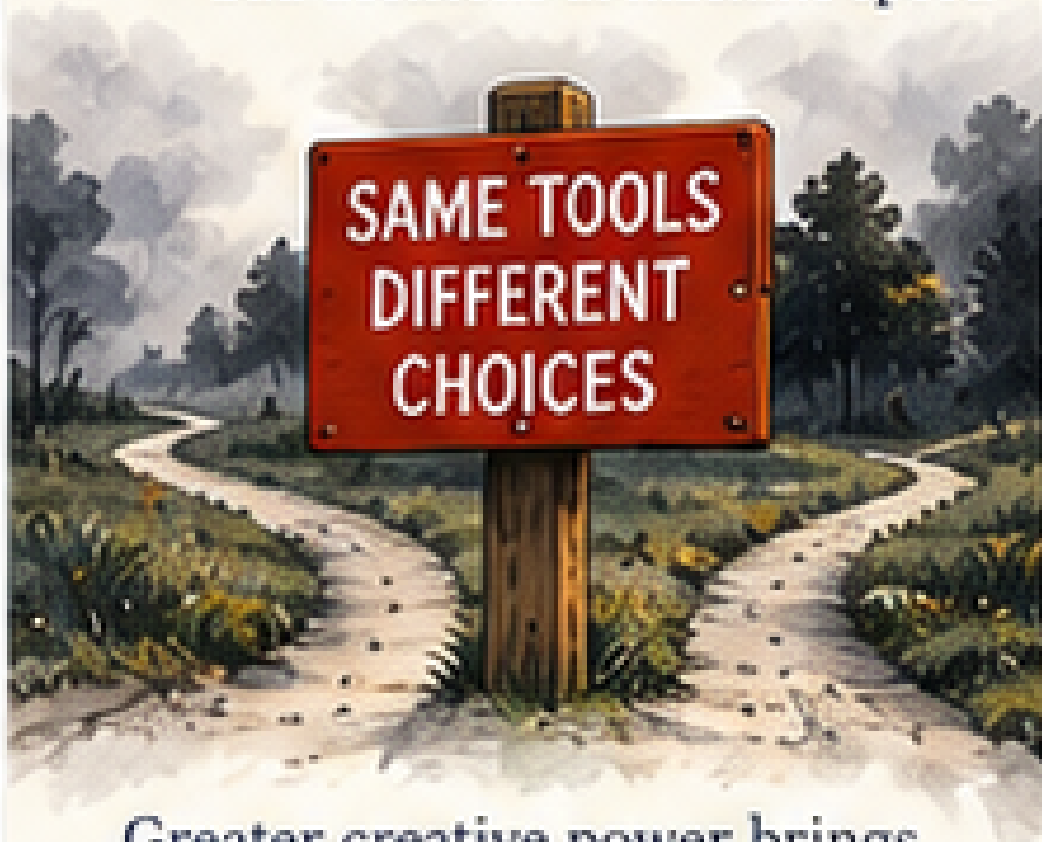


Trust technology.
Verify the result.
Maintain a recovery path.

7. The Dark Side

The same tools that help people create amazing things can also be used to create harm.

- Scams
- Deception
- Manipulation
- Insecure software
- Privacy violations
- Bad decisions at machine speed



Greater creative power brings greater creative responsibility.

8. Authorship in the Age of AI

Artificial intelligence is helping create this book. We're not hiding that. We're examining it.

The stories are mine. The ideas are mine. AI helps research, organize, edit and sometimes find words. I make the final decision.



Transparency without apology.

9. What This Book Is Not

- ✗ 50 Amazing Vibe-Coding Prompts
- ✗ Master Claude Code in Seven Days
- ✗ Programmers Are Obsolete
- ✗ AI Will Save Humanity
- ✗ A full autobiography

Today's tools will be tomorrow's antiques. We're after principles that survive the technology.



10. The Invitation

This book is for anyone who wonders:

"Could I really build something?"

Yes.

Come through the gate. Bring your experience. Start small. Ask good questions. Test relentlessly. Learn from failure. Keep a backup. Ask whether what you're making deserves to exist. Pursue Quality.

*Build something
worth building.*



The Inner You Still Knows

*You don't stop being curious
when you grow older.
You just get better at
where to point it.*



*The same curiosity.
Bigger horizons.*

Timeless Wisdom for a New Tool



Simplicity – Fewer words. Clearer thinking.



Focus – One thing at a time.



Experience – Your life is valuable input.



Question – Good questions lead to better places.



Create – Turn ideas into something real.



Serve – Build things that help.



Be Responsible – Just because you can,
doesn't always mean you should.



Keep Learning – The journey continues.

The background of the entire page is a vertical rectangular painting. It depicts a tranquil scene at dusk or dawn. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the sky and the surrounding landscape. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest of dark evergreen trees. Behind the trees, a range of mountains is visible, with the central peak being the most prominent. The sky is a deep blue, transitioning into a warm orange and yellow glow near the horizon where the sun is setting or rising. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*Same
Curiosity.
Bigger
Horizons.*

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