ROBIN HANSON
is an associate professor of economics at George Mason University, and a research associate at the Future of Humanity Institute of Oxford University. Professor Hanson has master’s degrees in physics and philosophy from the University of Chicago, nine years’ experience in artificial intelligence research at Lockheed and N.A.S.A., a doctorate in social science from California Institute of Technology, 3050 citations, and sixty academic publications.

“Robin Hanson brings intelligence, imagination, and courage to some of the most profound questions humanity will be facing within the middle term future. The Age of Em is a compelling and unique book that will be valuable to anyone who wants to look past the next ten years to the next hundred and the next thousand!”

SEAN CARROLL, Professor of Physics, California Institute of Technology, author of The Big Picture

“What happens when a first-rate economist applies his insights, breadth, and curiosity to the soft sciences of which he has experience? This book is what happens. There’s nothing else like it, and if you have your (current) mind.”

ANDREW McAFFEE, Professor of Business, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“A highly provocative vision of a technologically advanced future that may or may not come true—but if it does, we’ll be glad Robin wrote this book.”

MARC ANDREESSEN, co-founder, Netscape, Andreessen Horowitz

“Robin Hanson provides a richly detailed portrait of a future society where brain emulation is widespread. Drawing on physics, economics, sociology, history, and a host of other disciplines, he describes a social order that is wonderfully strange and yet strikingly familiar. Far out? Yes! Fascinating? That too.”

H. A. WADDELL, chief economist, Google, American Professor of Economics, U.C. Berkeley

“A fascinating thought experiment about the future, written with clarity and verve by somebody who thinks very deeply and freely.”

MATT RIDLEY, columnist The Times

“A brain emulation, or ‘em,’ results from taking a particular human brain, scanning it to record its cell features and connections, and then building a computer model that processes signals in the same way. Ems will probably be feasible within about a hundred years. They are psychologically quite human, and could replace humans in most jobs. If fully utilized, ems could have a monumental impact on all aspects of life on Earth.

This book shows you just how strange our electronic descendants may be. Read about changes in computer architecture, energy use, mind-speeds, body-size, security strategies, virtual reality, labor-market organization, management focus, job-training, career paths, wage-competition, identity, status relations, repro-social relations, online and offline relations, aging, retirement, death, life cycles, reproduction, making, consumption habits, wealth inequality, city sizes, cooling infrastructure, growth rates, coalition politics, governance, law, and war.

Ambitious and encyclopedic in scope, The Age of Em offers a completely unique window into our future. A must read for those curious about the technological destiny of our planet.