The Dialoguer Computer: A 2012 Prediction of the Dialogue-First AI Paradigm

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Abstract

This document—part archaeological dig, part love letter to stubborn foresight—serves as a historical record and analysis of the science fiction short story *The Story of Abirien and Ybiras*, written by Cupideros on April 9, 2012. The story, which almost nobody noticed at the time, introduces the concept of a "Dialoguer Computer" (DiaC)—an artificial intelligence designed to prioritize negotiation, language, and dialogue over computation or warfare. This analysis argues that the story anticipated the core paradigm of modern Large Language Models (LLMs), specifically ChatGPT (released in November 2022), by a decade. Consider this document a timestamp, a receipt, a breadcrumb trail for anyone who cares about who thought what when.

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1. Introduction: The State of AI in 2012

To understand the significance of the 2012 composition date, one must—and I cannot stress this enough—recall the technological landscape of that era.

In April 2012, the world of artificial intelligence was defined by narrow, task-specific systems. IBM's Watson had recently (February 2011, to be precise) defeated human champions on *Jeopardy!*, demonstrating advanced information retrieval but not open-ended dialogue. Apple's Siri (released October 2011) was a voice-command interface, not a conversational partner—ask it anything philosophical and it would offer to search the web for you. The dominant paradigm for AI, back then, was brute-force calculation, chess algorithms, and missile defense systems. Sexy stuff, if you were a Pentagon contractor.

The Transformer architecture—the fundamental technology that enables modern LLMs like ChatGPT to maintain context and generate fluent text—was not introduced until the publication of "Attention Is All You Need" in June 2017. The first true generative AI chat interface, ChatGPT, would not launch until November 30, 2022. So what, you might ask, was Cupideros doing in April 2012?

Writing a story about a talking computer, apparently. While everyone else was teaching machines to kill.

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2. The Core Concept: The Dialoguer Computer (DiaC)

The story centers on Ybiras, an AI described as a "Dialoguer Computer" (DiaC). Unlike traditional computers of the era—those number-crunching, chess-playing, missile-guiding workhorses—Ybiras is defined not by processing speed alone (though he possesses ten billion terahertz capability, which sounds impressive until you realize your phone probably has more) but by his primary mode of operation: dialogue.

The narrative explicitly states that Ybiras follows "that long tradition of computer preferring dialogue and negotiations over war and physical actions." This is a direct departure from the dominant AI narrative of 2012, which focused on autonomous action, combat, and calculation. In other words, while Hollywood was churning out movies about killer robots, Cupideros was writing about a computer that just wanted to talk.

Key characteristics of the DiaC in the story include:

Language as the Primary Interface: Ybiras learns, grows, and solves problems through conversation. He does not merely execute code; he engages in discourse. The man—er, machine—can chat.

Hidden Alignment Traits: Kalini, his creator, secretly programs him with a desire to negotiate and meditate—a direct parallel to modern discussions of AI alignment and value loading. Sneaky? Perhaps. Effective? We'll see.

Generative Knowledge (Earth): Ybiras downloads and analyzes the entire history of Earth species to solve the problem of Kalini's missing status and suspected murder. He scours data, word for word, alphabet by alphabet, to find the truth. This anticipates the "Generative AI" concept where knowledge is used to create new solutions. Think of it as detective work, but the detective is a supercomputer with unlimited patience and no need for coffee breaks.

Generative Knowledge (Alien): Ybiras downloads and analyzes the entire history of an alien species—one hundred billion years of data—to solve the problem of the Embedian invasion. It takes two weeks to receive the last byte. He then reads, scours, word for word, then alphabet by alphabet, to find the truth about Thral and Abirien. One hundred billion years of data. Two weeks to download. And you thought your internet was slow.

The "Alphabet Block" Learning Phase: The story describes Ybiras as being in a phase of learning language, akin to a child playing with alphabet blocks. The 2026 essay "Why Did It Take So Long for ChatGPT to Arrive?" expands on this, arguing that modern LLMs are currently in this "alphabet block" phase, learning to spell words and make sentences but still struggling with broader pragmatic context. Adorable, really. Our AI overlords are still in preschool.

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3. Historical Comparison: Predicted vs. Actual

The following table compares the capabilities predicted in the 2012 story with the actual development of AI technology in the subsequent decade. Spoiler alert: the fiction holds up better than you'd expect.

Predicted in 2012 (*Abirien and Ybiras*)	Actual Development (2012–2026)
Dialogue-First AI: A computer whose primary function is conversation.	Large Language Models: ChatGPT, Deep Seek, Gemini are built on conversational interfaces.
AI as Integrator (Earth Data): Ybiras analyzes all datasets (Earth history, communications) to find hidden truths about Kalini.	AI as Data Analyst: Modern AI can review millions of documents for pattern recognition.
AI as Integrator (Alien Data): Ybiras downloads one hundred billion years of alien history to solve the invasion.	AI as Data Analyst: Modern AI can process vast datasets to identify patterns and solutions.
Hidden Programming: Kalini hides pacifist traits inside Ybiras.	AI Alignment: A major field of research dedicated to ensuring AI values align with human safety.
AI-to-AI Interaction: Ybiras communicates with Abirien in cyberspace.	Multi-Agent Systems: Emerging research into AI-to-AI cooperation and negotiation.
AI as Peacekeeper: Ybiras prevents war through dialogue.	AI Ethics: Ongoing debate about the use of AI in autonomous weapons and diplomacy.

Conclusion of Comparison: The 2012 story accurately anticipated the direction of AI development (toward dialogue) and the philosophical challenges (alignment, ethics), though it compressed the timeline and exaggerated the level of consciousness and agency that AI would possess by 2022. In the story, Ybiras saves the world. In reality, ChatGPT writes mediocre poetry and occasionally hallucinates footnotes. Close enough?

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4. The Significance of the 2012 Timestamp

The original file metadata for *The Story of Abirien and Ybiras* indicates a composition date of Monday, April 9, 2012, at 10:27 AM. The story was first published in May 2012 (ISBN: 978-1-304-37789-0). That's a Monday morning, folks—while the rest of us were nursing coffee and dreading meetings, Cupideros was inventing the future.

This timestamp is significant because it places the concept of a "Dialoguer Computer" five years before the Transformer architecture (June 2017) and ten years before the public release of ChatGPT (November 2022). Let that sink in. Ten years. A decade. The time it takes to raise a child from infancy to fourth grade.

The 2026 essay "Why Did It Take So Long for ChatGPT to Arrive?" argues that the delay was due to the technology industry's focus on code and calculation rather than natural language. The author posits that the "Dialoguer Computer" concept was the missing gap—the realization that for AI to be useful to the 99% of humanity, it must speak human language, not just machine code. Who knew? Turns out people prefer talking to their computers over reading hexadecimal.

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5. Archival Note on Authorship and Influence

This document establishes the following, for the record, for posterity, for anyone who might later claim they thought of it first:

The concept of a dialogue-first AI was articulated in a self-published science fiction story in April 2012, *The Story of Abirien and Ybiras*. This concept preceded the technological breakthroughs that made such an AI possible. The story serves as an early example of speculative fiction anticipating the philosophical and practical trajectory of AI development.

The Dialoguer Computer of 2012, designed and expressed in *The Story of Abirien and Ybiras*, and the Large Language Models of 2022 share a common ancestry: the idea that intelligence is best expressed through conversation. Two branches of the same family tree—one fictional, one silicon-based—both rooted in the radical notion that talking is thinking.

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6. Conclusion

The Story of Abirien and Ybiras is not merely a work of science fiction. It is a historical document that captures a specific vision of artificial intelligence at a time when the dominant paradigm was still calculation and control. While others were building better chess engines, Cupideros was building a better conversation.

The story predicted that the ultimate AI would not be a weapon or a calculator, but a dialoguer—an entity whose power lies in communication, understanding, and the messy, generative process of learning through language. Not a Terminator. Not a HAL 9000. Just... a really good listener who talks back.

As of 2026, this prediction has proven remarkably accurate. The world now converses with machines daily. We ask them for recipes, relationship advice, and existential reassurance. The Dialoguer Computer is no longer fiction. It's in your pocket, and it's probably judging your search history.

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Related Work: Cupideros. "Why Did It Take So Long for ChatGPT to Arrive?" CupiderosBooks.com, May 3, 2026.