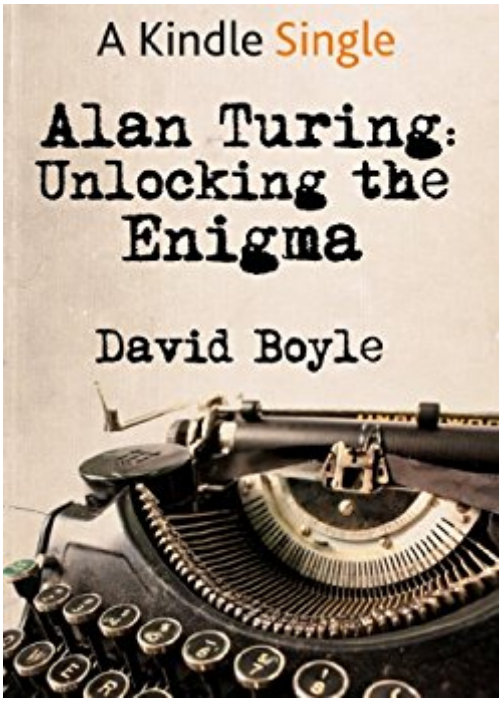
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Alan Turing: Unlocking The Enigma (Kindle Single)



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Synopsis

Alan Mathison Turing. Mathematician, philosopher, codebreaker, a founder of computer science, and the father of Artificial Intelligence, Turing was one of the most original thinkers of the last century - and the man whose work helped create the computer-driven world we now inhabit. But he was also an enigmatic figure, deeply reticent yet also strikingly naÃ ve. Turingâ ™s openness about his homosexuality at a time when it was an imprisonable offense ultimately led to his untimely death at the age of only forty-one. In 'Alan Turing: Unlocking the Enigma', David Boyle reveals the mysteries behind the man and his remarkable career. Aged just 22, Turing was elected a fellow at King's College, Cambridge on the strength of a dissertation in which he proved the central limit theorem. By the age of 33, he had been awarded the OBE by King George VI for his wartime services: Turing was instrumental in cracking the Nazi Enigma machines at the top secret code breaking establishment at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. But his achievements were to be tragically overshadowed by the paranoia of the post-War years. Hounded for his supposedly subversive views and for his sexuality, Turing was prosecuted in 1952, and forced to accept the humiliation of hormone treatment to avoid a prison sentence. Just two years later, at the age of 41 he was dead. The verdict: cyanide poisoning. Was Turingâ ™s death accidental as his mother always claimed? Or did persistent persecution drive him to take him own life? â ˆAlan Turing: Unlocking the Enigmaâ ™ seeks to find the man behind the science, illuminating the life of a person who is still a shadowy presence behind his brilliant achievements. David Boyle's work has been widely praised. David Boyle is a British author and journalist who writes mainly about history and new ideas in economics, money, business and culture. He lives in Crystal Palace, London. His books include â ˆUnheard Unseen: Warfare in the Dardanellesâ ™, â ˆTowards the Setting Sun: The Race for Americaâ ™ and â ˆThe Age to Comeâ ™. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent publisher of digital books.

Book Information

File Size: 2327 KB
Print Length: 114 pages
Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1500985376
Publisher: Endeavour Press (February 10, 2014)
Publication Date: February 10, 2014
Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC
Language: English

ASIN: B00IDCH6YA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #12,652 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle Nonfiction Singles > Profiles #10 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle Nonfiction Singles > Essays & Ideas #12 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle Singles > History

Customer Reviews

A very short biography of Alan Turing, most well-known as the scientist who was key in the British effort to "unlock[..] the Enigma", the German coding machine. David Boyle’s book begins with the 2013 "Statutory Pardon of Alan Mathison Turing", in fact there was a veritable rush to effect a posthumous "statutory pardon to one of Britain’s greatest scientists" and recognition of him by the British government. "Present in the chamber to hear him were members of Turing’s family, and at least one former colleague of his at the top secret code breaking establishment at Bletchly Park." A far cry from the events that lead to his suicide in 1954. Turing openly flaunted an 1885 bill criminalizing homosexuality and was finally sentenced to something like chemical castration. He likely committed suicide shortly afterwards. Most of the book is spent on following Turing from one scientific center and interest to another, from Oxford to Princeton back to London. As soon as there was interest in his theories and findings, he was on to the next breakthrough. I often had to interrupt and look up the theories Turing posited. "He ought perhaps to be remembered for his pioneering contribution to the very beginning of information technology."

I downloaded this book to learn more about Alan Turing aafter being introduced to him in the excellent new movie about him. I did learn some new facts which I assume are correct. But the book is not a great piece of literature. It really does not explore the depths of this fascinating man. It’s about Wikipedia level!

If you are interested in why some individuals fail in life and why some succeed, this is the book for you, plus a couple of others I have read. Alan Turing overcame all odds to become one of the most

influential person in the field of technology. I had a little trouble getting started but, like Alan Turing, I persevered and am so glad I did. More than the story of a person, this is the story of an age; the story of a man who saw that he could change his world for the better .More than that he came to understand what was needed and did it. The world has been changed.He is proof that one man opened society's mind to what can be accomplished. I am not going to tell you what he did and how. That would be giving away the baby with the bath water. Suffice to say that his eye was never off his goal for long and finally society is experiencing what he envisioned. Read the book andenjoy while learning or proving what you thought you already knew.

I was aware of this war time story at a superficial level but this book reveals detail and insight that had not previously been mine. Insofar as it unlocks the enigma, as the book's title promised, it provides an excellent read. But it fails to weave in the personal story of Turing in any meaningful way so that I was left wondering why. After all his story is of a demonized, despised homosexual to many in society at that time and his brilliant mind failed to impress so many of those who should have been impressed, not to say eternally grateful, for his contribution in the war effort. For the reader who would like to understand well the story of cracking the enigma code this is otherwise a fine, interesting and insightful book. Tony EdwardsÂ The Slope of Kongwa Hill: A Boy's Tale of Africa

Well done, and interesting... and short read, or, actually, just the right length. If you want to learn more about Turing, he points you to biographies. If you want to learn more about the era and related subjects, or other interesting eras and periods, the author has written similar books which are shown at the end of the Kindle edition, and I assume the paper version as well. I've never read anything else by David Boyle, but it certainly left me thinking about reading some of his other work. In a way, this seems like a volume in a large body of work made up of other volumes.

Informative, but it reads like a college term paper.

I learned a great deal about this 20th century genius and the obstacles he faced. What an intellect! A great code breaker who saved us from Hitler.

Interesting collection facts. Poorly presented.It feels choppy and unfinished, carelessly constructed, maybe a rush job.Someone needs to edit this book!

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