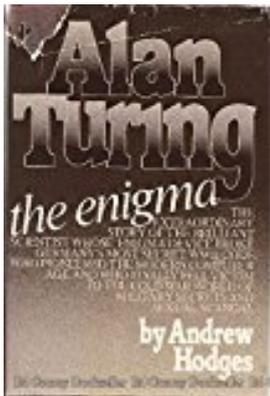


[PDF] Alan Turing : The Enigma

Andrew Hodges - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Alan Turing : The Enigma
Author: Andrew Hodges
Released: 1983-11-01
Language:
Pages: 587
ISBN: 0671492071
ISBN13: 978-0671492076
ASIN: 0671492071

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Description:

Alan Turing died in 1954, but the themes of his life epitomize the turn of the millennium. A pure mathematician from a tradition that prided itself on its impracticality, Turing laid the foundations for modern computer science, writes Andrew Hodges:

Alan had proved that there was no "miraculous machine" that could solve all mathematical problems, but in the process he had discovered something almost equally miraculous, the idea of a universal machine that could take over the work of *any* machine.

During World War II, Turing was the intellectual star of Bletchley Park, the secret British

cryptography unit. His work cracking the German's Enigma machine code was, in many ways, the first triumph of computer science. And Turing died because his identity as a homosexual was incompatible with cold-war ideas of security, implemented with machines and remorseless logic: "It was his own invention, and it killed the goose that laid the golden eggs."

Andrew Hodges's remarkable insight weaves Turing's mathematical and computer work with his personal life to produce one of the best biographies of our time, and the basis of the Derek Jacobi movie . Hodges has the mathematical knowledge to explain the intellectual significance of Turing's work, while never losing sight of the human and social picture:

In this sense his life belied his work, for it could not be contained by the discrete state machine. At every stage his life raised questions about the connection (or lack of it) between the mind and the body, thought and action, intelligence and operations, science and society, the individual and history.

And Hodges admits what all biographers know, but few admit, about their subjects: "his inner code remains unbroken." Alan Turing is still an enigma. --*Mary Ellen Curtin* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review "A first-rate presentation of the life of a first-rate scientific mind.it is hard to imagine a more thoughtful and warm biography than this one" -- Douglas Hofstadter New York Times Book Review "One of the finest scientific biographies I've ever read: authoritative, superbly researched, deeply sympathetic and beautifully told" Sylvia Nasar, author of A Beautiful Mind "Andrew Hodge's book is of exemplary scholarship and sympathy. Intimate, perceptive and insightful, it's also the most readable biography I've picked up in some time" Time Out "One of the finest scientific biographies ever written" New Yorker "Save your money for the forthcoming new edition of Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges, regarded by many as one of the greatest biographies of anyone, let along Turing" -- Robert Matthews BBC Focus Magazine --This text refers to the edition.

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