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Turing: Pioneer Of The Information Age

PIONEER OF THE INFORMATION AGE

TURING

B. JACK COPELAND
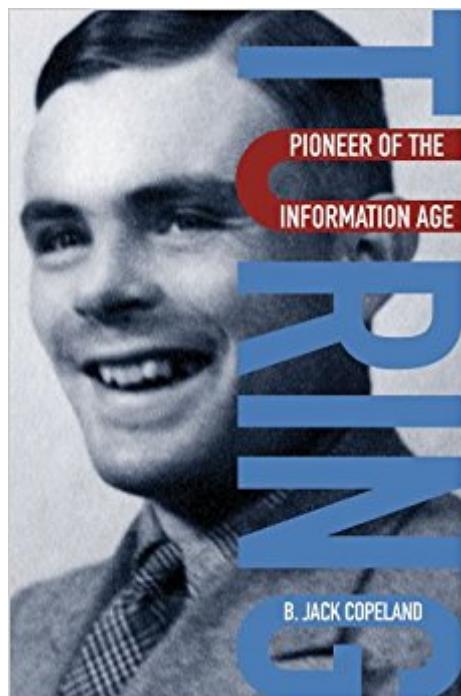
Synopsis

Alan Turing is regarded as one of the greatest scientists of the 20th century. But who was Turing, and what did he achieve during his tragically short life of 41 years? Best known as the genius who broke Germany's most secret codes during the war of 1939-45, Turing was also the father of the modern computer. Today, all who 'click-to-open' are familiar with the impact of Turing's ideas.Here, B. Jack Copeland provides an account of Turing's life and work, exploring the key elements of his life-story in tandem with his leading ideas and contributions. The book highlights Turing's contributions to computing and to computer science, including Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Life, and the emphasis throughout is on the relevance of his work to modern developments. The story of his contributions to codebreaking during the Second World War is set in the context of his thinkingabout machines, as is the account of his work in the foundations of mathematics.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent bio of Alan Turing. Copeland's description of his personality and life is good, but what

really interested me was his description of his work. He gives a good, detailed description of Turing's role in inventing modern computing and his work at Bletchley, enough to satisfy geeky people like me. He considers the possibilities for Turing's death, and he convinces me at least that it was probably caused by sloppy lab behavior rather than suicide. He mentions the possibility that the British secret service had him killed, and yes, that is a distant possibility. One reviewer said Copeland believed that was the most likely explanation, but if you read the book you realize that all he is describing is a possibility.

Most accounts of innovations in computing omit stories of the earliest ideas and practical implementations. In this they are not to blame, because the British Government enforced secrecy about WW II code-breaking for about 60 years. Jack Copeland's 2012 book, Turing--Pioneer of the Information Age, corrects the record.It is a good read, even for people who eschew reading about technical topics!

I enjoyed this book on Alan Turing's life and legacy, and especially the author's alternate ideas and theories on his untimely death.

Very interesting read. The man was really a Genius.

Well researched, clearly written.

This is an entertaining book about Turing's 'adventures'. A welcome addition to the film, where many things are condensed to hardly acceptable episodes. The film, nevertheless, is good, too. I found the style of the first part of the book a little 'bookish'.

This book is very interesting and helpful in getting a good idea of the life and times of Alan Turing, and includes information from the family. It is a fairly short read, relative to the longer biography.

This is a fantastic book -- I could barely put it down. It is both excellent narrative and carefully documented history. As a computer scientist I am familiar with Turing's groundbreaking work, including the technical construction of his "Turing machine." But I did not realize many of the other contributions he was responsible for, such as "artificial life," electronic music, and even sequential analysis (from statistics). The book does not dwell on technical details, but does present enough

about the work to be accurate and informative. The alternative read of the evidence concerning Turing's untimely death, in the last chapter of the book, is also very compelling. In sum: This book is evidence that the Imitation Game, while a great film, sold us short: Turing's life story could have been told in a historically accurate manner while still being great entertainment. Read this book to be gripped, and to learn the story of an amazing man.

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