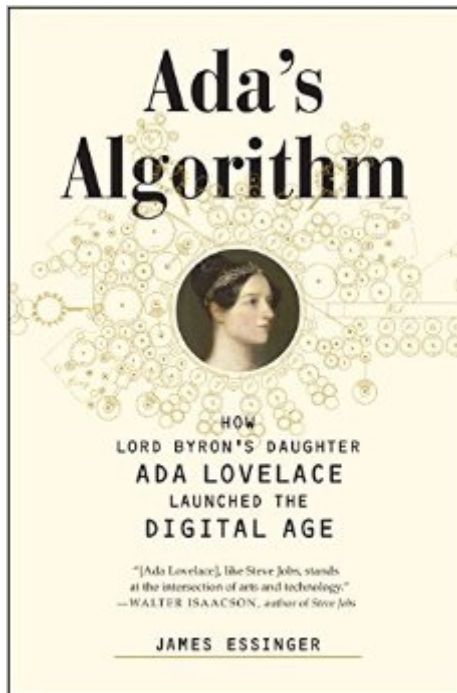# Ada's Algorithm: How Lord Byron's Daughter Ada Lovelace Launched The Digital Age

Synopsis

â œ[Ada Lovelace], like Steve Jobs, stands at the intersection of arts and technology."â ”Walter Isaacson, author of The InnovatorsOver 150 years after her death, a widely-used scientific computer program was named â œAda,â • after Ada Lovelace, the only legitimate daughter of the eighteenth centuryâ ™s version of a rock star, Lord Byron. Why?Because, after computer pioneers such as Alan Turing began to rediscover her, it slowly became apparent that she had been a key but overlooked figure in the invention of the computer.In Ada Lovelace, James Essinger makes the case that the computer age could have started two centuries ago if Lovelaceâ ™s contemporaries had recognized her research and fully grasped its implications.Itâ ™s a remarkable tale, starting with the outrageous behavior of her father, which made Ada instantly famous upon birth. Ada would go on to overcome numerous obstacles to obtain a level of education typically forbidden to women of her day. She would eventually join forces with Charles Babbage, generally credited with inventing the computer, although as Essinger makes clear, Babbage couldnâ ™t have done it without Lovelace. Indeed, Lovelace wrote what is today considered the worldâ ™s first computer programâ ”despite opposition that the principles of science were â œbeyond the strength of a womanâ ™s physical power of application.â •Based on ten years of research and filled with fascinating characters and observations of the period, not to mention numerous illustrations, Essinger tells Adaâ ™s fascinating story in unprecedented detail to absorbing and inspiring effect.From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Customer Reviews

Terrific title and an interesting story of Augusta Ada Byron Lovelace, daughter of poet Lord Byron. She lived in a time when the contribution of a woman could be easily overlooked or discounted, though Ava was a strong person with an interesting life, even without the math connection. The early chapters delve intimately into the behavior of Lord Byron, which would be fairly scandalous by today's standards. Maybe I missed it, but I never did get exactly what the algorithm was--or maybe the explanation was too mathematical for my humanities-oriented brain. I thought there was going to be an "aha" moment concerning modern computers, but it never quite came.Not that I'm complaining. Author James Essinger has a readable style and appears to have done his research well. His asides to the reader share points on which he differs from other experts, and why he has come to certain conclusions. He uses original letters as well as many secondary sources to follow Ada from her birth (1815) through her sometimes precarious but privileged childhood of music lessons and mathematics tutors, on through adulthood. She was still expected to marry young and marry well, but even as a married woman she carried on a primarily professional correspondence with the much older Charles Babbage, "the man generally credited with inventing the computer."Suggest this to readers looking for a thoughtful and slightly offbeat biography of an interesting woman -- a specific interest in math or computers is not necessary.About me: I'm a middle school/high school librarian.How I got this book: review is from an advance readers copy, sent by the publisher.

While the work is interesting, the editor fell down on the job. For example, For example, the last 2 paragraphs on p. 171 are also the first 2 paragraphs on p. 174. There are other places where words are used incorrectly, such as "the" for "that.". Can we trust the research of someone who isn't (or doesn't employ) a careful copy editor?If the American 2014 edition follows a British 2013 edition, why weren't these errors found and fixed?

I chose this book only as a general biography of Ada Lovelace since I know nothing about science or mathematics and have no interest in them.This book gives full justice to a woman of astonishing intellect and immense consequence for the modern world as one who foresaw and even diligently worked out how a computer could be constructed. The author states that it is "abundantly reasonable to describe her as a genius."Until her death at the age of thirty-three, she co-operated closely with Charles Babbage in planning such a machine, and it was her brilliant mind that found new ways of thinking about the problems presented.It is true that the reader gleans a significant

understanding of the cooperation of Ada Lovelace and Charles Babbage in the working out of the principles behind a computer and of Ada's leading role in the enterprise. So that insight alone makes this recital of the details worth the reader's time.But there is also an interesting and full account of the role played by the Jacquard loom in the inspiration for the Babbage prototype. For an understanding of Babbage's difficulties in developing his prototype this book will no doubt answer your questions.One surprising revelation for me was the true character of her mother, Lord Byron's widow. This woman's miserable nature is revealed in the final agonizing days of her gifted daughter. No wonder Ada chose to be buried beside her father, where her mother would never intrude. (After writing this, I read the much, much better book -- the biography of Ada's mother, "Lady Byron snd Her Daughters" by Julia Markus -- which exonerates Lady Byron of all the old accusations and prejudices leveled against her. I highly recommend that book.)Unfortunately this book is poorly edited; there are missing words which radically affect the meaning of several important sentences. I would say that the editing, if there was any, was extremely sloppy.Also because of its careless style, I cannot rank this book beyond three stars.It is often a frustrating read.

Absolutely agree on the editing. Worst edited biography I've ever read. I also found his writing clunky and sophomoric. If you want to read well written biographies read Chernow, Doris Kearns Goodwin and from Essinger's own country, Antonia Fraser. I'll have to find someone else to enchant me for the Enchantress of Numbers.

This is a fascinating biography of a brilliant woman who, in spite of being restricted by the customs of her time, learned much about mathematics. She helped Charles Babbage with his calculating machine. Ada is credited with being of great importance to the invention of computing and data processing. Babbage did not see beyond the computing skills of his machine, but Ada saw limitless possibilities for a machine that could be used to store, share and add to knowledge of all kinds. Unfortunately, Ada's life was cut short by cancer. It is interesting too that Tom Stoppard's play "Arcadia" is partly based on the life of Ada Lovelace. An early computer program was named in her honor. Had Ada lived longer, the world might have had computers in the early 20th century, such was her vision and genius.

I adored this book. Essinger managed to incorporate context into Ada's tale, something that so many people fail to do when they're hung up on one particular story. I learned so much. It's very inspiration for people learning to code today.

Ada's Algorithm: How Lord Byron's Daughter Ada Lovelace Launched the Digital Age Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine Ada's Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, the World's First Computer Programmer Hebrew Melodies of Lord Byron (Classic Reprint) Lord Byron's Bride: Regency Romance (Clean Short Read Regency Romance Book 3) Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis in Ada Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China Ali vs. Inoki: The Forgotten Fight That Inspired Mixed Martial Arts and Launched Sports Entertainment Cryptocurrency: Guide To Digital Currency: Digital Coin Wallets With Bitcoin, Dogecoin, Litecoin, Speedcoin, Feathercoin, Fedoracoin, Infinitecoin, and ... Digital Wallets, Digital Coins Book 1) The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Computer (Pantheon Graphic Novels) El violÃƒÂn de Ada (Ada's Violin): La historia de la Orquesta de Instrumentos Reciclados del Paraguay (Spanish Edition) Alex + Ada Volume 2 (Alex + ADA Tp) ADA Programming Success In A Day: Beginner's guide to fast, easy and efficient learning of ADA programming Programming in Ada: Plus an Overview of Ada 9X (International Computer Science Series) Software Components With Ada: Structures, Tools, and Subsystems (The Benjamin/Cummings Series in Ada and Software Engineering) Reusable Ada Components Sourcebook (The Ada Companion Series) Let Us Bless The Lord, Year One: Meditations for the Daily Office, Advent Through Holy Week (Let Us Bless the Lord) The Lord of the Rings Instrumental Solos: Flute, Book & CD (The Lord of the Rings; the Motion Picture Trilogy) The Lord of the Rings the Complete Trilogy (Lord of the Rings Trilogy)