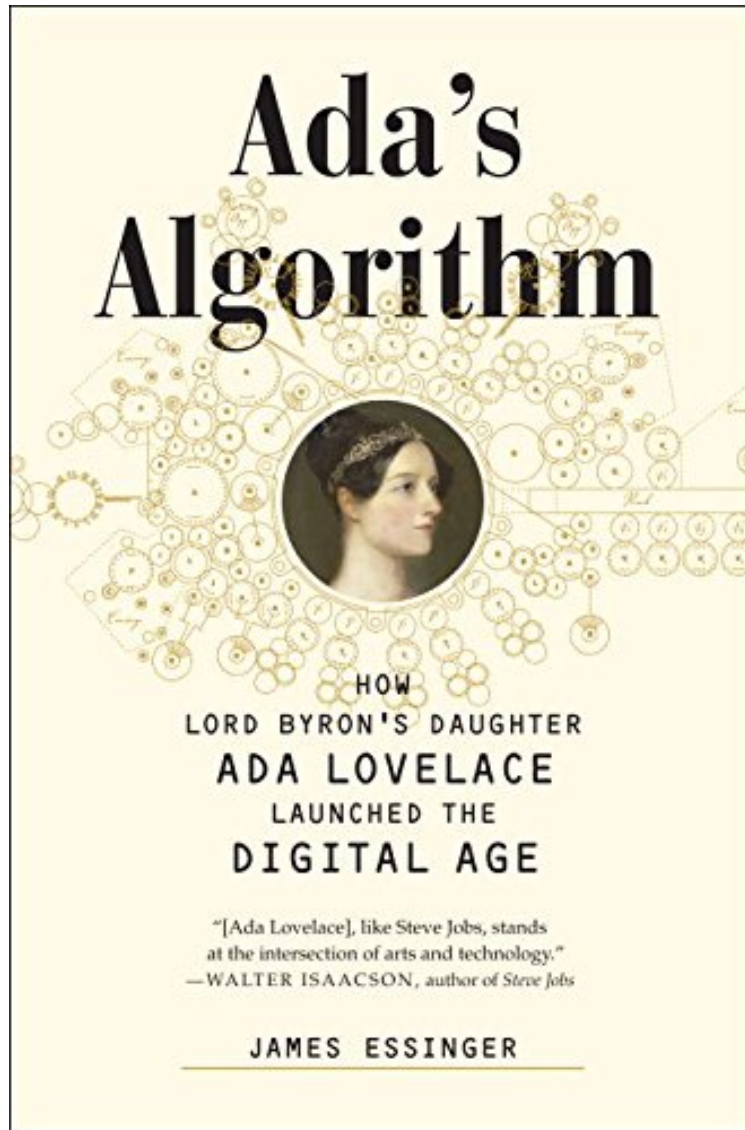


(Read free) Ada's Algorithm: How Lord Byron's Daughter Ada Lovelace Launched the Digital Age

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

James Essinger

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#433239 in Books MELVILLE HOUSE 2015-09-28 2015-09-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x .70 x 5.50l, .81 #File Name: 1612194575272 pages MELVILLE HOUSE | File size: 61.Mb

James Essinger : Ada's Algorithm: How Lord Byron's Daughter Ada Lovelace Launched the Digital Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ada's Algorithm: How Lord Byron's Daughter Ada Lovelace Launched the Digital Age:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Byron's daughter...By eledavf VivianI 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 and 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Adored this book. By Jessica 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Misleading title By Darwin Santos The title is utterly misleading, I was looking for her contributions to programming; I ended up reading a compilation of references and personal opinions.

[Ada Lovelace], like Steve Jobs, stands at the intersection of arts and technology." Walter Isaacson, author of *The Innovators* Over 150 years after her death, a widely-used scientific computer program was named Ada, after Ada Lovelace, the only legitimate daughter of the eighteenth century'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 Lovelace's contemporaries had recognized her research and fully grasped its implications. It'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 couldn't have done it without Lovelace. Indeed, Lovelace wrote what is today considered the world's first computer program despite opposition that the principles of science were beyond the strength of a woman's physical power of application. Based on ten years of research and filled with fascinating characters and observations of the period, not to mention numerous illustrations, Essinger tells Ada's fascinating story in unprecedented detail to absorbing and inspiring effect. From the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *Ada's Algorithm* [An] engrossing biography. "New York Times Book Review A tantalizing topic The story of a society proceeding irrevocably but ambivalently into the modern age, enthralled by advances in science and technology, adapting to new social mores, and yet still beholden to many antiquated traditions. Wall Street Journal Essinger is a terrific storyteller, and he knows a great story when he sees it. *Ada's Algorithm* is a riveting read." American Scientist Irresistible ... If more people could have understood Babbage's machine the way Lovelace did indeed, if they had not all but ignored her paper, perhaps because the author was a woman computing might have had a far earlier start." Chicago Tribune A revealing firsthand look into Ada's life and her relationship with Babbage, relying heavily on their journal entries and letters to each other One of the most innovative minds of the 19th century. Boston Globe A fine new Lovelace biography We need her as a symbol of all the women who have contributed to the progress of science and technology, and of all the women who might have contributed if given the chance. Slate A portrait of a particularly fascinating woman." Jezebel A window on the life of one of the world's first celebrity scientists." io9 An absorbing account of a woman who was far ahead of her time." Bust The biography contains just the kind of moments of triumph I like to read about: Ada overcoming obstacles to get an education and make genius contributions to science." Bitch Magazine, Gift Guide for Science Nerds The title says it all. Badass tech ladies rule." Book Riot, Liberty Hardy (RiverRun Bookstore) picks 2014's Must-Read Books from Indie Presses Readers are treated to an intimate portrait of Lovelace's short but significant life along with an abbreviated history of 19th-century high-society London." New Criterion One of the AV Club's Notable Releases for October If you want to focus on just one singular genius, start with this story. It's about a woman who was born to notoriety, as Lord Byron's daughter, who ended up writing the first computer program and changing the world." Flavorwire, Must-Reads for October Essinger describes [Lovelace's] life with obvious respect, perhaps admiration, but also with a careful sense of journalistic objectivity and precision." Geeky Library Stepping out of the long shadow of Lord Byron's legacy, Essinger follows the visionary mind of

Lovelace as she, applying her educated mind to the 'Analytical Engine,' creates the first recognized algorithm and casts a shadow on modern technology as long as her father's on poetry." Biographile Ada Lovelace's vision has an indelible power, and we can learn so much from it almost 200 years later. In the mechanics of weaving machines, young Ada saw a new age for creative technology; the energy and passion in her letters is completely infectious! Essinger's absorbing and well-crafted book will no doubt inspire other women in tech, or anyone who sees in one small motion the potential to change the world. Reshma Saujani, founder of Girls Who Code and author of *Women Who Don't Wait in Line* Entertaining and illuminating. *Times Literary Supplement* (UK) Essinger displays not only verve and affection . . . but also great scholarship. *Times Educational Supplement* (UK) [Essinger] presents Adas story with great enthusiasm and rich detail Ada continues to inspire, and by using her own voice via letters and research, the author brings her to life for a new generation of intrepid female innovators. A robust, engaging and exciting biography." *Kirkus sALibrary Journal* Editor's Pick for Fall 2014 One of *Publishers Weekly's* Big Indie Books of Fall 2014 Absorbing... Essingers tome is undergirded by academic research, but it is the authors prose, both graceful and confident, that will draw in a general readership. Readers are treated to an intimate portrait of Lovelaces short but significant life...along with an abbreviated history of 19th-century high-society London." *Publishers Weekly* The author provides an engaging...look at [Lovelace's] parents romance, her childhood, her lifelong fascination with mathematics, and, mostly, her friendship with [Charles Babbage]." *Booklist* Praise for *Jacquards Web* by James Essinger Essinger tells his story with passion and with a gracious willingness to help the lay reader grasp the intricacies of technology. *Wall Street Journal* From the Hardcover edition. About the Author JAMES ESSINGER is a writer with a particular interest in the history of ideas that have had a practical impact on the modern world. His previous book, *Jacquards Web: How a Hand-Loom Led to the Birth of the Information Age* (2004), was chosen as one of the top 5 popular science books of the year by the *Economist*.