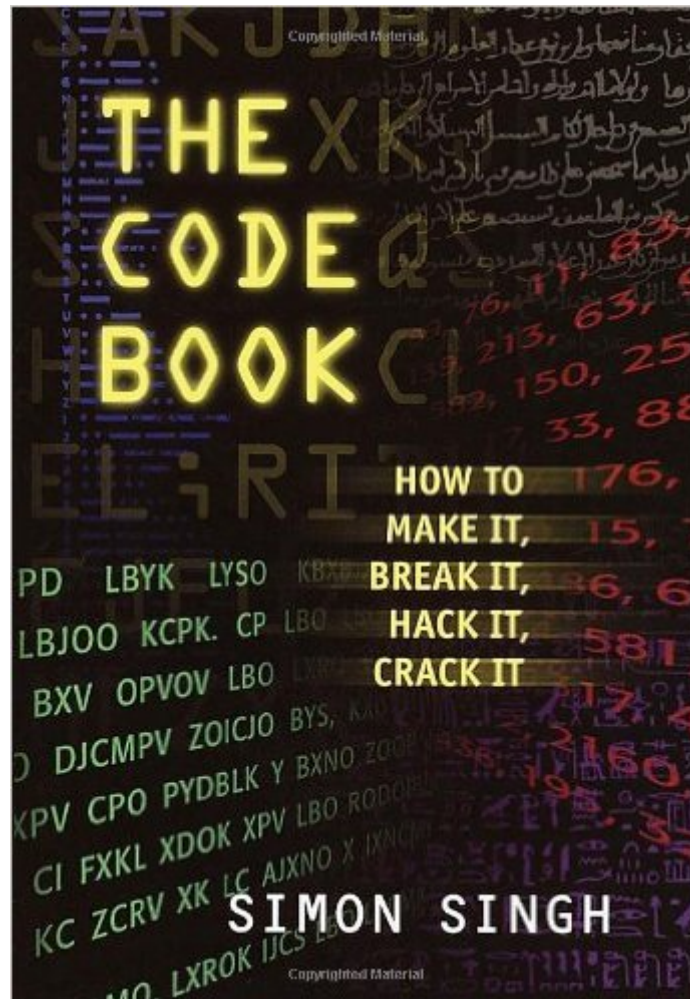# The Code Book: How To Make It, Break It, Hack It, Crack It

Synopsis

Itâ ™s known as the science of secrecy. Cryptography: the encoding and decoding of private information. And it is historyâ ™s most fascinating story of intrigue and cunning. From Julius Caesar and his Caesar Cipher to the code used by Mary Queen of Scots and her conspiracy to the use of the Engima machine during the Second World War, Simon Singh follows the evolution of secret writing. Accessible, compelling, and timely, this international bestseller, now adapted for young people, is sure to make readers see the pastâ ”and the futureâ ”in a whole new way.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,141,632 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #90 inÂ Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Computers   #388 inÂ Books > Teens > Hobbies & Games   #476 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Mystery & Wonders

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

The Code Book is a delightful treatment of the subject of cryptography. It is a nice combination of history, science, warfare and politics.The author uses interesting historical events as background to narrate the different phases of what might be called the mainstream developments of cryptography and cryptanalysis. It is a captivating presentation.The book started off with the story of Queen Mary of Scotland, and went on to cover the Caesar cipher, VigenÃ¨re cipher, the famous Enigma, the super-secret Colossus, and the modern day computer based encryption and decryption developments. The author also threw in a couple of interesting "sideline" stories, such as the Beale cipher, the Rosetta Stone, and the Navajo "code talkers" who played a key role in the Pacific theater during WWII.My teenage son used to complain that most of the difficult subjects he learned in

school would never have any use in real life. I gave him a copy of this book. The book is a compelling story of how science, engineering, mathematics, computer, linguistics, psychology are all critical pieces of this all-important game.There are more technical treatises on this subject, and there are more lengthy and nuanced historical accounts on military intelligence as well. But this book is undoubtedly the best introduction to this uniquely fascinating subject.

Reading this book gave me my start in my self study of cryptography, its science and its history. While I will not pretend to be anywhere near an expert on the subject, I found this book very insightful. It is an easy read, and not tedious in any way. It is meant as a "science for non-scientists" type book, and more of a history than anything else. (I have only managed to solve the first two cryptologic challenges at the end of this book, but am diligently working on the rest in my spare time.)

Intended for an audience of young adults, Simon Singh's The Code Book will appeal to many an adult reader as it reveals the science of cryptography - the encoding and decoding of private information. The history spans centuries and ranges from an early Enigma machine to email communications and Internet privacy. The Code Book is recommended as an intriguing and informative survey.

I have always been fascinated by codes and Singh has put together a comprehensive book on the history of codes. Having read many books on codes, Singh was still able to enthrall me with some historical stories that I had not come across. It's not just technical stuff, but is written with the novice in mind as well. But the book holds enough technical information to keep the enthusiast interested as well. The version I bought has a crypt contest in the back, which I enjoyed working on - I was only able to solve the first 3 or so puzzles, but it was a lot of fun.

The Code Book was intended for a young adult audience but also holds an ability to interest an adult readership as well. This history of cryptography provides plenty of depth and information on making and breaking codes, providing a historical background on an ongoing battle which has been waged for centuries. An intriguing look at codes and secrecy.

Singh has provided the reader a delightful history of encryption, beginning with 16th-century codes, proceeding with the mechanized ones, and concluding with modern computer-based systems. He

points out how modern encryption is being used to thwart the counterfeiting of dollars, and rejects the so-called Bible Code.Singh also touches on the intricacies of language, and discusses the difficulty of deciphering the Egyptian hieroglyphics. This involved the decoding of a language that no one speaks today, and one which has no close relatives among modern languages. He also has a fascinating account of the Navajo Indians and their unique language, and how their conversations were used to keep the Japanese in the dark during WWII.When in comes to the German ENIGMA code of WWII, and in contrast to some English-language books on this subject, Singh gives credit squarely where it is due. He traces the Polish successes with code-breaking, beginning with the cracking of Russian codes by the Biuro Szyfrow (the Bureau of Ciphers) during the 1920 Polish-Bolshevik War (p. 144). In the years before WWII, a Polish team of mathematicians headed by Marian Rejewski recognizably solved the ENIGMA (p. 155). The Poles were ten years ahead of anyone else in this field (p. 160). The later successes of the British at Bletchley relied on Rejewski's work (p. 170), and followed the lead of the Poles (p. 243). Alan Turing followed Rejewski's strategy (p. 171).

's web site is incorrect. If you search for Code Book for Young People, you get a link that shows you a page headlined "The Code Book for Young People Kindle Edition". The page also shows buttons for the Hardcover and Paperback editions.However if you click either "Hardcover" or "Paperback" it directs you to the grown ups version of "The Code Book", and NOT "The Code Book for Young People". I ordered Hardcover and received the adults version. Thankfully my child is old enough to read this, but as I already owned the grown ups Code Book I did not need a second copy.This is CLEARLY 's issue and not the sellers, so beware when you buy this book.

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