



# The Code Book: The Secrets Behind Codebreaking

By Simon Singh

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**"As gripping as a good thriller."** --*The Washington Post*

**Unpack the science of secrecy and discover the methods behind cryptography--the encoding and decoding of information--in this clear and easy-to-understand young adult adaptation of the national bestseller that's perfect for this age of WikiLeaks, the Sony hack, and other events that reveal the extent to which our technology is never quite as secure as we want to believe.**

Coders and codebreakers alike will be fascinated by history's most mesmerizing stories of intrigue and cunning--from Julius Caesar and his Caeser cipher to the Allies' use of the Enigma machine to decode German messages during World War II.

Accessible, compelling, and timely, *The Code Book* is sure to make readers see the past--and the future--in a whole new way.

**"Singh's power of explaining complex ideas is as dazzling as ever."** --*The Guardian*

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Calling upon accounts of political intrigue and tales of life and death, author Simon Singh tells history's most fascinating story of deception and cunning: the science of cryptography--the encoding and decoding of private information. Based on *The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography*, this version has been abridged and slightly simplified for a younger audience. None of the appeal for curious problem-solving minds has been lost, though. From Julius Caesar to the 10th-century Arabs; from Mary Queen of Scots to "Alice and Bob"; from the Germans' Enigma machine to the Navajo code talkers in World War II, Singh traces the use of code to protect--and betray--secrecy. Moving right into the present, he describes how the Information Age has provided a whole new set of challenges for cryptographers. How private are your e-mail communications? How secure is sending your credit card information over the Internet? And how much secrecy will the government tolerate? Complex but highly accessible, *The Code Book* will make readers see the past--and the future--in a whole new light. (Ages 14 and older)

#### From Publishers Weekly

Simon Singh breaks down cryptic messages for the teenage set in *The Code Book: How to Make It, Break It, Hack It, Crack It*, an adaptation of his bestselling adult title *The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptology*. He covers actual instances of codebreaking, from its role in the plan to execute Mary, Queen of Scots, to the Navajo code talkers of WWII.

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up-An in-depth look at the use of secret codes throughout history. Singh utilizes an effective narrative style and intersperses fascinating events and people in this abridged version of his adult book of the same title (Doubleday, 1999). The text, illustrations, charts, and tables are the same. A few chapters have been omitted here, yet the overall flow of the book remains smooth. The difference between steganography and cryptography is discussed, as are the two forms of cryptography: transposition and substitution. A detailed history of secret codes is provided, from Herodotus's earliest accounts of secret messages to Arab cryptographers, Mary Queen of Scots, the German Enigma machine, and the Navajo code talkers. Current work on secret codes and their importance in today's society of Internet commerce are discussed. The last chapter, "The Codebreaker's Challenge," consists of four cryptograms. No solutions are given, but the methods to solve them are discussed. Unfortunately, the glossary from the original title is missing in this version. This book will be a popular addition to any YA collection, especially where secret codes and spy books are popular.

*Shauna Yusko, King County Library System, Bellevue, WA*

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##### Rene Pina:

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### **Vincent Mickens:**

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