



When Computers Were Human

David Alan Grier

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

When Computers Were Human

David Alan Grier

When Computers Were Human David Alan Grier

Before Palm Pilots and iPods, PCs and laptops, the term "computer" referred to the people who did scientific calculations by hand. These workers were neither calculating geniuses nor idiot savants but knowledgeable people who, in other circumstances, might have become scientists in their own right. *When Computers Were Human* represents the first in-depth account of this little-known, 200-year epoch in the history of science and technology.

Beginning with the story of his own grandmother, who was trained as a human computer, David Alan Grier provides a poignant introduction to the wider world of women and men who did the hard computational labor of science. His grandmother's casual remark, "I wish I'd used my calculus," hinted at a career deferred and an education forgotten, a secret life unappreciated; like many highly educated women of her generation, she studied to become a human computer because nothing else would offer her a place in the scientific world.

The book begins with the return of Halley's comet in 1758 and the effort of three French astronomers to compute its orbit. It ends four cycles later, with a UNIVAC electronic computer projecting the 1986 orbit. In between, Grier tells us about the surveyors of the French Revolution, describes the calculating machines of Charles Babbage, and guides the reader through the Great Depression to marvel at the giant computing room of the Works Progress Administration.

When Computers Were Human is the sad but lyrical story of workers who gladly did the hard labor of research calculation in the hope that they might be part of the scientific community. In the end, they were rewarded by a new electronic machine that took the place and the name of those who were, once, the computers.

 [Download When Computers Were Human ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online When Computers Were Human ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online When Computers Were Human David Alan Grier

From reader reviews:

Peter Tesch:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make these people survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand up than other is high. In your case who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of When Computers Were Human book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Jim May:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education books but if you want truly feel happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The particular When Computers Were Human is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Wendy Poston:

This book entitled When Computers Were Human to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

Ronald Smith:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is prepared or printed or illustrated from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social similar to newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just looking for the When Computers Were Human when you needed it?

Download and Read Online When Computers Were Human David

Alan Grier #2QLATRDWIB8

Read When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier for online ebook

When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier books to read online.

Online When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier ebook PDF download

When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier Doc

When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier Mobipocket

When Computers Were Human by David Alan Grier EPub