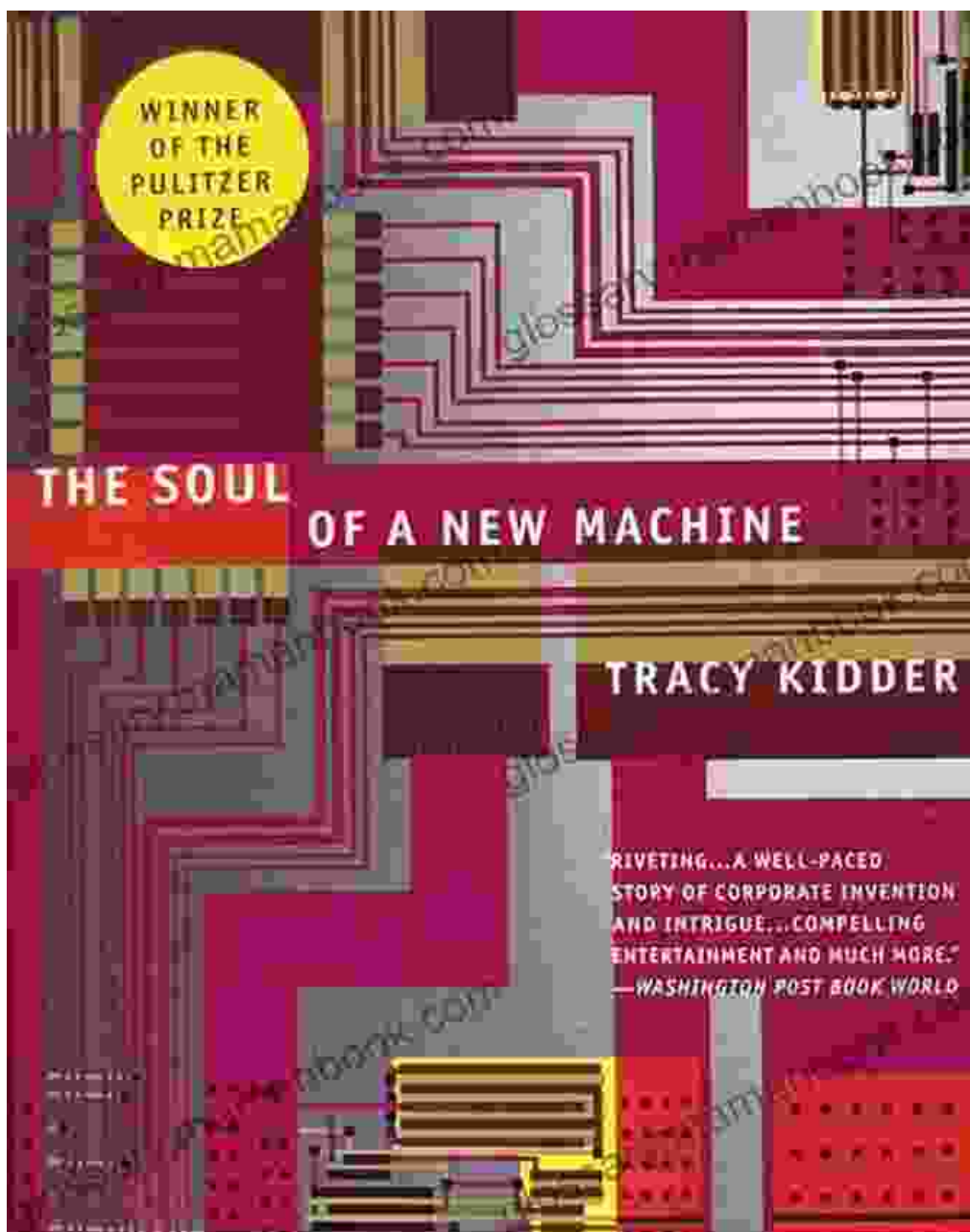# The Soul of a New Machine: An Exploration of the Human Element in Technology

In 1981, Tracy Kidder published *The Soul of a New Machine*, a groundbreaking work that explored the human side of technology. The book chronicled the development of the Data General Eclipse MV/8000 minicomputer, a project that brought together a group of engineers, programmers, and designers at Data General Corporation.

THE SOUL OF A NEW MACHINE

TRACY KIDDER

"RIVETING...A WELL-PACED STORY OF CORPORATE INVENTION AND INTRIGUE...COMPELLING ENTERTAINMENT AND MUCH MORE."
—WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD

The Soul of A New Machine by Tracy Kidder

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

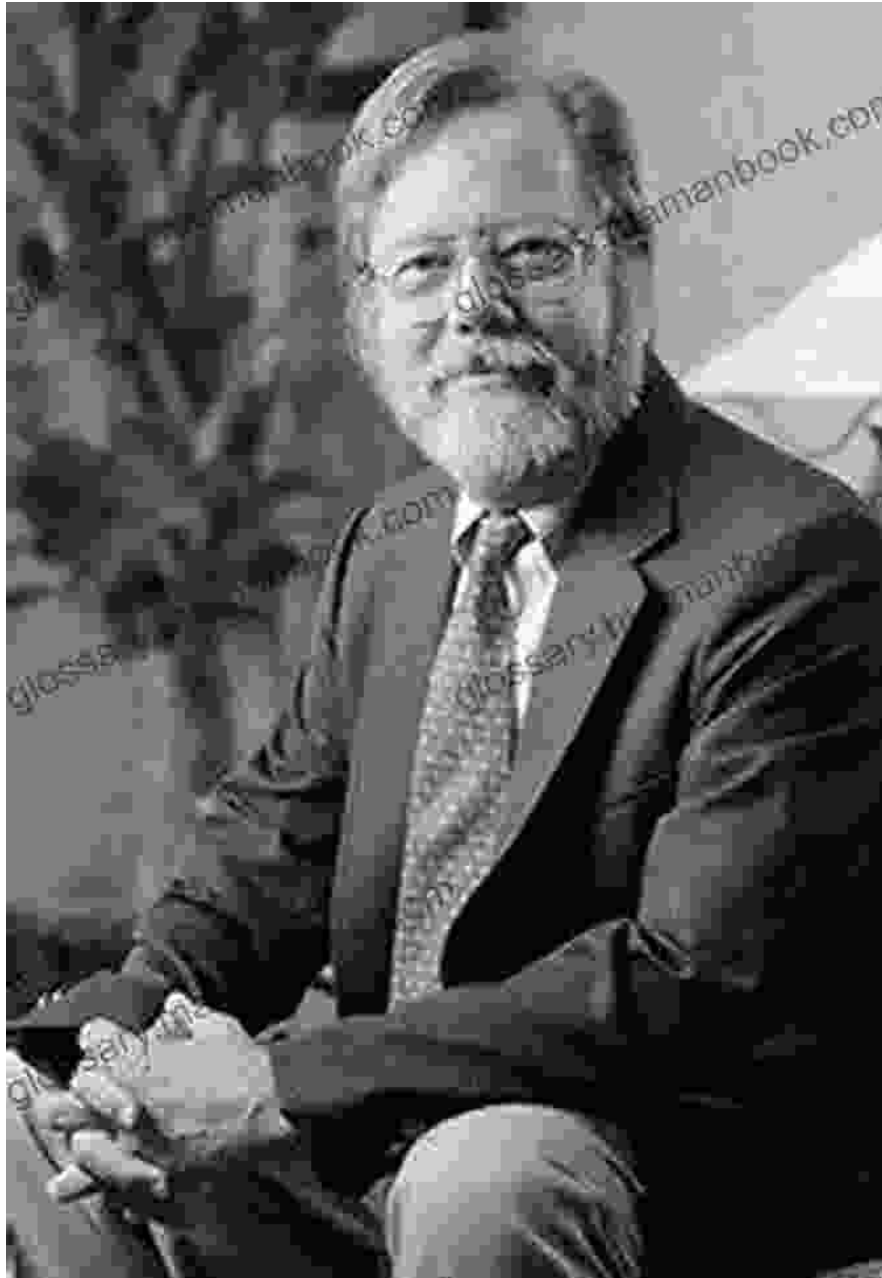|	
Language	: English
File size	: 970 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled

Print length   : 297 pages

Kidder's book was a critical and commercial success, winning the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 1982. It has since been translated into more than 20 languages and has become a classic of computer science and engineering literature.

Overview of the Project

The Data General Eclipse MV/8000 minicomputer was a state-of-the-art machine when it was released in 1980. It was one of the first computers to use a 32-bit processor and had a number of other advanced features. The project to develop the MV/8000 was a complex and challenging one, and it required the dedication and hard work of a large team of engineers and programmers.

The People Behind the Machine

Kidder's book focuses on the people behind the MV/8000, and he paints a vivid portrait of the engineers and programmers who worked on the project. These individuals were passionate about their work, and they were determined to create a machine that would be a success. They faced numerous challenges along the way, but they persevered and ultimately succeeded in their goal.

One of the key figures in *The Soul of a New Machine* is Tom West, the project manager for the MV/8000. West was a brilliant engineer and a gifted leader. He was able to inspire his team and motivate them to achieve their best.

The Challenges of the Project

The MV/8000 project was a complex and challenging one. The team had to overcome a number of technical difficulties, and they also had to deal with the pressure of deadlines and expectations.

One of the biggest challenges was the fact that the team was working on a very tight deadline. The MV/8000 was scheduled to be released at the National Computer Conference in May 1980, and the team had to work around the clock to meet this deadline.

Another challenge was the fact that the team was working on a new and untested technology. The 32-bit processor that was used in the MV/8000 was a new design, and the team had to work out a number of bugs before the machine could be released.

Despite the challenges, the team persevered and ultimately succeeded in their goal. The MV/8000 was released on time and it was a commercial success.

The Legacy of the Book

The Soul of a New Machine has had a profound impact on the field of computer science and engineering. The book has helped to humanize the field and to show that technology is not just about machines, but also about the people who create and use them.

The book has also been praised for its insights into the nature of teamwork and creativity. Kidder shows how a group of talented individuals can come together to achieve something truly extraordinary.

The Soul of a New Machine is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the history of computing, the nature of creativity, or the human side of technology.
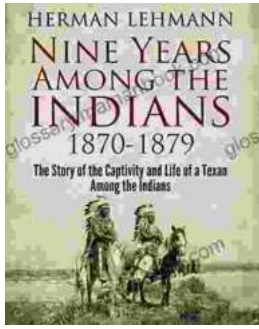
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