{Ada Lovelace}

The Enchantress

of Numbers

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Countess of Lovelace

Ada Lovelace was the child of Annabella Milbanke and the famous romantic poet Lord Byron.

She was born on 1815 and died on 1852.

She took the title of Countess of Lovelace.

Lovelace lived when women were not considered to be prominent scientific thinkers, and her skills were often described as masculine

The woman who

wrote the first algorithm.

She never saw her father

Her father wasn't a great example for Ada. Her parents' marriage was brief and marked by the poet's betrayals. He had many debts.
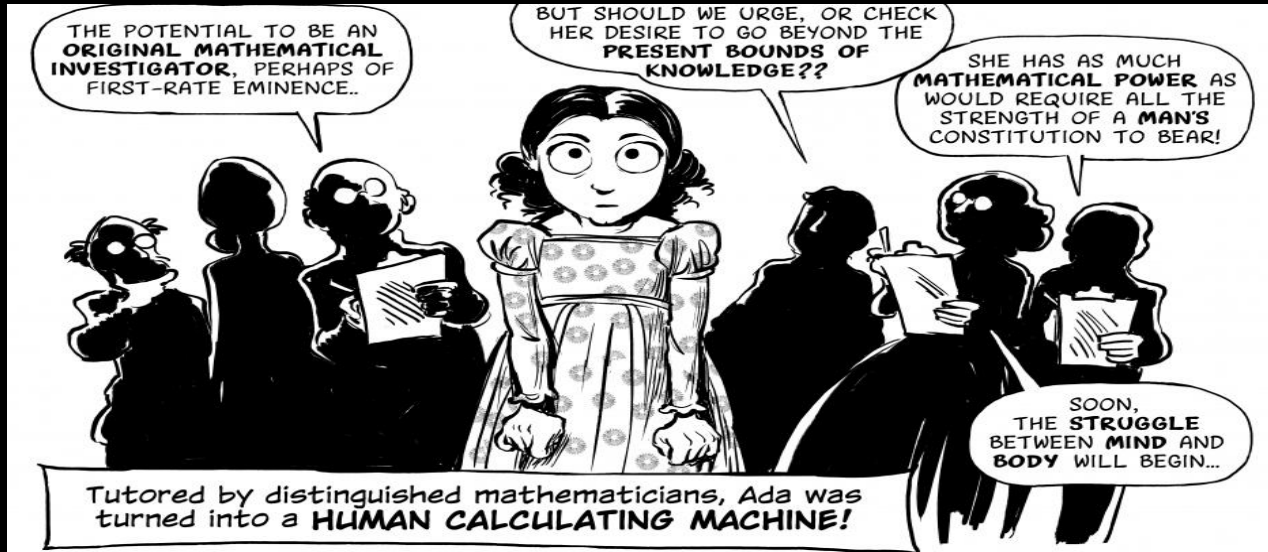
Lady Byron separated from her husband only weeks after their daughter was born.

Lovelace had an unusual education for an aristocrat girl of her time.

At her mother's insistence, tutors taught her mathematics and science.

She never saw her father

Tutored by distinguished mathematicians, Ada was turned into a HUMAN CALCULATING MACHINE!

Her mother believed that engaging in rigorous studies would prevent Lovelace from developing her father´s mood and unpredictable temperament.

Ada was also forced to lie still for extended periods of time because her mother believed it would help develop self-control.

At 12 years old

Ada was obsessed with the idea of creating mechanisms that would fly. She wrote and illustrated Flyology, a book with her most creative ideas on how to achieve this goal.

Her determination

At age 17, Ada already knew that she wanted to work with the inventor and mathematician Charles Babbage, the father of the computer.

Her first request to be accepted as his student was refused, but this did not discourage her.

When the mathematician published his article about the analytical machine in a Swiss magazine, she promptly translated it into english and added footnotes which left the work twice as large.
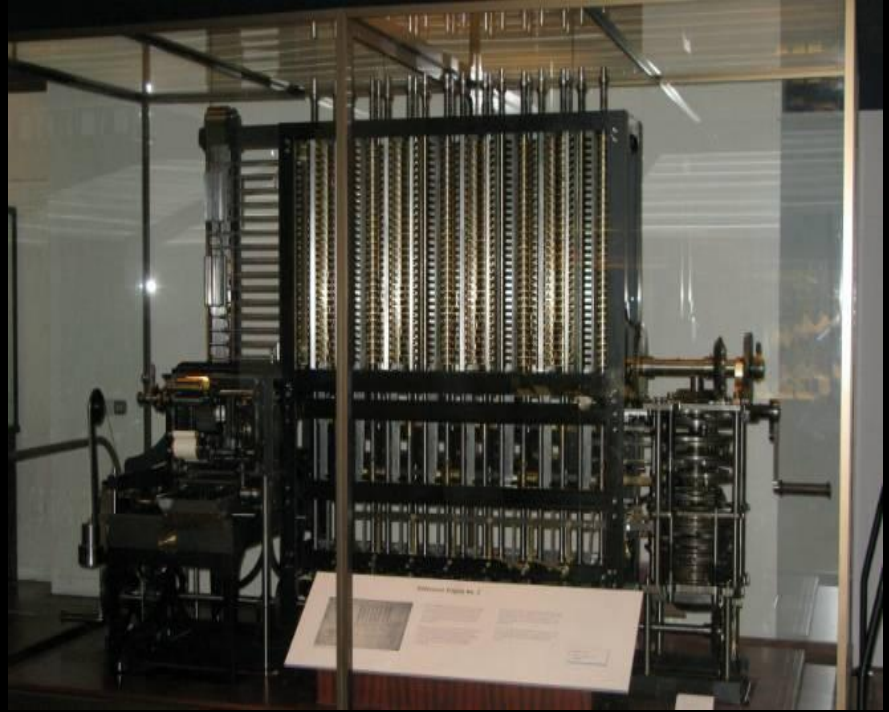
Her determination

The result impressed Babbage and they began working together.

Notes on the Analytical Engine

Lovelace described how codes could be created for the device to handle letters and symbols along with numbers.

She theorized a method for the engine to repeat a series of instructions, a process known as looping, which computer programs use today.

Curiosities

Ada Lovelace's contributions to the field of computer science weren't discovered until the 1950s.

The Ada language was created in the 1970s by the US Department of Defense, but nowadays it is not widely used.

The second Tuesday in October is known as Ada Lovelace Day, a day to inspire women to work in the area of technology. Write it on your calendar!

"Conceiving Ada Lovelace " is a movie about Ada Lovelace.

Sources

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