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The definitive biography of Tesla

By Margaret Cheney (author) and [Nikola Tesla](#) (subject)

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320 Pages, Mass-Market Paperback

Cover Size: 4 x 7 inches

Laurel/Dell

Date: 1981 ISBN: 0-440-39077-x

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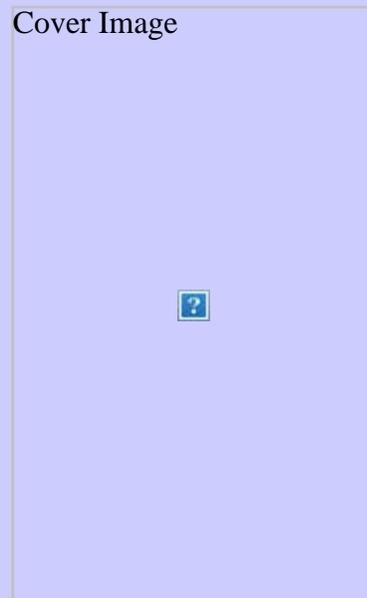
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Our Review

Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
5	5	5	3	NR	2	3	5
Very High	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Not Rated	Low	Interesting	Very High

Explanation of Ratings

Credibility = Very High: In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

Bargain = Very High: With its dense typeface and 320 pages, you get a lot of words for the money.

This is the story of Nikola Tesla, the brilliant, obsessive and slightly crazed inventor (as are the good ones) of alternating current, Tesla coils, wireless power transmission and who laid much of the ground work for the development of radio. The book also covers Tesla's bitter feud with Edison, his chief rival at the time. The work of Tesla is beloved by conspiracy buffs, who credit technology descendant from Tesla's original work with UFO propulsion, mind control, death rays and earthquake generation. This book sticks to the facts, though, and is considered the definitive Tesla biography. You ought to read this one before delving into the wild stuff. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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Publisher's Synopsis

Portrays the trailblazing nineteenth-century inventor, the man who introduced the fundamentals of robotics and computer and missile science and who harnessed the alternating electrical current used today.

From the Book Cover

A visionary genius, his discoveries radically changed—and continue to change—the world we live in. "A dramatic and poignant portrait." —*Discover*

"A visionary genius as fertile as any in the modern history of science..."

Flamboyant, eccentric, almost supernaturally gifted, had he been born today he would still be ahead of his time. Called a madman by some, a genius by others, and an enigma by nearly everyone, Nikola Tesla was perhaps the greatest inventor the world has ever known.

He was a trailblazer who created astonishing, world-transforming devices, often without theoretical precedent. It was Tesla who harnessed the alternating electrical current we use today... Tesla who actually invented radio... Tesla who invented fluorescent lighting and the incredible bladeless turbine. He introduced us to the fundamentals of robotics and computer and missile science, which continue to create and transform the future.

This fascinating biography, acclaimed by *American Scientist* as "excellent... a significant contribution to the recent history of science," is a riveting journey into the mind of the nineteenth-century wizard who was Edison's enemy, Mark Twain's friend, J.P. Morgan's client, and mentor to many of the twentieth-century's most famous scientists.

Margaret Cheney is a science writer and author of two other nonfiction books. She lives in California.



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