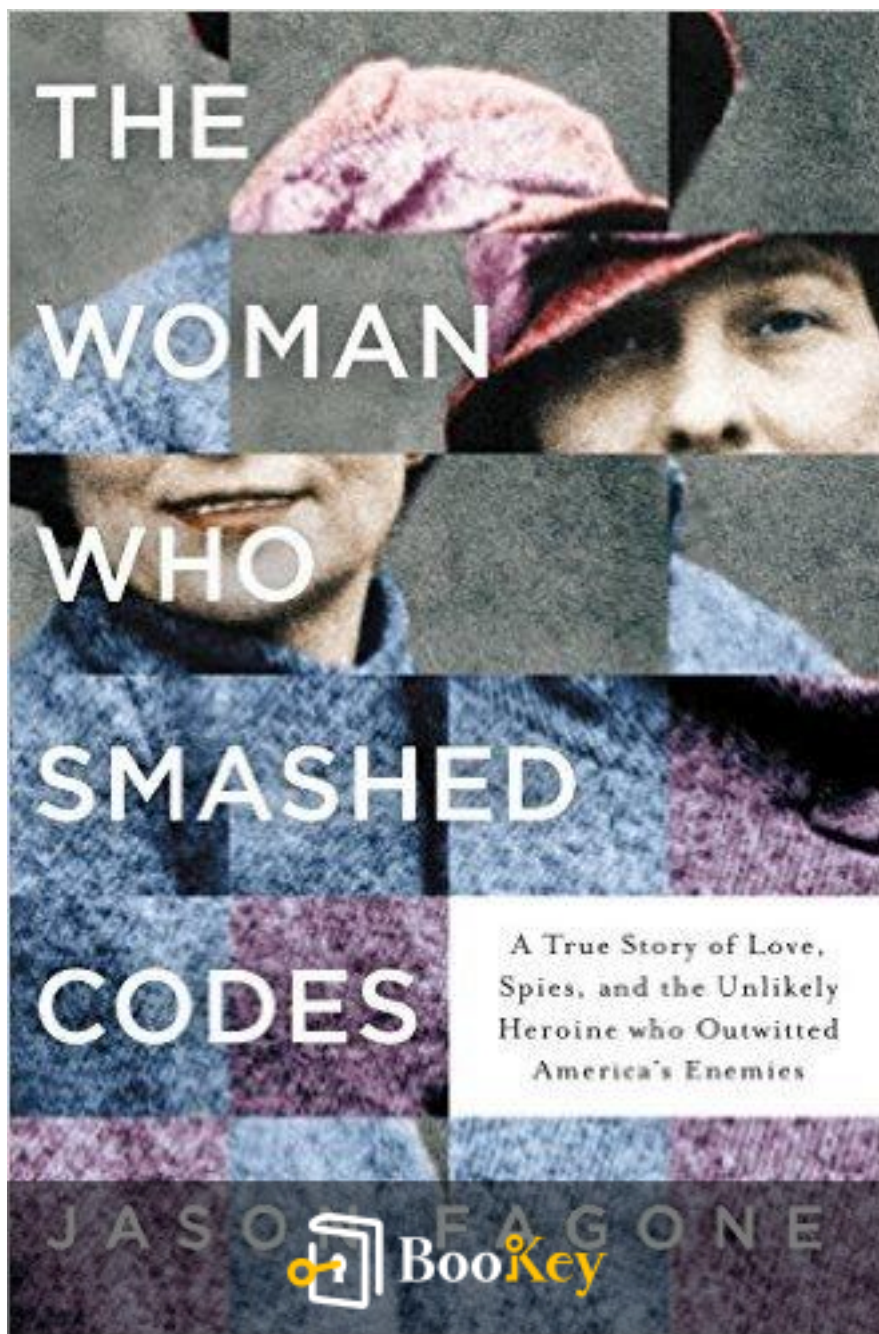


# The Woman Who Smashed Codes PDF (Limited Copy)

Jason Fagone



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# **The Woman Who Smashed Codes Summary**

Unraveling Secrets: A Pioneering Couple's Fight Against Evil.

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## About the book

In "The Woman Who Smashed Codes," author Jason Fagone presents the extraordinary story of Elizebeth Smith Friedman, a trailblazing codebreaker whose innovative contributions to the field of cryptology were pivotal during the tumultuous eras of World War I and II. Fagone chronicles Elizebeth's transformation from a gifted scholar of Shakespeare to a crucial player in national security, emphasizing her intellectual prowess and tenacity in confronting threats to the nation.

As the narrative unfolds, we learn about Elizebeth's partnership with her husband, William Friedman, a renowned cryptanalyst in his own right. Together, they tackled complex encoding systems, unmasking enemy communications and revealing the covert activities of Nazi spies. Their collaboration extended into the societal upheaval of Prohibition, where Elizebeth's codebreaking skills were instrumental in curbing criminal enterprises that thrived on the illegal alcohol trade.

The story is set against a backdrop of global conflict and societal change, highlighting the couple's relentless fight against the Axis powers. Fagone effectively illustrates how their intertwined personal and professional lives contributed not only to the war effort but also to the evolution of modern intelligence and cryptography.

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Through Elizebeth's remarkable journey, Fagone crafts a narrative that resonates with themes of courage, intellect, and the power of perseverance. Elizebeth Friedman emerges as an unforgettable heroine, akin to the remarkable women in "Hidden Figures" and "In the Garden of Beasts," who used their skills to combat evil and make an indelible mark on history.

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## About the author

In the chapters of Jason Fagone's latest work, he masterfully intertwines the realms of innovation and the automotive industry, offering readers a compelling exploration of the inventors who have shaped this vital sector of American culture.

The narrative begins by setting a historical context, highlighting the birth of the automotive industry in the early 20th century. Fagone vividly portrays the revolutionary advancements brought on by pioneering figures such as Henry Ford, who, through the introduction of assembly line production, transformed the way cars were manufactured and made them accessible to the masses. This shift not only revolutionized transportation but also catalyzed societal changes, affecting everything from urban planning to the modern workforce.

As the chapters progress, Fagone introduces a cast of modern-day inventors and engineers—a mix of seasoned veterans and fresh faces—who are pushing the boundaries of automotive design and technology today. Each character is intricately crafted, showcasing their unique backgrounds, motivations, and the challenges they face in a fast-evolving industry increasingly influenced by sustainability and technology. Through personal anecdotes and interviews, Fagone captures the essence of creativity and perseverance that drives these innovators, emphasizing the delicate balance

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between ambition and the practical realities of engineering.

The author does not shy away from discussing the obstacles inherent in the industry, including the clash of traditional manufacturing methods with new technological advances such as electric vehicles and self-driving cars. He examines how these changes are not only reshaping the industry but also prompting broader conversations about environmental responsibility and the future of work.

In conclusion, Fagone's thoughtful narrative stitches together the past and present of the automotive world, celebrating the innovative spirit that has defined it. His blend of rich storytelling, research, and personal insight creates a captivating portrait of the inventors at the heart of this transformative era. As he prepares for the release of "Ingenious," readers are left with a deeper understanding of the intricate tapestry that is the automotive industry and the visionary minds that continue to drive it forward.

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## Chapter 1 Summary: Page 1

In the opening chapter titled "Fabyan," readers are introduced to essential characters and the setting that will shape their journeys throughout the narrative. The chapter unfolds in a vividly described environment, which serves not only as a backdrop but as a catalyst for the events to come.

The story begins to unravel against a landscape that reflects both beauty and turmoil, establishing a sense of duality that will be central to the plot. Key figures are presented, each carrying their own motivations and backgrounds that hint at deeper complexities. The relationships between these characters are initially tentative but hold promise for development as the story progresses.

Central themes, such as ambition, loyalty, and the quest for identity, emerge throughout the chapter and suggest the internal and external conflicts that will challenge the characters. This thematic groundwork invites readers to ponder the nature of the characters' journeys, foreshadowing the trials and transformations they will face.

The chapter is carefully structured to provide a foundation for the narrative arc, ensuring that subsequent chapters will build upon these introductions, relationships, and themes. Through this exposition, readers are drawn into the world of Fabyan, eager to uncover the intricacies of the characters and



the unfolding story.

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## Chapter 2 Summary: Author's Note: Prying Eyes

### Author's Note Summary: Prying Eyes

In this chapter, we delve into the extraordinary love story of Elizebeth Smith and William Friedman, who met in 1916 against the backdrop of a burgeoning world stage. Elizebeth, a Quaker schoolteacher, and William, a Jewish plant biologist, came from contrasting backgrounds but found a deep connection that blossomed into marriage within a year. Their union became a partnership in innovative codebreaking, an endeavor rare in the America of their time.

Over the course of thirty years, the Friedmans made significant contributions to wartime intelligence, deciphering thousands of secret communications during both World Wars. They honed their skills in cryptology without formal mathematical training, laying a crucial foundation for what would later evolve into modern intelligence agencies. William's influence in this field earned him recognition as a prominent figure in cryptology, often credited as the father of the National Security Agency (NSA). However, Elizebeth's remarkable contributions frequently went unacknowledged, a reflection of the gender biases prevalent in historical narratives.

Author Fagone emphasizes Elizebeth's intelligence and pivotal role in major

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spy initiatives, particularly during World War II, where her efforts significantly aided in the capture of Nazi spies. Yet, the historical record often sidelined her achievements, attributing credit to more prominent male figures like J. Edgar Hoover.

The chapter seeks to reconstruct Elizebeth's overlooked story using letters and government documents, underscoring themes of secrecy, the fight against gender bias in history, and the delicate balance between security and transparency that the Friedmans navigated in their personal and professional lives.

Additionally, a brief terminology guide is provided to clarify key concepts such as code, cipher, cryptogram, cryptography, and the roles of codebreakers or cryptanalysts. Ultimately, the narrative intertwines love, intelligence work, and the groundbreaking accomplishments of the Friedmans—stories that, despite their significance, remain underappreciated in the annals of history.

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## Chapter 3 Summary: Fabyan

### Summary of Chapter 3 - The Woman Who Smashed Codes

In November 1976, Elizebeth Friedman, now an elderly woman, sat down for an interview with Virginia Valaki from the NSA. Though she harbored reservations about the agency, Elizebeth couldn't help but delve into her rich past in codebreaking, particularly her work alongside her husband, William Friedman, at Riverbank Laboratories. The conversation was meant to explore their legendary contributions to cryptology, but Elizebeth often steered the dialogue towards personal stories that illustrated her journey.

Elizebeth began by recalling her first meeting with the enigmatic millionaire George Fabyan in June 1916 at the Newberry Library in Chicago. She had visited to examine a rare First Folio of Shakespeare but was unexpectedly invited by Fabyan to come work at Riverbank Laboratories. He was convinced that Shakespeare's works hid secret messages, a conviction that ignited Elizebeth's interest in the realm of hidden codes and ornate puzzles, setting the stage for her life-changing career in codebreaking.

As she reminisced, Elizebeth reflected on her early life within a Quaker family, which influenced her values and education. She pursued academic opportunities at Wooster and Hillsdale Colleges, defying her father's

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traditional expectations for women. Her intellectual pursuits in literature, philosophy, and the arts equipped her with the critical thinking and analytical skills essential for her future work.

Feeling unfulfilled in her teaching career, Elizebeth took a chance on an unusual invitation from Fabyan. It was a leap into the unknown, but her curiosity and desire for adventure ultimately drew her to Chicago. As she traveled toward Riverbank, Fabyan passionately shared his theories about Shakespearean codes, captivating her imagination and foreshadowing her entrance into a domain filled with fascinating individuals and complex ideas.

This pivotal journey led Elizebeth to become an influential figure in the field of cryptography at Riverbank Laboratories, setting in motion the remarkable contributions she would make in the world of codebreaking.

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## Chapter 4: Unbelievable, Yet It Was There

### Chapter 4 Summary: Unbelievable Yet It Was There

In the summer of 1916, Elizebeth Smith arrived at Riverbank, a secluded estate that quickly became the subject of local gossip. The presence of a young woman living in a cottage on the property fueled speculation about George Fabyan, the estate's wealthy and eccentric owner. Known for his peculiarities, Fabyan had a reputation that combined both intrigue and skepticism among the townsfolk, particularly regarding his involvement in military research and bizarre scientific projects.

Fabyan, often referred to as "Colonel Fabyan," was not just a businessman; he was deeply invested in scientific inquiry aimed at the betterment of humanity. Visitors to Riverbank encountered a range of unusual experiments, from acoustics and anatomy studies to ambitious attempts at achieving immortality. However, his methods sparked controversy, especially concerning dubious experiments involving young women from a nearby juvenile facility. These unethical practices cast a shadow over his lofty aspirations and intertwined with unsettling tales of ghostly encounters reported by the estate's staff.

As Elizebeth integrated herself into the Riverbank community, she met an

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array of fascinating characters including Mrs. Elizabeth Wells Gallup, who enlisted her help with cipher studies related to Shakespeare and Francis Bacon. At an evening dinner attended by academics and scientists, Elizabeth felt a mix of astonishment and curiosity about her extraordinary surroundings and the projects being pursued there.

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# Chapter 5 Summary: Bacon's Ghost

## Chapter 5 Summary

### Training and Testing Elizebeth Smith

In 1916, Elizebeth Smith began her role as an assistant to Mrs. Gallup, who was renowned for her expertise in deciphering coded messages. To assess Elizebeth's potential, Mrs. Gallup set forth a challenging task: revealing a coded message linked to Shakespeare using a biliteral cipher, a technique originally devised by Francis Bacon. Although Elizebeth faced difficulties at first, she gradually mastered the complexities of this method, uncovering hidden meanings that purportedly embedded Bacon's secrets into the text.

### Bacon's Legacy

Francis Bacon, an influential philosopher and writer of the time, was frequently renounced as the true author behind Shakespeare's plays—a notion supported by various thinkers of the period. Bacon was pivotal in establishing the scientific method, advocating for evidence-based inquiry. This connection between Bacon and Shakespeare sparked intrigue and speculation, suggesting that deeper truths might be encoded within the literary works of the Elizabethan era.

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## **Methodology of Deciphering**

Mrs. Gallup's methodology merged scientific rigor with a deep analysis of typography, focusing on the a-form and b-form letters to uncover concealed meanings. The process involved scrutinizing typographical variations and engaging in meticulous analysis, leading to the interpretation of coded communications that allegedly revealed a reimagined history of Elizabethan England through Bacon's writings.

## **The Impact of Gallup's Work**

Gallup claimed her research uncovered a narrative casting Bacon as an illegitimate son of Queen Elizabeth, asserting he utilized ciphers to convey his messages throughout his texts. This provocative assertion captured the attention of scholars and inspired widespread discourse, igniting fervent debates surrounding the credibility and implications of her findings.

## **Skepticism and Criticism**

Despite her commitment and the extensive work she had produced, skepticism permeated her findings. Critics challenged the validity of her deciphering techniques and raised doubts about the quality of the messages extracted. Elizabeth found herself increasingly conflicted about Gallup's

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claims as pressure mounted from her superiors, which also fueled her uncertainty regarding the project's credibility.

## **Life at Riverbank**

Settling into her role at Riverbank, a lively research community led by the idiosyncratic George Fabyan, Elizebeth forged a friendship with William Friedman, a geneticist. His unique perspectives provided a welcome divergence from the pressures of their work and the overwhelming atmosphere dictated by Fabyan's eccentricities. Together, they began to question Gallup's findings, creating a bond that transcended mere friendship.

## **Exploring Doubts**

As winter descended, Elizebeth and William's friendship deepened, allowing her to voice her doubts about the cipher project. To her relief, William admitted to harboring similar concerns about the existence of hidden messages within Shakespeare's works. This shared uncertainty solidified their alliance, equipping them with mutual support amidst the potential repercussions from their colleagues.

This chapter delves into the tension between belief and skepticism within a groundbreaking research setting, portraying Elizebeth's evolving relationships and the complexities of her experience at Riverbank, where

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personal convictions and professional pressures entwined.

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# Chapter 6 Summary: He Who Fears Is Half Dead

## Chapter 6 Summary: The Zimmermann Telegram and the Birth of Modern Codebreaking

### Interception of the Zimmermann Telegram

On February 27, 1917, British codebreakers intercepted a crucial telegram that would alter the course of American history. This telegram, known as the Zimmermann Telegram, revealed Germany's proposal for an alliance with Mexico, promising support in reclaiming lost territories in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. When U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing delivered the telegram's contents to President Woodrow Wilson, the president's outrage ignited public sentiment against Germany and expedited America's decision to join World War I.

### The Impact on Elizebeth and William

During this tumultuous time, Elizebeth Smith faced immense personal tragedy, losing her mother to cancer. Amidst her grief, Elizebeth and her partner, William Friedman, emerged as crucial figures in the field of codebreaking. As the U.S. military struggled with message interception and decryption, their base at Riverbank Laboratories became a key hub for

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American cryptographic efforts, illustrating the urgent need for skilled codebreakers in wartime.

## **Collaboration and Codebreaking Challenges**

Elizebeth and William's collaboration was marked by their complementary skills. Despite lacking formal training, they thrived under pressure and tackled complex codes with ingenuity. By applying their mathematical instincts and recognizing patterns within messages, they pioneered new decoding methods that departed from obsolete cryptographic theories. Their unique partnership flourished in this high-stakes environment as they adapted their techniques to meet the ever-evolving challenges of wartime communications.

## **Becoming Foundational Figures in Cryptology**

At Riverbank, Elizebeth and William co-authored several groundbreaking publications that significantly influenced the field of cryptology. Their work not only advanced codebreaking strategies but also laid the foundational principles for modern cryptographic practices. However, they faced societal hurdles, particularly concerning the recognition of contributions, as William's name often dominated the citations—reflecting the gender biases prevalent at the time that overshadowed Elizebeth's vital role.

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## **Symbolism of Love in the World of Codes**

As their professional relationship strengthened, so did their personal bond. The societal expectations surrounding their romance presented additional challenges, particularly due to William's Jewish heritage juxtaposed with Elizebeth's non-Jewish background. Yet, their love and mutual dedication to codebreaking became a source of empowerment, allowing them to forge new paths in both their careers and personal lives. Their partnership depicted a rich tapestry woven with the threads of love, ambition, and the endeavor to redefine cryptology.

## **Emerging as Codebreakers in a New Era**

Together, Elizebeth and William developed systematic methodologies for codebreaking, which would have enduring effects on the discipline. The pressures of World War I accelerated their growth and honed their capabilities, equipping them to decode complex messages from across the globe, including encrypted communications from revolutionaries inciting uprisings. Their journey not only reshaped their own lives but also marked a significant turning point in the history of cryptography, as they stood at the forefront of an unseen battle fought with ciphers rather than weapons, solidifying their legacies as groundbreaking figures in the field.

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# Chapter 7 Summary: The Escape Plot

### Chapter 7 Summary: The Escape Plot

## Emerging Bond Between Elizebeth and William

In the early 20th century at Riverbank, Elizebeth Smith and William Friedman forge a multifaceted relationship, characterized by mutual respect and an unspoken hope for a shared future. Their connection is shaped by the societal constraints of their differing backgrounds, creating an underlying tension that complicates their feelings.

## A Complicated Marriage

In May 1917, they marry in a decision driven more by a shared ambition and companionship than romantic love. Both are acutely aware of the social barriers they are defying but remain hopeful that love might bloom from their partnership over time. Their union is not the typical fairy tale; instead, it's a pragmatic alliance rooted in mutual support and ambition.

## Discontent at Riverbank

As they navigate their life at Riverbank, the couple becomes increasingly

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disillusioned with George Fabyan, their employer. His authoritarian control stifles their aspirations and creates a toxic work environment. Longing for greater autonomy to pursue their dreams, they decide to escape the confines of Riverbank, yearning for a brighter future together.

### **Military Aspirations Amidst War**

With World War I raging, William considers enlisting in the military. Although military service promises economic stability, Fabyan's constant interference, including obstructing their communications with military contacts, proves a significant obstacle to their ambitions. This restriction highlights Fabyan's controlling nature and the extent of his influence over their lives.

### **Strengthening Connection**

As tensions rise, Elizebeth and William share impassioned letters infused with coded messages of love, illustrating their emotional reliance on one another. Elizebeth candidly voices her concerns about their stagnant existence at Riverbank, while encouraging William to seize opportunities despite her fears of Fabyan's grasp.

### **Post-War Adjustments**

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After the war concludes, Elizebeth seeks temporary employment away from Riverbank, allowing her a brief respite while William completes his military duties in France. Their longing remains evident in their heartfelt correspondence, even as Fabyan persists in manipulating their professional paths, seeking to maintain control over their choices.

### **The Planned Escape**

Their escape from Riverbank is the culmination of careful planning. The Friedmans approach their departure with composure, skillfully outmaneuvering Fabyan without triggering a violent confrontation. This moment signifies a transformative new beginning, filled with hope for independence and partnership.

### **New Horizons in Washington**

As they set their course for Washington, Elizebeth contemplates her professional identity, grappling with the implications of being William's wife amidst his rising fame. Both are determined to challenge established norms in their new roles, envisioning themselves as influential figures in the burgeoning field of cryptology. This transition signals not just a physical relocation, but a profound shift in their individual aspirations and collective future.

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## Chapter 8: Part II: Target Practice

### PART II: TARGET PRACTICE (1921–1938)

The period following World War I marked a transformative era for American cryptology, confronting substantial challenges stemming from outdated encryption techniques. As warfare evolved to demand faster and more secure communication, a peacetime arms race in cryptographic advancements ensued. This drive for innovation compelled nations to develop sophisticated cipher machines in response to the pressing need for effective code-making and breaking.

In this climate, Elizebeth and William Friedman emerged as pivotal figures, both joining the U.S. government in 1921 under the mentorship of Joseph Mauborgne at the Munitions Building in Washington, D.C. Their collaboration yielded the first scientifically crafted cipher systems for the military, blending their personal ambitions with professional achievements as they navigated the complexities of their new roles.

William quickly demonstrated his adeptness at breaking various cipher machines, notably the Hebern and Kryha models, and established himself as a leading expert in cryptology. He successfully argued that human intellect could surpass technological capabilities, emphasizing the indispensable role

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of human skill in this rapidly advancing field.

Meanwhile, Elizebeth's path diverged momentarily as she left her military position to focus on writing and family life. She authored books aimed at demystifying codes and ciphers, aiming to make the subject accessible to a wider audience. However, her exceptional skills in codebreaking soon attracted the attention of government agencies, leading her to assist the Coast Guard in countering rum-running operations during Prohibition. Her adeptness at deciphering the codes used by smugglers was instrumental in exposing significant trafficking conspiracies, further solidifying her reputation within Treasury intelligence.

Amidst their professional pursuits, the Friedmans maintained a balanced family life, consciously rejecting rigid gender roles. They cooperatively managed household responsibilities and raised their children in an environment that valued flexibility over strict doctrine, fostering a sense of partnership in both their personal and professional lives.

Elizebeth's notable success as a codebreaker did not go unnoticed by the media, which began to romanticize her achievements. This attention contrasted with the traditionally secretive world of cryptology and redefined public perceptions, portraying her as a pioneering woman in a largely male-dominated field. While she gained acclaim, William continued his extensive work in military cryptology, particularly focusing on Japanese

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codes, facing pressures that mirrored those experienced by Elizebeth as they advanced in their respective careers.

The cryptology community faced further tension with the publication of Herbert Yardley's controversial book, \*The American Black Chamber\*, which revealed sensitive information and diminished the confidentiality that had been crucial to the field. The Friedmans reflected on the consequences of this breach, understanding the imperative of maintaining secrecy in their work.

Throughout their journey, the couple amassed a personal library rich in cryptologic knowledge, including their own writings and significant historical texts. This collection not only mirrored their shared dedication to the field but also represented their desire to document and preserve their contributions to the history of cryptology.

In an effort to counter the isolating nature of their work, Elizebeth and William engaged with their children and friends through the creation of ciphers and puzzles. These interactions highlighted their mutual passion for cryptology and served as a means to strengthen personal connections amid their demanding professional lives.

As they neared the late 1930s, both the Friedmans and the global landscape faced mounting pressures. The impending threat of World War II loomed

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large, promising to redefine the Friedmans' roles in cryptology and presenting new challenges and opportunities that would test their resilience and dedication to their craft.

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# Chapter 9 Summary: Grandmother Died

## Summary of Chapter 1: The Woman Who Smashed Codes

### The Prelude to War

The Second World War commenced not with armed conflict but through a treacherous act by Nazi officer Alfred Naujocks. He employed the deceptive code phrase “Grandmother died” to orchestrate a false attack attributed to Poland, laying the groundwork for Germany's invasion of the country. This manipulation involved SS officers fabricating evidence of Polish aggression, successfully confusing global opinion and justifying Nazi aggression.

### Nazi Intelligence in South America

As the war unfolded, fears of Nazi influence permeated South America. Adolf Hitler sought to manipulate the political dynamics of the continent, believing that a foothold there could lead to further encroachment on the United States. With a community of German immigrants fostering loyalty to the Reich and local fascist movements gaining strength under Nazi ideology, the threat of Nazi expansion became tangible.

### The Role of Espionage

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To execute their expansive ambitions, the Nazis trained operatives in clandestine methods, employing sophisticated espionage techniques that included secret codes and radio communications. This escalation of espionage created an urgent need for counter-efforts, a task that would soon fall to Elizebeth Friedman, a pioneering cryptanalyst.

### **Elizebeth Friedman's Mission**

As head of the U.S. Coast Guard Cryptanalytic Unit, Elizebeth Friedman was charged with decrypting Nazi communications during the war. In early 1940, she intercepted vital encrypted messages that unveiled a network of Nazi spies operating within the U.S. and South America. Her exceptional analytical skills provided crucial insights into these espionage activities.

### **The Evolution of Codebreaking**

Friedman's contributions revolutionized codebreaking. She developed innovative techniques for analyzing intercepted messages, including methods to break ciphers and identify critical texts utilized by spies. This meticulous and groundbreaking work enabled her team to decode communications vital to the nation's security.

### **The FBI's Involvement**

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As concerns regarding Nazi spies infiltrating the U.S. heightened, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, recognized the need for Friedman's expertise in codebreaking. This collaboration marked a pivotal expansion of the FBI's jurisdiction, empowering agents to operate in South America and underscoring the crucial intersection of intelligence work and espionage during the global conflict.

### **Personal Struggles Amidst War**

Amidst the chaos of war, Elizebeth grappled with personal anxieties concerning the draft's potential impact on her family, all while managing her critical responsibilities at the Coast Guard. Her life became increasingly interconnected with her work as new challenges frequently arose regarding Nazi espionage and communication.

### **Conclusion**

As international tensions heightened and Nazi control expanded, Elizebeth Friedman emerged as a vital figure in codebreaking. Her innovative approaches and unwavering dedication would significantly influence the Allies' intelligence strategies in their ongoing battle against the encroaching threat of fascism.

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# Chapter 10 Summary: Magic

### Chapter 10 Summary: Magic

## Discovery and Breakthrough

In September 1940, Genevieve Grotjan, a meticulous codebreaker in William Friedman's Army unit, made a breakthrough in deciphering the enigmatic Japanese Purple code. After months of grappling with seemingly insurmountable challenges, she identified key patterns within the intercepted messages that sparked excitement among her colleagues. Her understated yet pivotal contributions signified a potential turning point, enabling the team to retrieve essential Japanese message keys.

## Emotional Toll of Achievements

While the successful decryption of their first complete Japanese message marked a monumental achievement in cryptography, it took a hefty toll on William Friedman. The relentless pressure and expectations weighed heavily on him, leaving him visibly fatigued despite the triumph. This breakthrough was not just a moment of success; it signified a crucial advancement in the Allied efforts during World War II.

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## **MAGIC and Its Impact**

The decrypted messages, classified under the code name "MAGIC," offered unparalleled insight into Japanese military strategies, profoundly impacting U.S. operations in the Pacific theater. These reports were treated with the utmost secrecy due to their strategic value, underscoring their critical role in shaping military decisions and tactics.

## **Personal Struggles Amidst Success**

Despite William's professional accomplishments, he wrestled with personal emotional burdens. On the very day of his significant success, he chose not to confide in his wife, Elizebeth, about his achievements, highlighting the strains of his demanding role and the isolation he felt amidst success.

## **Worsening Global Conflict**

As global tensions escalated, with devastating events like the German bombings in London and Japan's aggressive territorial expansions, the United States remained reluctant to join the fray. Isolationist sentiments, championed by figures like Charles Lindbergh, fostered a climate of hesitancy and denial concerning the brewing global conflict.

## **British Espionage Efforts in the U.S.**

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In light of the dire situation, British intelligence took clandestine steps to sway American public opinion and draw the U.S. into the war. Notable figures, such as Ian Fleming and Roald Dahl, engaged in espionage operations aimed at countering isolationism, reflecting Britain's desperation for American support in the fight against fascism.

### **Formation of American Intelligence Agencies**

The collaborative efforts of the American and British intelligence sectors, embodied in the U.S. British Security Co-ordination, aimed to confront the rising fascist threat. However, J. Edgar Hoover's reluctance to partner with British agents led to calls for the establishment of a new American intelligence agency, which eventually paved the way for the formation of the CIA.

### **Collaboration Between Agencies**

Elizbeth Friedman took an active role in supporting British intelligence, facilitating the exchange of crucial information that strengthened both nations' efforts against Nazi espionage. This collaboration marked a significant advancement in coordinating intelligence and underscored the urgency of their shared mission.

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## **William Friedman's Mental Health Crisis**

As the demands of secretive intelligence work mounted, William suffered a nervous breakdown, ultimately leading to his hospitalization. His treatment exposed the military's inadequate approach to mental health, and Elizebeth frequently visited him, striving to maintain their bond in the dehumanizing environment of the hospital.

## **Changing Dynamics in the Friedman Household**

With William's hospitalization, the dynamics of the Friedman household shifted dramatically. Elizebeth emerged as the primary provider and emotional anchor in their relationship, facing increasing pressures as the war escalated. Meanwhile, William grappled with the challenge of reclaiming his former self in the aftermath of his recovery.

## **Conclusion of Chapter**

This chapter vividly contrasts the groundbreaking achievements in wartime intelligence with the profound personal struggles of key figures, illustrating the complexities of duty, mental health, and the overarching global conflict that shaped their lives during this tumultuous period.

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# Chapter 11 Summary: The Hauptsturmfu Funkmeister

## Chapter Summary: The Hauptsturmführer and the Funkmeister

This chapter delves into the intricate world of espionage during World War II, focusing on two pivotal figures: **Johannes Siegfried Becker**, an adept Nazi spy operating in South America, and **Elizebeth Smith Friedman**, a savvy American codebreaker and his determined rival.

### Overview of Key Figures

Johannes Siegfried Becker, an SS-Hauptsturmführer, emerged as the foremost Nazi spy in the Western Hemisphere. Though he played a crucial role in the war, his legacy remains largely obscured. Fluent in multiple languages and adept with various aliases, Becker orchestrated extensive Nazi operations from South America, adeptly navigating challenges along the way. Opposing him was Elizebeth Smith Friedman, a trailblazing codebreaker who excelled in decrypting enemy communications, significantly undermining Becker's efforts.

### Becker's Espionage Activities

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Beginning in 1936, Becker established a network designed to gather political intelligence and incite sabotage against Allied forces. Despite his early setbacks—such as personal scandals that diminished his standing among German expatriates—Becker exemplified resilience. By 1939, he returned to Berlin, elevated to a primary agent for Nazi operations in South America, where he expanded his recruitment of spies from various nations, adapting his tactics to the evolving landscape.

### **Growth of the Spy Network**

Becker's operations were characterized by a mix of SS officers and local informants, many of whom were ideologically motivated yet lacked formal intelligence training. Despite initial hurdles, Becker leveraged his expertise to effectively develop a cooperative spy network, gaining ground in an increasingly hostile environment.

### **Collaboration with Funkmeister**

To bolster his efforts, the SS dispatched **Gustav Utzinger**, a skilled radio operator, to work alongside Becker. This collaboration not only enhanced their communication capabilities but also solidified their position as a formidable Nazi espionage unit within South America.

### **Elizbeth's Role**

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Simultaneously, Elizebeth Friedman became a critical player in combating Becker's network. Operating under the aliases "Sargo" and "Luna," Becker's communications were intercepted and subsequently decrypted by Elizebeth and her team, including linguist Vladimir Bezdek. Their groundbreaking work in intelligence gathering was frequently overshadowed, as the FBI attributed their achievements primarily to their own efforts, neglecting the vital contributions of Elizebeth and her collaborators.

## **Challenges Faced**

As World War II progressed, particularly following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the urgency to dismantle Nazi espionage intensified. Elizebeth observed a surge in police actions against spies in South America, heralding imminent arrests. However, the FBI's approach often proved mishandled, leading to chaos and missed opportunities to capture all operatives.

## **Downfall of the Nazi Network**

While the FBI executed numerous arrests within the Nazi spy network, high-profile figures like Becker and Utzinger managed to evade capture. This incomplete roundup left the Nazi espionage apparatus in South America capable of restructuring, as they had established new codes to continue their operations, underlining the ongoing challenges of intelligence

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work.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the FBI's efforts to eradicate Nazi influence, their often disruptive methodologies raised concerns about the integrity of future intelligence operations. As Becker remained at large, the complexities of wartime espionage became increasingly apparent, emphasizing the delicate balance between capturing spies and maintaining effective intelligence flows.

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## Chapter 12: Circuit 3-N

### Summary of Chapter 12: Circuit 3-N

In December 1941, just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, William Friedman found himself grappling with a resurgence of depression, marked by anxiety and self-doubt. Despite his struggles, he kept his condition hidden from family and friends, continuing to collaborate closely with his wife, Elizebeth, on their critical codebreaking assignments.

The spring of 1942 brought a bittersweet celebration as the Friedmans marked their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. The occasion was subdued, filled more with familial obligations than heartfelt connections, as their children, John and Barbara, were absorbed in their own pursuits. This distance underscored the changing dynamics within the family as they navigated their personal and professional lives.

By June 1942, the Friedmans and their colleagues at Arlington Hall were engrossed in deciphering Japanese military strategies and gaining valuable insights into Nazi communications. However, the landscape for codebreakers grew more complicated. Following FBI arrests of Nazi spies in Brazil, code systems became increasingly intricate, challenging the team's capabilities.

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Tensions simmered within intelligence agencies, particularly between the FBI and military intelligence units. The FBI's counterespionage efforts in South America frustrated military leaders, prompting disputes over jurisdiction. Amidst this chaos, Elizebeth and her Coast Guard unit began monitoring a surge in clandestine communications, overwhelming the codebreakers with the volume of signals they needed to decode.

Elizebeth's exceptional cryptanalytic skills proved crucial as she tackled these challenges, particularly with Circuit 3-N. This circuit, linked to an unknown Enigma machine, served as a vital communication line between Argentina and Berlin, and the uptick in messages hinted at a significant Nazi buildup in South America, possibly involving prominent Argentine figures.

As Elizebeth cracked more codes, she pieced together complex networks of Nazi espionage, political schemes, and potential military alliances that implicated Argentina. She identified key spies like Gustav Utzinger, codenamed "Luna," and Siegfried Becker, known as "Sargo," who were hard at work connecting revolutionary movements in South America and negotiating arms deals.

A pivotal moment arose when the Allies intercepted plans for a diplomatic envoy named Osmar Hellmuth, who was set to facilitate a weapons negotiation. This interception allowed British intelligence to gather vital

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information about the operational framework of Nazi activities in Argentina, ever linked back to Becker and Utzinger.

Hellmuth's subsequent interrogation unveiled significant intelligence that validated Elizebeth's prior codebreaking efforts. Her work not only

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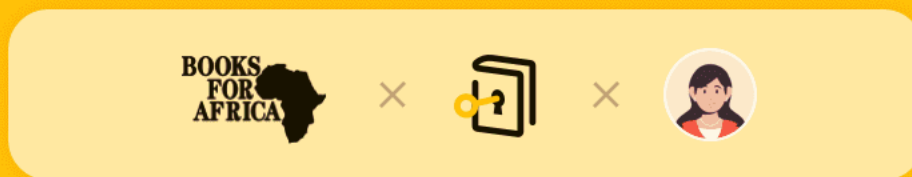




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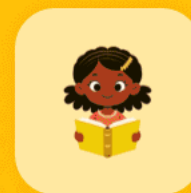
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# Chapter 13 Summary: The Doll Lady

## ### Chapter 5: The Doll Lady

### #### Background on Nazi Spies in Argentina

As the Nazi spies in Argentina awaited updates on Hellmuth's mission—which had tragically resulted in his kidnapping—they took measures to bolster their network's security. Key spies Becker and Utzinger transitioned from using the compact Kryha cipher device to a more sophisticated Enigma machine, enhancing the encryption of their critical communications to Berlin.

### #### Successes in Espionage

During late 1943, the Nazi operatives celebrated a string of successes in their espionage efforts, including orchestrating a coup in Bolivia, masterfully executed by Becker. They kept a close eye on the escalating right-wing movements across South America, documenting the increasing influence of Nazi ideologies in the region.

### #### Allied Codebreaking Efforts

Unbeknownst to the Nazis, a dedicated team led by Elizebeth Friedman was actively intercepting and deciphering their encrypted messages. While the Nazis prided themselves on the security of their new Red Enigma machine,

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Friedman's team leveraged their innovative techniques and prior knowledge to unravel these codes, exposing vital details about Nazi activities throughout South America.

#### #### Shift in Argentina's Alliances

By January 1944, facing mounting international pressure and the success of Allied intelligence efforts, the Argentine government declared the severance of its ties with Germany. This decisive action was hastened by the "Hellmuth Affair," which revealed Argentina's deep-rooted connections with the Nazis, causing a domestic political crisis.

#### #### Impact of the Hellmuth Affair

The fallout from the Hellmuth Affair forced the Argentine government into a corner. To mitigate the impact of the scandal, they sought assistance from the FBI to help discredit Nazi agents like Siegfried Becker, attempting to reshape their narrative of neutrality in a convoluted political landscape.

#### #### The Doll Lady Case

In a pivotal case, the FBI apprehended Velvalee Dickinson, infamously known as the "Doll Lady." Accused of espionage, her coded letters concerning dolls were suspected of relaying covert information about military operations. Initially dismissed by the FBI as a mere publicity stunt, Elizebeth Friedman was later consulted due to her expertise in codebreaking. Her analysis unveiled the use of an open code in Dickinson's

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communications, culminating in the latter's conviction for espionage.

#### #### The Decline of Nazi Espionage

As World War II progressed into 1944, a wave of panic struck Nazi operatives in South America. Becker and Utzinger found themselves under immense pressure, their paranoia escalating amid a tightening noose of arrests and increasing wariness among spies.

#### #### The End of the Invisible War

Utzinger's arrest marked a critical turning point, signaling a steep decline in Nazi espionage activities in the West. As Europe edged closer to the end of the war, the American intelligence community began to recognize Elizebeth Friedman and her codebreaking team's significant contributions—even if their achievements remained largely unacknowledged in the broader public narrative.

#### #### The Post-War Era

With the war's conclusion, American spies, including Elizebeth and her husband William, prepared for the emerging geopolitical landscape, aiming to ensure no Nazi intelligence fell into Soviet hands. William's final assignment would take him deep into the remnants of the Third Reich, where he was tasked with safeguarding vital intelligence.

#### #### Conclusion

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Amidst the backdrop of victory over Nazi espionage, Elizebeth Friedman's invaluable role in decoding secret communications and dismantling spy networks was overshadowed by the narrative spun by J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI for public consumption. Her silent triumphs exemplified a significant chapter in the Allied efforts to counter Nazi infiltration during a critical period of history.

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# Chapter 14 Summary: Hitler's Lair

## Chapter 14 Summary: Hitler's Lair

In this chapter, William Friedman and his team of American intelligence agents embark on a pivotal mission to uncover Nazi advancements in cryptology at Laboratorium Feuerstein in Bavaria, a covert facility masquerading as a hospital, led by the enigmatic Dr. Oskar Vierling. As they explore this vast, castle-like laboratory, they delve into various Nazi inventions, including sophisticated voice encryption and speech scrambling machines, highlighting the technological arms race that defined World War II.

The backdrop of post-war Germany serves as a poignant reminder of the conflict's devastation. As Friedman and his colleagues navigate the landscape, they witness the heartbreaking reality of displaced individuals amidst bombed cities and shattered lives. The stark contrast of the untouched countryside against the ruins reflects the broader emotional toll of the war. This personal connection deepens for Friedman as he discovers his own cryptologic publications translated into German, marking the intersection of intellectual prowess and wartime strife.

Their journey takes a somber turn as Friedman visits the Eagle's Nest,

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Hitler's opulent mountain retreat. Surrounded by the remnants of lavish gatherings once hosted by the Nazi elite, he grapples with the dissonance between the breathtaking views and the historical horrors that unfolded there, provoking reflections on morality and the consequences of power.

Following their German endeavors, Friedman travels to Bletchley Park, known for its pivotal role in the Allied code-breaking efforts. There, he meets the brilliant mathematician Alan Turing, where an exchange about the German military's reliance on the Enigma machine reveals their misplaced confidence in its security until the bitter end of the war. This meeting underscores the critical role cryptology played in shaping the outcome of global conflict.

Amidst the profound implications of their work, Friedman processes the shocking news of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, grappling with the ethical ramifications of such immense civilian suffering. Concurrently, his wife Elizebeth seeks solace in small moments of normalcy as she looks forward to reuniting with William, representing a flicker of hope amidst the chaos of their lives.

As the war officially concludes, Friedman reflects on the future of U.S. intelligence and the evolving significance of cryptology in peacetime. Both he and Elizebeth begin to envision new paths, yearning to reconnect and collaborate outside the traditional confines of government roles. The chapter

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closes with a sense of shared aspiration for their future endeavors, emphasizing the transformative impact the war has had on their lives and the world around them.

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# Chapter 15 Summary: Epilogue: Girl Cryptanalyst and All That

## ### Epilogue Summary

In the epilogue, the narrative shifts to the aftermath of the Friedmans' legacy, particularly reflecting on the life and contributions of William and Elizebeth Friedman.

### **Government Seizure of the Friedmans' Library**

In 1958, the Friedmans faced a disconcerting invasion of privacy when government agents arrived at their home to confiscate books and documents. This action stemmed from new classification regulations set forth by the National Security Agency (NSA), unsettling William, who was particularly troubled by the loss of historical materials relevant to his passion for cryptography.

### **William's Struggles with Mental Health**

Following World War II, William struggled with declining mental health, marked by bouts of severe depression that necessitated multiple hospitalizations. His experience with electroshock therapy provided only

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temporary relief, leaving him unable to reclaim his previous vitality.

Meanwhile, Elizebeth, ever supportive, balanced the weight of his care with her own responsibilities, managing the complexities of their household.

### **Elizebeth's Public Engagement and Legacy Concerns**

Despite her pivotal role in codebreaking during the war, Elizebeth found herself overshadowed by William's growing acclaim. Hesitant to accept public speaking engagements that might promote her work, she grappled with the fear of fading into obscurity. However, her perspective shifted after William's passing; she became more committed to preserving his legacy, feeling a strong sense of duty to ensure his achievements remained honored.

### **William's Death and Elizebeth's Ongoing Dedication**

William's death in 1969 marked a profound turning point for Elizebeth. Driven by grief, she dedicated herself to cataloging and annotating his extensive body of work for the George C. Marshall Foundation, ensuring that his contributions to cryptography would not be forgotten but celebrated.

### **Elizebeth's Later Years and Rediscovery**

Elizebeth continued to champion her own legacy as she navigated financial and health challenges in her later years. Following her death in 1980, a

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renewed interest in her life and work began to emerge. Historians and women in law enforcement began to recognize her as a trailblazer in the intelligence community, prompting a reassessment of her contributions and their significance.

## **Legacy and Impact on Modern Codebreaking**

Elizebeth's work remains a foundational element in the ongoing evolution of codebreaking, with its principles relevant in today's digital age. Although she never penned a comprehensive autobiography, her collected papers serve as vital resources that influence and inspire new generations of codebreakers and scholars. The acknowledgment of her work alongside William's underscores the increasing visibility of women in intelligence.

## **Concluding Reflections**

In her later years, Elizebeth's conversations reveal her lasting impact and the emotional journey of a woman navigating a field dominated by men. Her story encapsulates the complexities of legacy, gender, and recognition within the historical tapestry of cryptography, affirming her significant role in shaping the discipline and paving the way for future women in intelligence.

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# Chapter 16: Acknowledgments

## ### Acknowledgments Summary

In the acknowledgments section, the author expresses gratitude to a wide array of individuals and institutions that contributed to the creation of the book on Elizebeth's story.

The author begins by thanking Julia Cheiffetz, the editor, along with the publishing team from Dey Street—Sean Newcott and Lynn Grady—for their pivotal role in shaping the narrative. Acknowledgment is also given to librarians and archivists like Paul Barron, Jeffrey Kozak, and Rose Mary Sheldon, whose support was critical in obtaining and preserving essential documents that enriched the story.

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Further appreciation is directed towards colleagues and friends who

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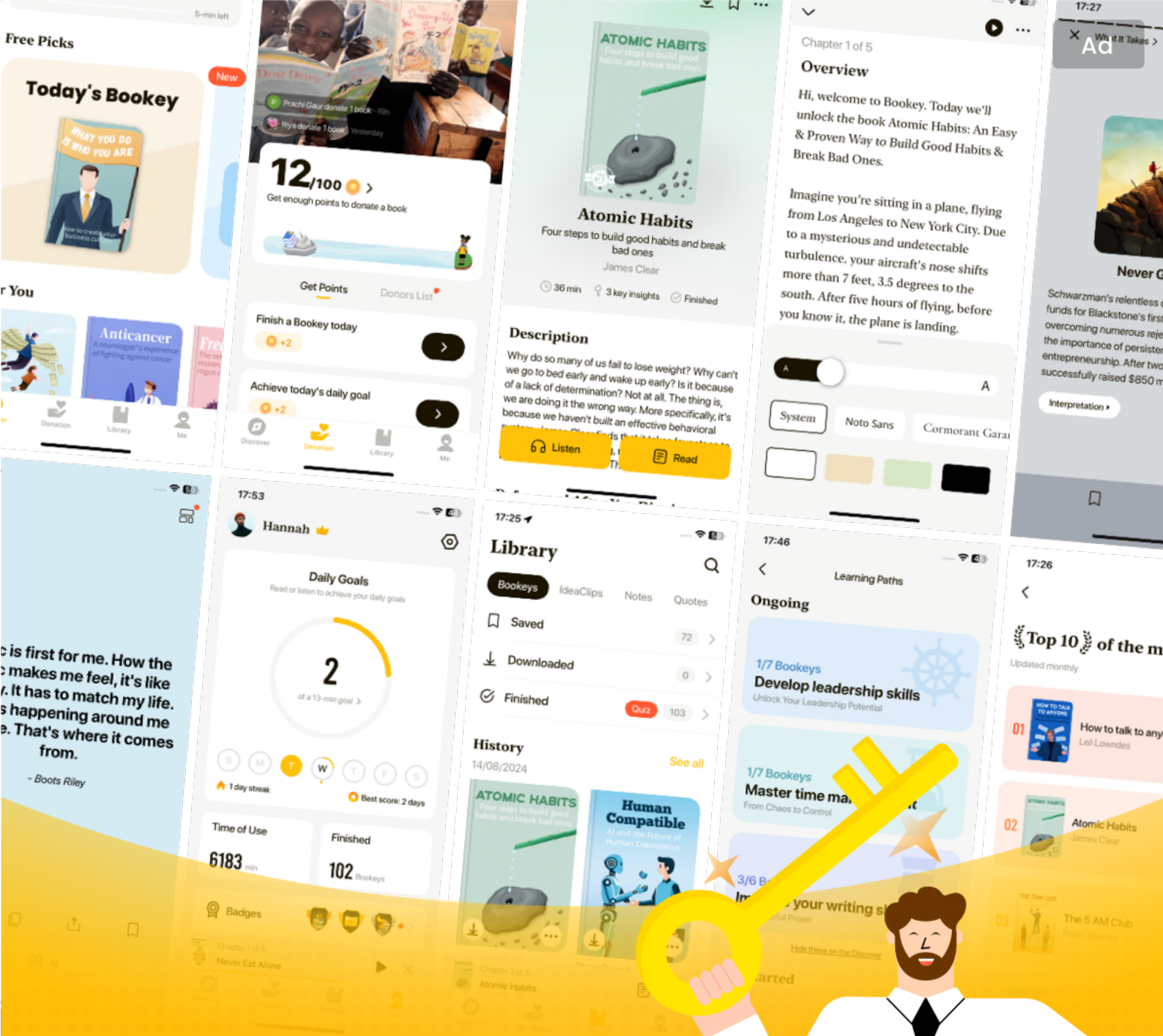
provided encouragement and constructive feedback, helping enhance the book's development. Institutional support from the University of Michigan and the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program is also acknowledged, highlighting their contributions to the author's writing journey.

Finally, the heartfelt thanks extend to the author's family, especially Dana and Mia, whose personal inspiration was crucial in motivating the author to bring Elizebeth's extraordinary story to life.

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# Chapter 17 Summary: Notes

## ### Summary of Chapter 17: The Woman Who Smashed Codes

Chapter 17 delves into the life and contributions of Elizebeth Smith Friedman (ESF), a pioneering figure in cryptology whose work came to the forefront during critical moments in history. It begins with an overview of the significant role played by both Elizebeth and her husband, William Frederick Friedman (WFF), in the development of modern cryptographic techniques, setting the stage for their legacy in a primarily male-dominated field.

### **The Early Years and Context**

The chapter provides insight into ESF's upbringing and the formative influences that shaped her intellect and skills, including her encounters with notable literary figures. These experiences equipped her with analytical skills that would later prove essential in her codebreaking career. This early context establishes a foundation for understanding her remarkable contributions to cryptology.

### **Career Beginnings**

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Elizebeth's professional journey began at George Fabyan's Riverbank laboratories, where she immersed herself in cryptographic research. Fabyan, a wealthy patron of the arts and sciences, recognized her talent and provided her with opportunities that propelled her career. Key figures from this era are introduced, illustrating how the collaborative environment of Riverbank influenced her trajectory in codebreaking.

## **The Coast Guard Experience**

The narrative progresses to ESF's vital role in the cryptanalytic efforts of the Coast Guard during World War II. Here, her remarkable ability to decipher complex codes under wartime pressure is highlighted, showcasing her innovative methodologies and the critical impact of her work on naval communications. This period underscores her resilience and aptitude in a high-stakes environment.

## **Nazi Spy Investigations**

The text further explores Elizebeth's involvement in uncovering Nazi espionage activities, particularly in South America. It details specific decryption cases that she worked on, revealing the intelligence she provided that helped thwart dangerous operations. Her contributions during this tense historical period are positioned as pivotal in protecting national security.

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## Post-War Contributions and Legacy

Following the war, ESF continued her dedication to cryptology, collaborating with various intelligence agencies. The chapter reflects on her later life, including health challenges and her enduring influence on the field of cryptography. It emphasizes how her pioneering work laid the groundwork for future developments in the discipline.

## Conclusion

The chapter culminates by acknowledging not only the technical expertise of both Elizebeth and William Friedman but also their personal relationship that thrived amid professional collaboration. Their combined legacies are intricately linked to the advancement of cryptographic practices, framed within the historical context of their times and the societal challenges they overcame. Overall, this summary encapsulates the remarkable journey of a woman who broke barriers in a critical and complex field, leaving an indelible mark on the history of cryptology.

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