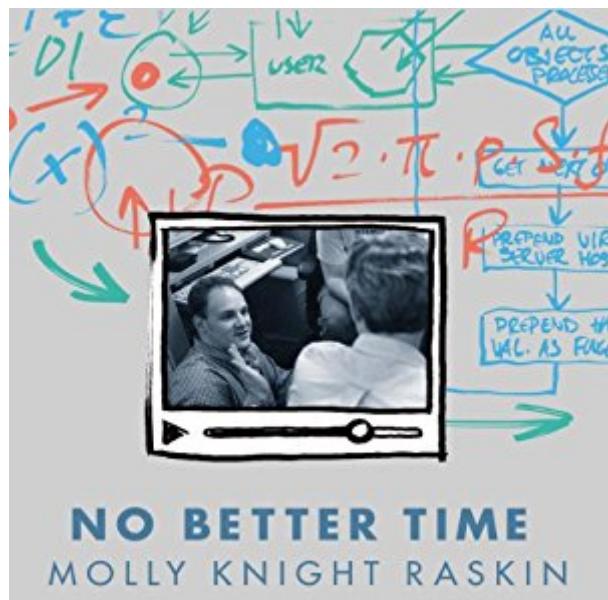


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No Better Time: The Brief, Remarkable Life Of Danny Lewin, The Genius Who Transformed The Internet



Synopsis

No Better Time tells of a young, driven mathematical genius who wrote a set of algorithms that would create a faster, better Internet. It's the story of a beautiful friendship between a loud, irreverent student and his soft-spoken MIT professor, of a husband and father who spent years struggling to make ends meet only to become a billionaire almost overnight with the success of Akamai Technologies, the Internet content delivery network he cofounded with his mentor. Danny Lewin's brilliant but brief life is largely unknown because, until now, those closest to him have guarded their memories and quietly mourned their loss. For Lewin was almost certainly the first victim of 9/11, stabbed to death at age 31 while trying to overpower the terrorists who would eventually fly American Flight 11 into the World Trade Center. But ironically it was 9/11 that proved the ultimate test for Lewin's vision - while phone communication failed and web traffic surged as never before, the critical news and government sites that relied on Akamai - and the technology pioneered by Danny Lewin - remained up and running.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even though I'm not usually a biography reader, I wanted to learn about an unknown pioneer of the Internet, whose vision changed the way the Internet operated. By itself, that is a worthwhile story to tell. But this story is so much more than that because of how life actually intervened. Danny Lewin was a driven genius whose personality and passion made him excel at everything, from fitness to the military, to academia. This drive and ability led him to pursue a PhD at MIT, and during these

studies, he designed an algorithm that transformed the way data flows on the Internet. With his mentor and a group of close confidantes, Lewin entered the dot-com industry... a small group of academics who became a multi-billion dollar company, Akamai. (If you've never heard of it, neither had I, but we've used it's customers, including .)Akamai was a titan carrying huge amounts of data for websites, but almost went under during the dot-com bust, as clients disappeared. There were layoffs and the company was months away from closing its doors for good. Lewin never relented, and created a new product to allow websites to better bring streaming video and other high-bandwidth data to consumers. In many ways, this allowed the multi-media forum that the Internet has become. On September 11, 2001, Lewin died on a plane that flew into the World Trade Center, and was apparently stabbed to death before the crash. Reading the kind of person he was, it was very likely he was fighting the terrorists when he fell. Had the story ended there, it would be a tragedy... and it is tragic...

In her first book *No Better Time*, journalist Molly Knight Raskin writes about Danny Lewin, who co-founded the high-profile Internet startup Akamai and then tragically died a few years later as a passenger on one of the planes that crashed into New York's World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. She tracks the story of Danny Lewin from:--his childhood in a Denver, Colorado suburb--his teenage and early adulthood in Israel as a high-school student (and gym rat) and then soldier and then husband and then college student and then father--his move to a coveted and very, very competitive spot at MIT as a graduate student in computer science where he became a colleague and a friend with the professor he studied under--his meteoric rise to fame and fortune (we're talking billions here) as the Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of Akamai which first offered its stock publicly at the height of the dot-com boom--his personal (he lived separately from his wife and kids) and professional struggles (Akamai's stock soared to over \$300 a share and then dove to under \$3 a share as the company crumbled) during and after the dot-com crash of 2000--his death at age 31, probably killed by a terrorist's slash to his throat even before the plane crashed into the towerMolly Knight Raskin tells an interesting story--one I had never heard before--and she tells it well. She follows "the genius who transformed the Internet" from his birth to his much too early death, and all the life lived in between.

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