



Almost Human: Making Robots Think

By Lee Gutkind

Download now

Read Online ➔

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind

A remarkable, intense portrait of the robotic subculture and the challenging quest for robot autonomy.

The high bay at the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University is alive and hyper night and day with the likes of Hyperion, which traversed the Antarctic, and Zoe, the world's first robot scientist, now back home. Robot Segways learn to play soccer, while other robots go on treasure hunts or are destined for hospitals and museums. Dozens of cavorting mechanical creatures, along with tangles of wire, tools, and computer innards are scattered haphazardly. All of these zipping and zooming gizmos are controlled by disheveled young men sitting on the floor, folding chairs, or tool cases, or huddled over laptops squinting into displays with manic intensity. Award-winning author Lee Gutkind immersed himself in this frenzied subculture, following these young roboticists and their bold conceptual machines from Pittsburgh to NASA and to the most barren and arid desert on earth. He makes intelligible their discoveries and stumbling points in this lively behind-the-scenes work.

⬇️ [Download Almost Human: Making Robots Think ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Almost Human: Making Robots Think ...pdf](#)

Almost Human: Making Robots Think

By Lee Gutkind

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind

A remarkable, intense portrait of the robotic subculture and the challenging quest for robot autonomy.

The high bay at the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University is alive and hyper night and day with the likes of Hyperion, which traversed the Antarctic, and Zoe, the world's first robot scientist, now back home. Robot Segways learn to play soccer, while other robots go on treasure hunts or are destined for hospitals and museums. Dozens of cavorting mechanical creatures, along with tangles of wire, tools, and computer innards are scattered haphazardly. All of these zipping and zooming gizmos are controlled by disheveled young men sitting on the floor, folding chairs, or tool cases, or huddled over laptops squinting into displays with manic intensity. Award-winning author Lee Gutkind immersed himself in this frenzied subculture, following these young roboticists and their bold conceptual machines from Pittsburgh to NASA and to the most barren and arid desert on earth. He makes intelligible their discoveries and stumbling points in this lively behind-the-scenes work.

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind Bibliography

- Rank: #3891159 in Books
- Brand: Brand: W. W. Norton Company
- Published on: 2007-03-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.60" h x 1.10" w x 5.80" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

 [Download Almost Human: Making Robots Think ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Almost Human: Making Robots Think ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Gutkind (*In Fact*) spent six years as a self-described "fly on the wall" at Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, watching a group of scientists—mostly grad students—try to develop human movement and decision-making capabilities. The machines he encountered came in a variety of shapes and sizes, from dog-shaped toys programmed to play soccer to a Hummer equipped with sensors that enable it to drive itself. As that Hummer indicates, the institute's research isn't confined to the lab: Gutkind follows his roboticists to abandoned mine shafts and the northern edges of Chile, where they use the world's driest desert to test machines developed to find signs of life on the surface of Mars. Gutkind's reporting captures the individual quirks of the scientists—like one researcher who only shaves on Sundays to save time during the week for his research—but his low-key tone can mute the excitement of their successes, especially given the fail-fix-try-again nature of most of their projects. Yet even though his story lacks the drive of books like *Soul of a New Machine* or *Hackers*, it gives a solid sense of what's going on in the field. 15 illus. (Mar.)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Creative nonfiction guru and seasoned immersion journalist Gutkind observes that just as computers changed the world in the 1990s, robots will "transform technology" in the future. To find out who is behind the growing robotic surge, Gutkind spent six years observing life at Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, a "hypertechnological pressure cooker," where work is frenzied, frustrating, "inspiring, compelling," and addictive. Gutkind presents vivid profiles of roboticists, including graduate students, the "strong and vital force" behind the group's innovations. Audacious pranksters, shy geeks, and wry wits, they fall into rivalrous groups, the engineers versus the "code monkeys." Scenes at the institute alternate with entertaining reports on RoboCup competitions (soccer is an excellent mode for robot testing) and dramatic accounts of an ambitious project in Chile's Atacama Desert, a stand-in for Mars. Creating autonomous robots is a daunting task that arouses renewed appreciation for the fact that "a human being is the most sophisticated system in the universe." Gutkind's incisive and provocative dispatches from the robotic front will help prepare us for the next machine wave. *Donna Seaman*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

An in-depth glimpse into the exciting, if embryonic, developments in one of the world's leading robotics laboratories. -- *Lawrence Krauss, Ambrose Swasey Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and author of The Physics of Star Trek*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Hartung:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Almost Human: Making Robots Think book is readable by means of you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding Almost Human: Making Robots Think content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of

people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different such as it. So , do you even now thinking Almost Human: Making Robots Think is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

William Bixby:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the concept Almost Human: Making Robots Think suitable to you? The particular book was written by well known writer in this era. The actual book untitled Almost Human: Making Robots Think is the main one of several books that everyone read now. This book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this reserve you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know previous to. The author explained their concept in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to know the core of this reserve. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this book.

Charles Whittaker:

Is it a person who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Almost Human: Making Robots Think can be the response, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

Julie Chambers:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is written or printed or highlighted from each source which filled update of news. With this modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, new and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just seeking the Almost Human: Making Robots Think when you necessary it?

**Download and Read Online Almost Human: Making Robots Think
By Lee Gutkind #RYI0PFVC6XA**

Read Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind for online ebook

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind books to read online.

Online Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind ebook PDF download

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind Doc

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind Mobipocket

Almost Human: Making Robots Think By Lee Gutkind EPub