Robotics: A Very Short Introduction explains how it is that robotics can be both a success story and a disappointment, how robots can be both ordinary and remarkable, and looks at their important developments in science and their applications to everyday life. Robotics is a key technology in the modern world. They are a well-established part of manufacturing and warehouse automation. More recently robots have taken their first steps into homes and hospitals, and have seen success in planetary exploration. Yet, robots have failed to live up to the predictions of the 1950s and 1960s, when it was widely thought that by turn of the 21st century we would have intelligent robots as butlers, companions, or co-workers.