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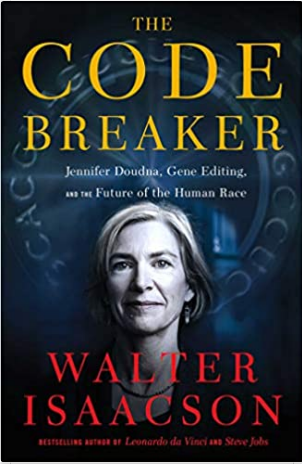
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by [Walter Isaacson](#) (Author)

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Page 1 of 9

The bestselling author of *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Steve Jobs* returns with a gripping account of how Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues launched a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies.

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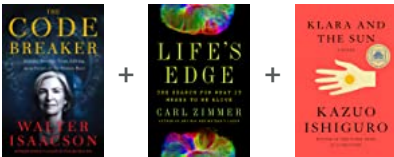
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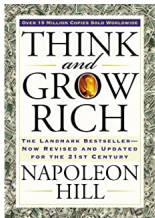
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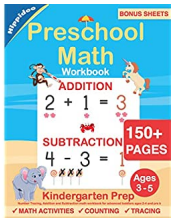
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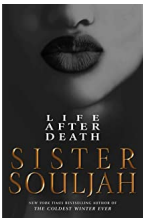
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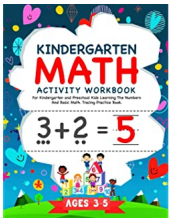
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From the Publisher

Editorial Reviews

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of March 2021: Isaacson is famous for writing *Steve Jobs* and *Leonardo da Vinci*, so a title like *The Code Breaker* might imply a lesser book about a lesser character. But 2020 Nobel winner Jennifer Doudna, who developed the gene editing technology CRISPR, is a giant in her own right. CRISPR could open some of the greatest opportunities, and most troubling quandaries, of this century—and this book delivers. —*Chris Schluep, Amazon Book Review*

Review

"This year's prize is about rewriting the code of life. These genetic scissors have taken the life sciences into a new epoch." – **Announcement of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**

"Isaacson's vivid account is a page-turning detective story and an indelible portrait of a revolutionary thinker who, as an adolescent in Hawai'i, was told that girls don't do science. Nevertheless, she persisted." — *O Magazine*

"Isaacson captures the scientific process well, including the role of chance. The hard graft at the bench, the flashes of inspiration, the importance of conferences as cauldrons of creativity, the rivalry, sometimes friendly, sometimes less so, and the sense of common purpose are all conveyed in his narrative. *The Code Breaker* describes a dance to the music of time with these things as its steps, which began with Charles Darwin and Gregor Mendel and shows no sign of ending." – *The Economist*

"Walter Isaacson is our Renaissance biographer, a writer of unusual range and depth who has plumbed lives of genius to illuminate fundamental truths about human nature. From *Leonardo* to *Steve Jobs*, from *Benjamin Franklin* to *Albert Einstein*, Isaacson has given us an unparalleled canon of work that

chronicles how we have come to live the way we do. Now, in a magnificent, compelling, and wholly original book, he turns his attention to the next frontier: that of gene editing and the role science may play in reshaping the nature of life itself. This is an urgent, sober, accessible, and altogether brilliant achievement." —**Jon Meacham**

"When a great biographer combines his own fascination with science and a superb narrative style, the result is magic. This important and powerful work, written in the tradition of *The Double Helix*, allows us not only to follow the story of a brilliant and inspired scientist as she engages in a fierce competitive race, but to experience for ourselves the wonders of nature and the joys of discovery." —**Doris Kearns Goodwin**

"He's done it again. The Code Breaker is another Walter Isaacson must-read. This time he has a heroine who will be for the ages; a worldwide cast of remarkable, fiercely competitive scientists; and a string of discoveries that will change our lives far more than the iPhone did. The tale is gripping. The implications mind-blowing." — **Atul Gawande**

"An extraordinary book that delves into one of the most path-breaking biological technologies of our times and the creators who helped birth it. This brilliant book is absolutely necessary reading for our era." — **Siddhartha Mukherjee**

"Now more than ever we should appreciate the beauty of nature and the importance of scientific research; This book and Jennifer Doudna's career show how thrilling it can be to understand how life works." —**Sue Desmond-Hellmann**

"A vital book about the next big thing in science—and yet another top-notch biography from Isaacson." — **Kirkus Reviews (starred review)**

"In Isaacson's splendid saga of how big science really operates, curiosity and creativity, discovery and innovation, obsession and strong personalities, competitiveness and collaboration, and the beauty of nature all stand out." — **Booklist (starred review)**

"Isaacson depicts science at its most exhilarating in this lively biography of Jennifer Doudna, the winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in medicine for her work on the CRISPR system of gene editing...The result is a gripping account of a great scientific advancement and of the dedicated scientists who realized it." — **Publisher's Weekly (starred review)**

"Isaacson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of best sellers *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Steve Jobs*, offers a startling, insightful look at this lifesaving, hugely significant scientific advancement and the brilliant Doudna, who wrestles with the serious moral questions that accompany her creation. Should this technology be offered to parents to tailor-make their babies into athletes or Einsteins? Who gets altered and saved and why?" — **AARP**

"The journalist who told the life stories of Leonardo da Vinci and Steve Jobs is back with a timely biography of Jennifer Doudna, PhD, winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in chemistry. It's a fast-paced account of her life as a pathbreaking scientist on CRISPR — and how gene editing could alter all life as we know it." — **Medium**

"This challenging, fascinating story examines Doudna's background and excavates the moral quandaries she grapples with as her creation opens up more and more avenues for scientific advancement." — **Elle**

"It is a gripping tale, showing how our new ability to hack evolution will soon start throwing us curveballs." — **New Scientist**

"[A] fascinating story... [Isaacson's] unique skill as a master storyteller of scientific development over the centuries has educated not only his fellow Baby Boomers, but also succeeding generations, helping people of all ages and backgrounds travel down the long and winding road toward understanding how life works." — **Washington Independent Review of Books**

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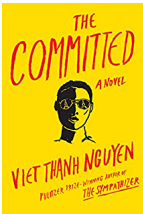
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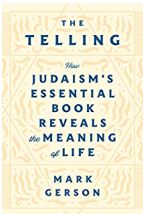
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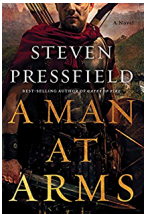
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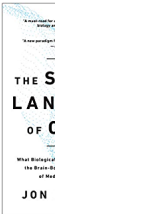
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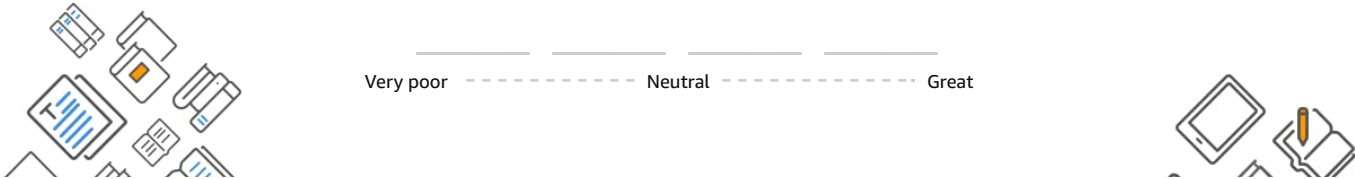
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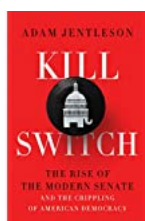
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This is NOT your typical biography!

Reviewed in the United States on March 9, 2021

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Jennifer Doudna and her French colleague, Emmanuel Carpentier, won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. They won for their work in CRISPR technology, Gene Editing, and ultimately for Coronavirus testing & vaccines.

Walter Isaacson includes mini bios for many of the scientists included in Doudna's story and there are quite a few. At first, I was frustrated by all the incremental information - get on with it, already! As his worked progressed, peeling the onion of her life's story, I see the value of understanding the motivation for these scientists; not all are created equally. Many of the details of Doudna's life are glossed over so don't expect a Hollywood style biography. Details are given as they relate to people and events of science, her personal life is not.

Doudna is an interesting woman due to the fact that she is really quite "normal" in her brilliance for bio chemistry. I was struck by her genuine affection for her co-workers that's evidenced in the

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Didn't Cover Enough of the Latest Development in CRISPR Gene-editing Field

Reviewed in the United States on March 9, 2021

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This book makes the same mistake as many others by implying that CRISPR-Cas9 is all that is needed for gene-editing. In reality, CRISPR-Cas9 by itself can only accomplish half of the task, which is finding the exact location in the genome very specifically and efficiently. To be clear, this is indeed a huge discovery, and Jennifer and Emmanuel's groundbreaking work is well deserved to win the Noble Prize.

However, once finding the correct location for editing, all Cas9 can do by itself is cutting the DNA double helix at this location. Nevertheless, cutting alone usually disrupts the target gene by a mechanism called nonhomologous end joining. Human does possess another DNA repair pathway called HDR, which can fix the gene if a DNA template is nearby. Unfortunately, the latter one only works in the dividing cells and its editing efficiency is often miserably low, especially when editing in vivo.

For all the above reasons, CRISPR-Cas9 needs to pair with other editing modules to complete the other half of the job, the actual editing, to fully unlock its potential. This is where the base editor or

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Not a Work of Genius

Reviewed in the United States on March 11, 2021

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Most of Walter Isaacson's biographies are not only about geniuses they have a whiff of genius themselves. The reader is made to palpably feel the qualities that made these personalities so distinctive—from Steve Jobs' power to warp reality to Leonardo Da Vinci's unquenchable curiosity.

It's not that Isaacson makes grievous errors. In fact, everything in the Code Breaker is right. The explanation of the science behind Crispr is right, the biographical sketch of Jennifer Doudna seemed right, the culture of academia is captured right, he even broaches the ethical questions

raised by Doudna's work right. And yet, none of this goes beyond what you can gain from a typical extended article in National Geographic.

If Walter Isaacson were not the author, if this was simply a much needed biography of a very important scientist, it would be correctly regarded as a success. But given that Walter Isaacson is one of America's premier biographers and Dr. Doudna one of America's leading scientists I was

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Geno Sequence

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Crisper, Edit, NTLA, stock symbols, are the future of mankind, in the very near future you will be able to see your Dr. and ask to have your body go through Geno Sequences and fix what ever it is that is wrong with you, Cancer, kidney disease, heart problems, it takes out the disease, in the future you will live till your 120, if you don't have your health your life is over, it's coming sooner than you think, just like the electric car, or when the internet, cell phones, came out now you cant live without it. I am buying this book to keep a sharp eye on the future of Geno Editing.

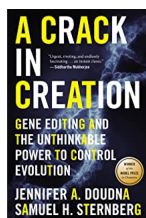
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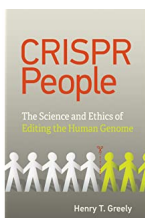
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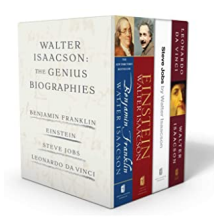


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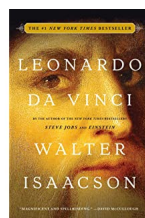


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