



Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix

By James D. Watson

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In the years following his and Francis Crick's towering discovery of DNA, James Watson was obsessed with finding two things: RNA and a wife. **Genes, Girls, and Gamow** is the marvelous chronicle of those pursuits. Watson effortlessly glides between his heartbreak and sometimes hilarious debacles in the field of love and his heady inquiries in the field of science. He also reflects with touching candor on some of science's other titans, from fellow Nobelists Linus Pauling and the incorrigible Richard Feynman to Russian physicist George Gamow, who loved whiskey, limericks, and card tricks as much as he did molecules and genes. What emerges is a refreshingly human portrait of a group of geniuses and a candid, often surprising account of how science is done.

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Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix By James D. Watson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Readers unfamiliar with James D. Watson's previous memoir, *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA*, may be surprised that his new one pays as much attention to his pursuit of the perfect woman as to the pursuit of knowledge. But Watson's 1968 book wasn't a bestseller because of its scientific material (though it was lucidly written for the general public); it was his candid portrait of professional rivalries, consuming ambition, and personal eccentricities that made it both popular and controversial. Even today, Watson's lively prose and decidedly frank opinions are still far from the norm. Oh sure, *Girls, Genes, and Gamow* contains plenty of information about his efforts (with colleagues ranging from bongo-playing Richard Feynman to the free-spirited George Gamow) to unravel the complexities of the RNA molecule from 1953 to '56. But Watson--still in his 20s at the time--also devotes pages to hard drinking, bitter marital breakups, and unwanted pregnancies among his not-so-high-minded peers, and his own anguished affair with a Swarthmore undergrad who left him for a German engineering student. It's not every Nobel Prize-winning biologist who would admit he was thrilled to have his photo in *Vogue* because it would "make 'with it' American girls more eager to know me," but that boyish openness gives Watson's book its charm. --Wendy Smith

From Publishers Weekly

This classy memoir reads like a Who's Who of 20th-century science and picks up where the author left off in his classic book, *The Double Helix*. In 1953, Watson, then 25, and colleague Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA, a historic achievement that won them both the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Here Watson, who quickly became an icon for biology students worldwide, gives a detailed, journal-writer's account of the aftermath, recalling with subtle humor his younger self's professional and equally pressing amorous ambitions. Professionally, the goal was to unravel the structure of a then still-mysterious molecule called ribonucleic acid, or RNA. Watson's scientific highs and lows are mingled with his adventures in academic high society, some of which have the flavor of Wodehousian lark, as when Wilson and fellow pranksters "temporarily absconded with the experimental lobsters" belonging to a boorish lecturer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod. Readers also encounter the "pope-like" figure of Caltech chemist Linus Pauling, the bongo-playing genius physicist Richard Feynman and of course Russian theoretical physicist George Gamow, the "zany," card-trick playing, limerick-singing, booze-swilling, practical-joking "giant imp" who founded with Watson the RNA-Tie Club. Reading Watson is a delight, an opportunity to breathe the rarefied air of his generation's greatest scientists and to crash a faculty cocktail party or two along the way.

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From Library Journal

This second autobiographical work by Nobel prize winner Watson provides additional details of his personal life and experience during and after his and Francis Crick's discovery of the double helix as the model for DNA structure in 1953. His first work, *The Double Helix*, has been widely read and republished in different editions. That work focused on the discovery of the structure of the DNA molecule; the current work uses the same conversational style to fill in more of the story and talk about what happened after the discovery was announced. Watson includes many personal details, devoting a sizable portion of the book to his romantic life. He also discusses his encounters with the likes of Linus Pauling, Richard Feynman, and Russian

physicist George Gamow. Because of the wide appeal of The Double Helix and the extensive publicity on current genetic research, this work will likely be popular as well. Accessible to many levels of readers, it is recommended for public and academic libraries. Eric D. Albright, Duke Univ. Medical Ctr. Lib., Durham, NC

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Walter Johnson:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Jessica Garcia:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you is Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix this guide consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. That book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some research when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

David Saenz:

This Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix is fresh way for you who has curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having bit of digest in reading this Genes, Girls, and Gamow: After the Double Helix can be the light food for you because the information inside this book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books build itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in reserve form make them feel tired even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book kind for your better life as well as knowledge.

Richard Barbosa:

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