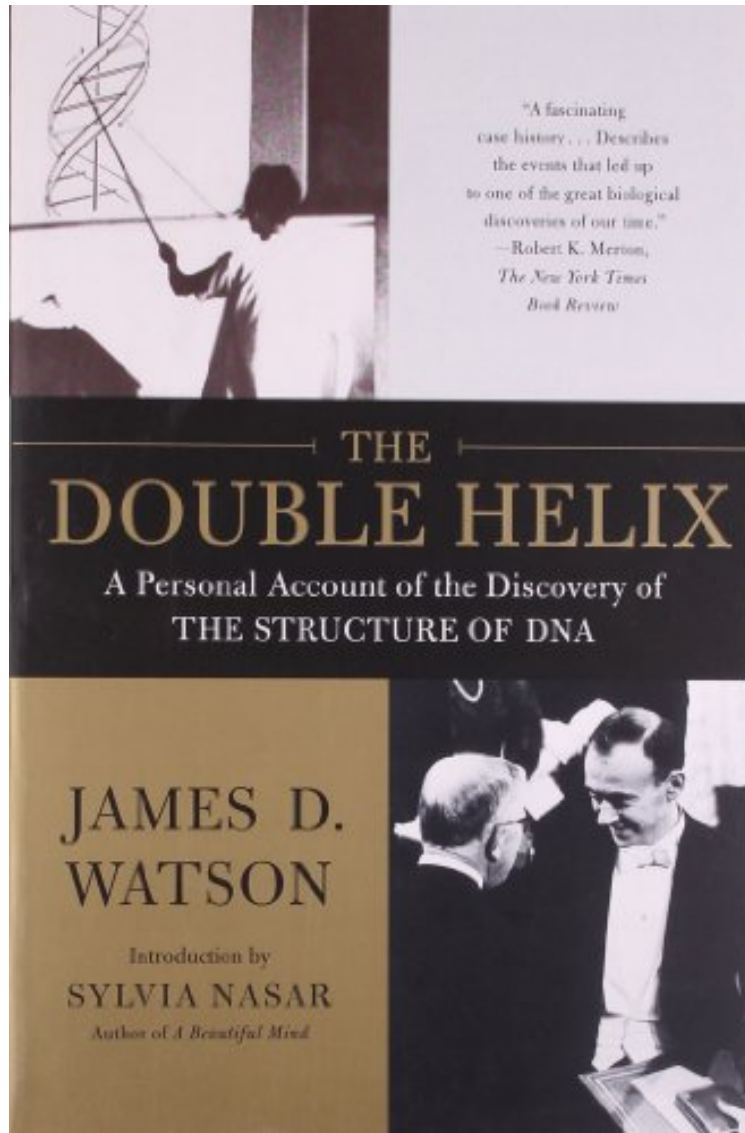


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The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA

James D. Watson Ph.D.

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James D. Watson Ph.D. : The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. All in all a good read, though not the spectacular one I thought it

would be. By Seneca Recently I was asked to do a short paper on military innovation for a conference to be held in South Korea. Having read somewhere that this is the best book on how scientific discoveries are made, I bought it and read it from cover to cover. Even though much of the science is above my head. Much of the book is devoted to backbiting aimed at Prof. Watson's associates. Including the most important one among them, Francis Crick. In other ways, though, it provides a vivid picture of the politics, intrigues, frustrations, and joys of doing research. I also found the descriptions of grantmanship and life at Cambridge, England, during the early 1950s interesting. All in all a good read, though not the spectacular one I thought it would be. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great story about the perfect partnership in science By Franklin D. Rumjanek After so many years and at least three readings, *The Double Helix* is still thrilling and totally inspiring. I highly recommend this book. Honest Jim shoots from the hip and is therefore, a very good guide for those who either plan to engage in science and have no idea what it feels like to partake in great discoveries, or for those who simply think that science is not fun. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. third time reading this book By JK Always a great read. Technical on chemistry at times...but a great story on the creative process shines through. My third time reading the book in 25 years.

The classic personal account of Watson and Crick's groundbreaking discovery of the structure of DNA, now with an introduction by Sylvia Nasar, author of *A Beautiful Mind*. By identifying the structure of DNA, the molecule of life, Francis Crick and James Watson revolutionized biochemistry and won themselves a Nobel Prize. At the time, Watson was only twenty-four, a young scientist hungry to make his mark. His uncompromisingly honest account of the heady days of their thrilling sprint against other world-class researchers to solve one of science's greatest mysteries gives a dazzlingly clear picture of a world of brilliant scientists with great gifts, very human ambitions, and bitter rivalries. With humility unspoiled by false modesty, Watson relates his and Crick's desperate efforts to beat Linus Pauling to the Holy Grail of life sciences, the identification of the basic building block of life. Never has a scientist been so truthful in capturing in words the flavor of his work.

.com "Science seldom proceeds in the straightforward logical manner imagined by outsiders," writes James Watson in *The Double Helix*, his account of his codiscovery (along with Francis Crick) of the structure of DNA. Watson and Crick won Nobel Prizes for their work, and their names are memorized by biology students around the world. But as in all of history, the real story behind the deceptively simple outcome was messy, intense, and sometimes truly hilarious. To preserve the "real" story for the world, James Watson attempted to record his first impressions as soon after the events of 1951-1953 as possible, with all their unpleasant realities and "spirit of adventure" intact. Watson holds nothing back when revealing the petty sniping and backbiting among his colleagues, while acknowledging that he himself was a willing participant in the melodrama. In particular, Watson reveals his mixed feelings about his famous colleague in discovery, Francis Crick, who many thought of as an arrogant man who talked too much, and whose brilliance was appreciated by few. This is the joy of *The Double Helix*--instead of a chronicle of stainless-steel heroes toiling away in their sparkling labs, Watson's chronicle gives readers an idea of what living science is like, warts and all. *The Double Helix* is a startling window into the scientific method, full of insight and wit, and packed with the kind of science anecdotes that are told and retold in the halls of universities and laboratories everywhere. It's the stuff of legends. --Therese Littleton From *Library Journal* First published in 1968, this classic story of the discovery of DNA has never been released as an audiobook. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. Robert K. Merton *The New York Times Book* A fascinating case history...Describes the events that led up to one of the great biological discoveries of our time. Jacob Bronowski *The Nation* No one could miss the excitement in this story of a great and beautiful discovery....The book communicates the spirit of science as no formal account has ever done....the sense of the future, the high spirits, and the rivalry and the guesses right and wrong, the surge of imagination and the test of fact. Peter B. Medewar *The New York of Books* An enormous success...a classic. Andre Lwoff *Scientific American* The history of a scientific endeavor, a true detective story that leaves the reader breathless from beginning to end. Richard Feynman He has described admirably how it feels to have that frightening and beautiful experience of making a scientific discovery. Philip Morrison *Life* Lively, wholly brash, full of sharp and sudden opinion, often at the edge of scandal.