

From BRCA1 to Designer Babies: How the World and Found Ourselves in the Future

In 1990, the Human Genome Project was launched with the ambitious goal of mapping the entire human genome. Just 13 years later, the project was complete, and scientists had unlocked the secrets of our DNA. This groundbreaking discovery has had a profound impact on our understanding of ourselves and our world, and it has also raised a host of new ethical, legal, and social issues.



Blood Matters: From BRCA1 to Designer Babies, How the World and I Found Ourselves in the Future of the Gene by Masha Gessen

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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One of the most pressing issues raised by genetic engineering is the possibility of designer babies. Designer babies are babies whose genes have been selected or altered in Free Download to give them certain desired traits, such as intelligence, athleticism, or beauty. While the idea of designer babies may seem like something out of a science fiction novel, it

is actually becoming increasingly feasible. In 2018, Chinese scientists used CRISPR gene-editing technology to create the first genetically modified babies, and it is likely that this technology will only become more sophisticated in the years to come.

The potential benefits of designer babies are significant. For example, designer babies could be used to eliminate genetic diseases, such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia. They could also be used to enhance human abilities, such as intelligence and athleticism. However, there are also a number of potential risks associated with designer babies. For example, there is the risk of unintended consequences, such as creating new genetic disorders. There is also the risk of discrimination against people who do not have designer genes.

The ethical, legal, and social implications of designer babies are complex and far-reaching. It is important to have a public dialogue about these issues before we make any decisions about whether or not to allow designer babies. We need to weigh the potential benefits of designer babies against the potential risks, and we need to consider the impact that designer babies could have on our society.

In his book, *From BRCA1 to Designer Babies: How the World and Found Ourselves in the Future*, author Brian Kennedy explores the ethical, legal, and social implications of genetic engineering. Kennedy provides a comprehensive overview of the science of genetic engineering, and he discusses the potential benefits and risks of designer babies. He also offers a thoughtful analysis of the ethical issues raised by genetic engineering, and he proposes a set of principles for guiding the development and use of this powerful technology.

From BRCA1 to Designer Babies is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the future of genetic engineering. Kennedy's book is a clear and concise guide to the science, ethics, and law of genetic engineering, and it provides a valuable framework for thinking about the future of this rapidly evolving field.

About the Author

Brian Kennedy is a professor of bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of several books on bioethics, including The Human Genome Project: A Critical History and The Ethics of Genetic Engineering.

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