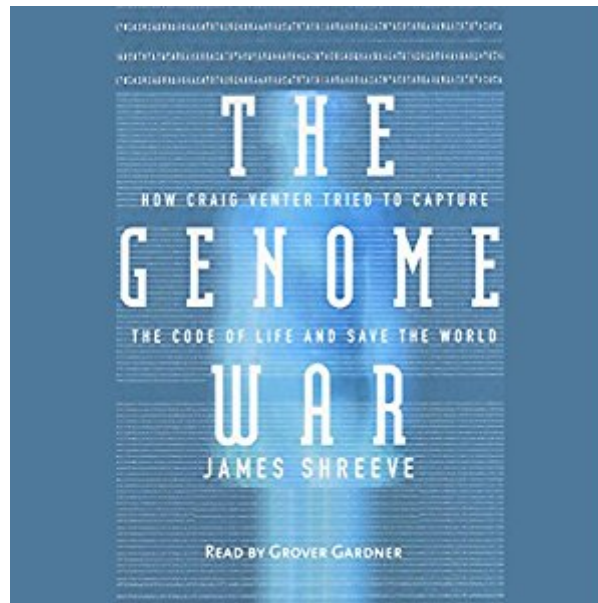




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# The Genome War: How Craig Venter Tried To Capture The Code Of Life



## Synopsis

The long-awaited story of the science, the business, the politics, the intrigue behind the scenes of the most ferocious competition in the history of modern science—the race to map the human genome. On May 10, 1998, biologist Craig Venter, director of the Institute for Genomic Research, announced that he was forming a private company that within three years would unravel the complete genetic code of human life—seven years before the projected finish of the U.S. government's Human Genome Project. Venter hoped that by decoding the genome ahead of schedule, he would speed up the pace of biomedical research and save the lives of thousands of people. He also hoped to become very famous and very rich. Calling his company Celera (from the Latin for “speed”), he assembled a small group of scientists in an empty building in Rockville, Maryland, and set to work. At the same time, the leaders of the government program, under the direction of Francis Collins, head of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health, began to mobilize an unexpectedly unified effort to beat Venter to the prize—knowledge that had the potential to revolutionize medicine and society. The stage was set for one of the most thrilling and important dramas in the history of science. The Genome War is the definitive account of that drama—the race for the greatest prize biology has had to offer, told by a writer with exclusive access to Venter's operation from start to finish. It is also the story of how one man's ambition created a scientific Camelot where, for a moment, it seemed that the competing interests of pure science and commercial profit might be gloriously reconciled—and the national repercussions that resulted when that dream went awry. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Firstly, I haven't even finished this book at the time of my writing this review, but I could no longer wait to comment on it. The distinguished feature of this book is its style of writing. It is incredibly simple and straight forward, without any unnecessary twist of language or logic. Although this is a depiction of the whole story behind the Human Genome Project, it reads like an epic tale of a breathtaking journey. James Shreeve gives a close account of all the events that led up to sequencing of human genome, including politics, science, business, legal matters and personal relations. What's more, is that a lay reader who understands nothing about gene or molecular biology can learn a whole lot of things he didn't know before. While the book is not technical in biological and other scientific explanations, it is sufficient to explain to the lay reader about genes, their importance as well as their pharmaceutical value. This book, like other reviewers have mentioned, is truly hard to put down. Highly recommended to everyone!!

Good for 3/4 of the book then it just droned on with nothing really new. Fascinating insight into one narcissistic scientist and his quest for me me me couched in terms of for everybody.

This book was a fascinating mix of science and drama. It's great to see scientists portrayed as merely human, with all their moments of genius, weakness, and egomania. I wish more scientific achievements could be documented in this way... I think it would bring a greater appreciation and understanding to the process of discovery.

James Shreeve is to be congratulated on making a complex subject understandable. I learned a lot from reading this book about the science, personalities, politics, etc. of big science projects, and the attitudes of commercial enterprises and academia. I'd strongly recommend this for anyone interested in the life sciences.

Amazing book!

Good book! Came quick with no fuss.

If you read only one science book this year, it has to be James Shreeve's inside view of the race to sequence the human genome. The story of this tumultuous competition between the prestigious Human Genome Project and the brash visionary Craig Venter is a joy ride. Shreeve's irreverent, charming and ultimately thrilling tale is a masterpiece of science writing. The white coats (and white hats) drop away in this book as Shreeve reveals the majesty of science for what it has always been, a very human story. Bravo!

This is a extremely well written book. It provides the layperson with an understanding of the importance of the Genome science, and understanding of the political battles and corporate battles necessary to advance our understanding of science

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