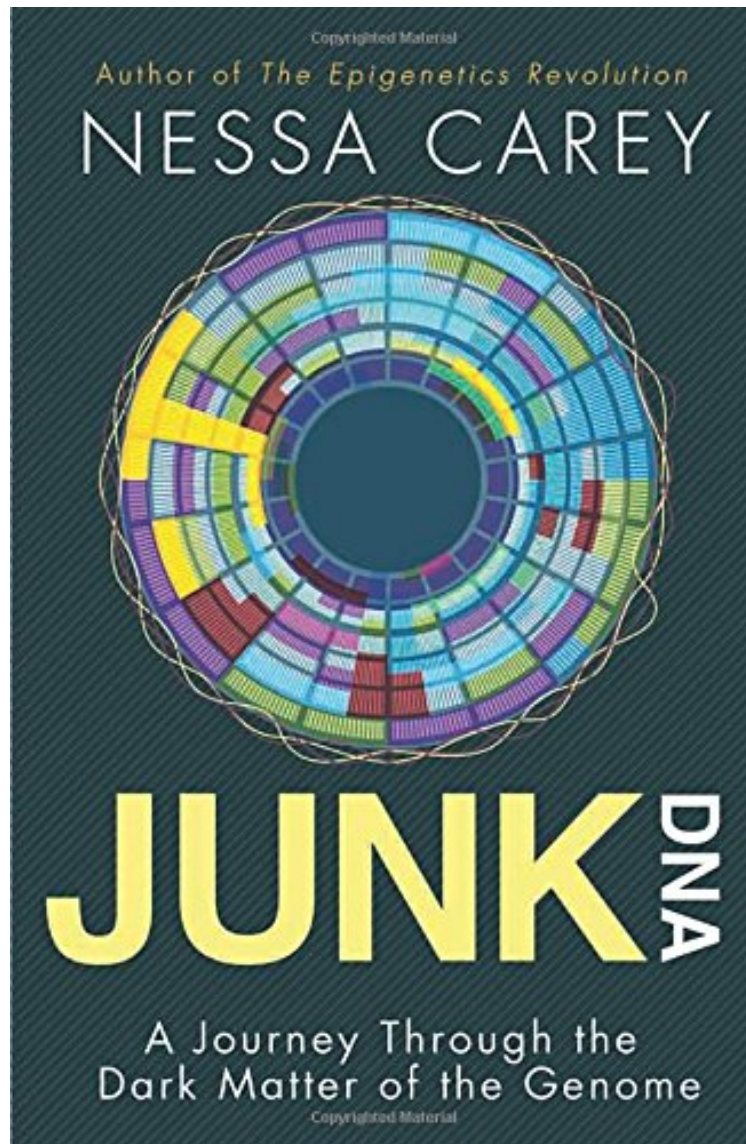


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## Junk DNA: A Journey Through the Dark Matter of the Genome

Nessa Carey

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**Nessa Carey : Junk DNA: A Journey Through the Dark Matter of the Genome** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Junk DNA: A Journey Through the Dark Matter of the Genome:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you love following the latest discoveries in the world of geneticsBy Steven TregilgasIf you love following the latest discoveries in the world of genetics, this book will serve

as a great introduction to the "dizzying" world of "Junk DNA", the non-protein-coding regions of the human genome. The book doesn't shy away from the complexity but is written in a way that those who love biology can follow. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An excellent new book explaining the important regulatory role played by ...By George Kowallis, MDAn excellent new book explaining the important regulatory role played by what was formerly called "Junk DNA." This will help the lay reader understand the importance of the long, non-coding sequences of RNA produced by regions between protein coding DNA. You will want to read this book twice. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. like Hoyle, will regret his namingBy Richard L. LewisBye bye selfish DNA and the era of hard-working "junk" DNA. Dawkins, like Hoyle, will regret his naming.

For decades after the identification of the structure of DNA, scientists focused only on genes, the regions of the genome that contain codes for the production of proteins. Other regions that make up 98 percent of the human genome were dismissed as "junk," sequences that serve no purpose. But researchers have recently discovered variations and modulations in this junk DNA that are involved with a number of intractable diseases. Our increasing knowledge of junk DNA has led to innovative research and treatment approaches that may finally ameliorate some of these conditions. Junk DNA can play vital and unanticipated roles in the control of gene expression, from fine-tuning individual genes to switching off entire chromosomes. These functions have forced scientists to revisit the very meaning of the word "gene" and have engendered a spirited scientific battle over whether or not this genomic "nonsense" is the source of human biological complexity. Drawing on her experience with leading scientific investigators in Europe and North America, Nessa Carey provides a clear and compelling introduction to junk DNA and its critical involvement in phenomena as diverse as genetic diseases, viral infections, sex determination in mammals, and evolution. We are only now unlocking the secrets of junk DNA, and Nessa Carey's book is an essential resource for navigating the history and controversies of this fast-growing, hotly disputed field.

Engaging, informative, and humorous, Nessa Carey's *Junk DNA* will be of interest to many readers. (Sharon Y. R. Dent, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center) Carey makes two points very clearly: that our understanding is tentative and evolving, and that chromosomal functioning is far more intricate than anyone ever hypothesized. (Publisher's Weekly) *Junk DNA* provides a cutting-edge, exhaustive guide to the rapidly changing, ever-more mysterious genome. (Linda Geddes *New Scientist*) [*Junk DNA*], which is frequently humorous and well documented, does a fine job of explaining a complex subject for lay readers who are willing to put in some effort. (Library Journal) Carey's enthusiasm for her subject is infectious.... An excellent introduction to a subject that we are certain to be hearing a lot more about in the near future. (Mark Diston *The Register*) *Junk DNA* serves as a nice primer. (The Scientist) The first popular overview of this field.... [Carey] has an excellent grasp of the history of junk DNA and its implications for both basic and applied science. She has a gift for analogies and converts complex biochemistry into imagery that brings it to a level nonspecialists can grasp. (Elof Axel Carlson *Quarterly of Biology*) About the Author Nessa Carey is a visiting professor at Imperial College, London. She earned her Ph.D. in virology from the University of Edinburgh. Having worked in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries for more than a decade, she maintains strong relationships with leading researchers in Europe and across the United States, at such institutions as the Harvard Medical School, the University of Pennsylvania, the Wistar Institute, the MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the University of Southern California. Carey is also the author of *The Epigenetics Revolution: How Modern Biology Is Rewriting Our Understanding of Genetics, Disease, and Inheritance*.