

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

In the past few decades, we have witnessed an explosion of progress in the field of genetics. The discovery of the BRCA1 gene in 1990 was a major breakthrough, as it revealed the genetic basis of breast and ovarian cancer. This discovery led to the development of new genetic tests and treatments that have saved countless lives.



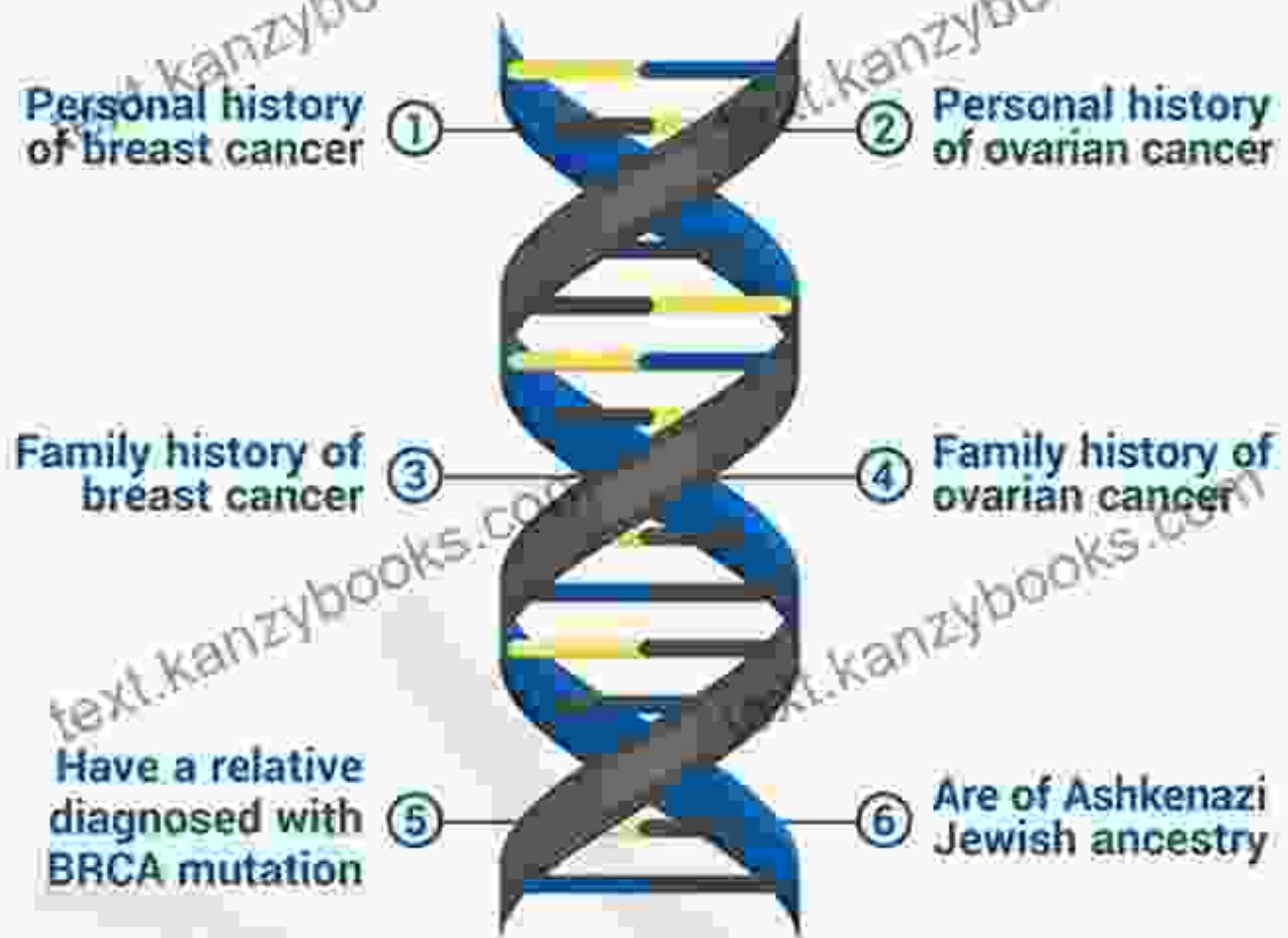
## Blood Matters: From BRCA1 to Designer Babies, How the World and I Found Ourselves in the Future of the Gene by Masha Gessen

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1307 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 330 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Who should get a BRCA gene test?



But the discovery of the BRCA1 gene was just the beginning. In recent years, we have seen the development of new gene-editing technologies, such as CRISPR, which have the potential to revolutionize the way we treat diseases and even create new forms of life.

These new technologies are raising profound ethical questions about the future of our species. What are the limits of genetic engineering? Should

we use these technologies to create designer babies? How can we ensure that these technologies are used for good and not for evil?



In this book, I will explore these complex issues and try to answer some of the most important questions facing our society today.

## **Chapter 1: The Discovery of the BRCA1 Gene**

The discovery of the BRCA1 gene was a major breakthrough in the field of genetics. This gene is responsible for producing a protein that helps to repair damaged DNA. When the BRCA1 gene is mutated, it can lead to the development of breast and ovarian cancer.

The discovery of the BRCA1 gene led to the development of new genetic tests and treatments that have saved countless lives. These tests can be

used to identify women who are at high risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer, and they can also be used to guide treatment decisions.

## **Chapter 2: The Development of Gene-Editing Technologies**

In recent years, we have seen the development of new gene-editing technologies, such as CRISPR. These technologies allow scientists to make precise changes to DNA, which has the potential to revolutionize the way we treat diseases and even create new forms of life.

CRISPR is a gene-editing tool that uses a protein called Cas9 to cut DNA at a specific location. This allows scientists to insert, delete, or modify genes with great precision. CRISPR is still in its early stages of development, but it has the potential to be used to treat a wide range of diseases, including cancer, sickle cell anemia, and cystic fibrosis.

## **Chapter 3: The Ethical Implications of Genetic Engineering**

The development of gene-editing technologies is raising profound ethical questions about the future of our species. What are the limits of genetic engineering? Should we use these technologies to create designer babies? How can we ensure that these technologies are used for good and not for evil?

These are complex questions with no easy answers. However, it is important to start thinking about them now, as the development of gene-editing technologies is moving forward at a rapid pace.

The discovery of the BRCA1 gene and the development of gene-editing technologies are two of the most significant scientific advances of our time. These advances have the potential to revolutionize the way we treat

diseases and even create new forms of life. However, they also raise important ethical questions about the future of our species. It is important to start thinking about these issues now, as the development of these technologies is moving forward at a rapid pace.



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