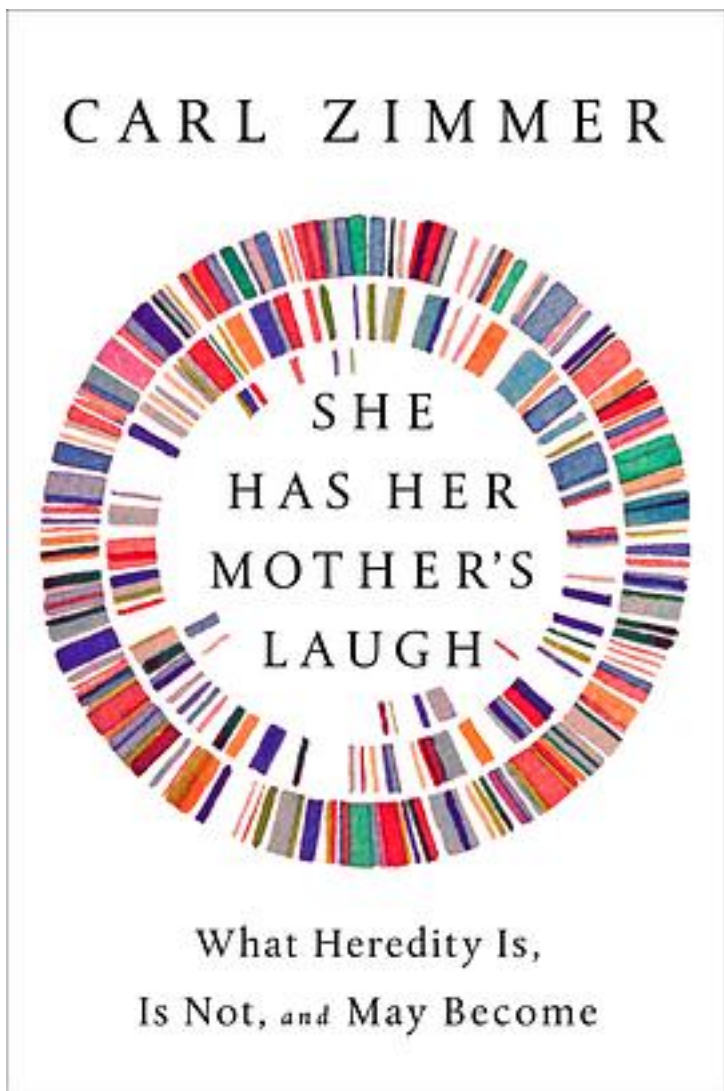


She Has Her Mother's Laugh



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著者:Carl Zimmer

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Award-winning, celebrated New York Times columnist and science writer Carl Zimmer presents a history of our understanding of heredity in this sweeping, resonating overview of a force that shaped human society—a force set to shape our future even more radically.

She Has Her Mother's Laugh presents a profoundly original perspective on what we pass along from generation to generation. Charles Darwin played a crucial part in turning heredity into a scientific question, and yet he failed spectacularly to answer it. The birth of genetics in the early 1900s seemed to do precisely that. Gradually, people translated their old notions about heredity into a language of genes. As the technology for studying genes became cheaper, millions of people ordered genetic tests to link themselves to missing parents, to distant ancestors, to ethnic identities. . . .

But, Zimmer writes, “Each of us carries an amalgam of fragments of DNA, stitched together from some of our many ancestors. Each piece has its own ancestry, traveling a different path back through human history. A particular fragment may sometimes be cause for worry, but most of our DNA influences who we are—our appearance, our height, our penchants—in inconceivably subtle ways.” Heredity isn't just about genes that pass from parent to child. Heredity continues within our own bodies, as a single cell gives rise to trillions of cells that make up our bodies. We say we inherit genes from our ancestors—using a word that once referred to kingdoms and estates—but we inherit other things that matter as much or more to our lives, from microbes to technologies we use to make life more comfortable. We need a new definition of what heredity is and, through Carl Zimmer's lucid exposition and storytelling, this resounding tour de force delivers it.

Weaving historical and current scientific research, his own experience with his two daughters, and the kind of original reporting expected of one of the world's best science journalists, Zimmer ultimately unpacks urgent bioethical quandaries arising from new biomedical technologies, but also long-standing presumptions about who we really are and what we can pass on to future generations.

作者介绍:

Carl Zimmer writes the “Matter” column for The New York Times, and has frequently contributed magazines such as The Atlantic, National Geographic, Wired, and Scientific American, among others. A frequent contributor to Radiolab, he is the author of numerous books about science, including Microcosm and Parasite Rex. He has won numerous awards for his writing, including from the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is professor adjunct at Yale University.

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标签

非虚构类

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Zimmer

English

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美国

外国文学

Carl

评论

看了一半。育种、遗传病的部分我有兴趣，但一开始讲民族什么的就啰嗦没完……作者是学英语文学出身的多奖科普作家，加深了我的偏见

先从人们感兴趣的遗传、遗传病和族谱开始讲，再讲到一些前沿的东西……嘛，一件小事，前面故事兜兜转转，好不容易扯开架势又挖坟达尔文孟德尔，最后再走近科学揭开神秘面纱，好看是好看，但真的……太啰嗦了

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书评

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