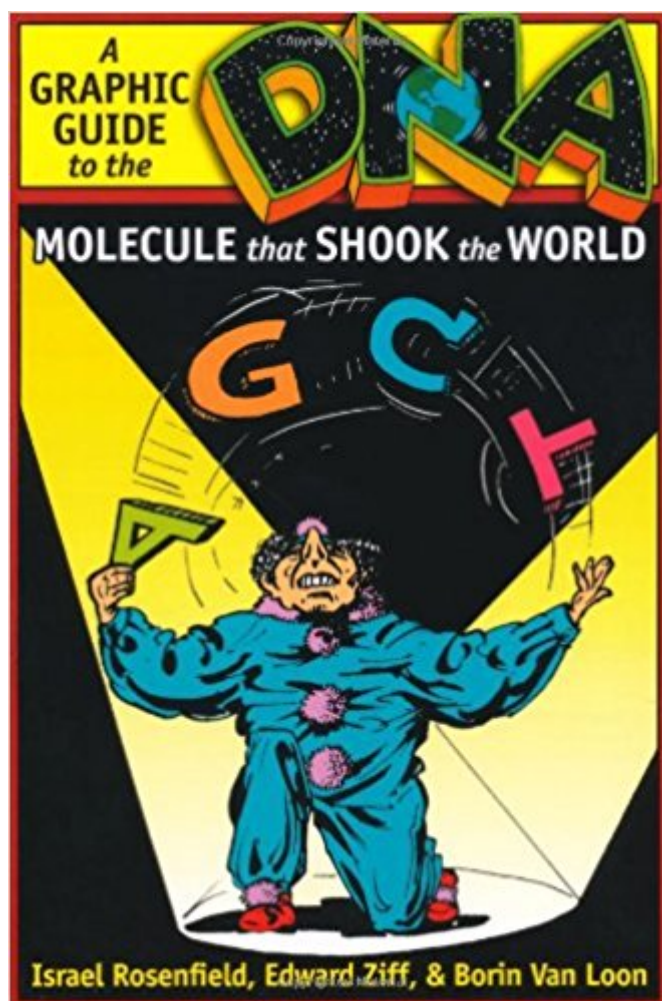


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# DNA: A Graphic Guide To The Molecule That Shook The World



## Synopsis

With humor, depth, and philosophical and historical insight, *DNA* reaches out to a wide range of readers with its graphic portrayal of a complicated science. Suitable for use in and out of the classroom, this volume covers DNA's many marvels, from its original discovery in 1869 to early-twentieth-century debates on the mechanisms of inheritance and the deeper nature of life's evolution and variety. Even readers who lack a background in science and philosophy will learn a tremendous amount from this engaging narrative. The book elucidates DNA's relationship to health and the cause and cure of disease. It also covers the creation of new life forms, nanomachines, and perspectives on crime detection, and considers the philosophical sources of classical Darwinian theory and recent, radical changes in the understanding of evolution itself. Already these developments have profoundly affected our notions about living things. Borin Van Loon's humorous illustrations recount the contributions of Gregor Mendel, Frederick Griffith, James Watson, and Francis Crick, among other biologists, scientists, and researchers, and vividly depict the modern controversies surrounding the Human Genome Project and cloning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A new title for this revamping of the pioneering science *DNA for Beginners* (1983), is appropriate because so much productive research has occurred since the first edition, as the revision's peppering of post-1983 dates confirms. Yet the book's core illustrated technical explanations of DNA replication, gene expression, cloning and

sequencing genes, cloning organisms, making tissue from stem cells, and other processes. It is probably little altered and distinguishes the book from its most obvious look-alike, *The Stuff of Life* (2009), by Mark Schultz, Kevin Cannon, and Zander Cannon. While *Stuff* is a genuine graphic novel with plot, characters, through-drawn text, and all DNA was written first and then illustrated. Although he hardly eschews cartooning and caricature, including inspired parodies of great cartoonists (Daumier, Tenniel, Crumb, etc.), Van Loon functions far more as an ace creator of visual analogies of physical realities too small to be seen unaided or understood even when exponentially magnified. As for Rosenfield and Ziff's text, it is at the collegiate introductory level, whereas Schultz's is superb for high-schoolers and the less technically literate rest of us. --Ray Olson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

From a brief history of genetics, to the role of genes in evolution to the development of biotechnology to the sex life of bacteria, all the ideas and players are here. --The Globe and Mail, February, 2011  
The book is novel, easy to read and combines excellent cartoons with good personal vignettes and history. I spent many years mastering genetics and yet learned new and valuable things from this book. Take a look, you will not be disappointed. (Robert Trivers, Rutgers University)  
A unique, richly detailed, and fun biography of DNA grounded in deep historical and philosophical knowledge--Rosenfield, Ziff and Van Loon give us everything we need to know about biology's most important molecule. (Oliver Sacks)  
Right now, you may not know the difference between a prokaryote and a eukaryote, but read this richly detailed work and that could be your next cocktail party opener. (Toronto Globe & Mail)  
A clear summary of the DNA story with a lighthearted approach. (CHOICE)

Best of the graphic books you can ever read about DNA....relaxing and enjoyable

Excellent all the way around. I would buy from them again. Very satisfied overall.

Good Book

For quite awhile, I have been searching for a decent book covering the latest discoveries and theories in genetics. Most books that I have read are either too basic in their description of genetics or our too boring to read. This book was exactly what I have been wanting. The book proved fun to

read. But more importantly, it contains up to date information about genetics such gene splicing, methylation of DNA strands (epigenetics), and the diversity of antibodies from random gene combination. I have yet to find another book that attempts to explain all of these concepts to the layman. I strongly appreciate the use of pictures and figures to convey the important ideas. Each picture in this book really is worth 1000 words. Sadly, the book falls apart at the end. The last 15 pages contain no pictures. There is just text. Furthermore, the material in the last 15 pages is presented in a disorganized random fashion. But, I am not complaining because I attribute the rough ending to the book to the fact that the field of genetics is continually evolving. Therefore, there cannot really be an ending to the story. I sincerely hope that a revised version of the book with a cleaned up ending eventually published. With a little improvement, this book could become a classic text in the field of genetics.

Excellent book for my 11 year old. It is written in a very interesting way and it keeps her busy. I bought it used but it looks like it was never used.

The graphics were difficult to see and read on Kindle reader. There wasn't enough text for a serious read. I'm sure the authors thought the graphics would be appealing to younger readers.

GIFT FOR COLLEGE STUDENT - REQUIRED READING..ARRIVED IN TIMELY MATTER LOOKS GOOD...DID NOT READ

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If you've ever contemplated cloning yourself in order to be in two places at once, this book is essential to understanding how to make that happen. A riotous, Monty Python-esque aesthetic applied to what might otherwise be very dry strands of essential information. Even a belligerent teenager could appreciate this one. A Double Helix of Facts and Fun.

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