

When would it be a good thing for a doctor to take something from? What if your life was shortened but you provided something important so that so many other people can live?

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" gives us a detailed story on the possible injustice that can occur in the field of science, more specifically in medicine. Henrietta Lacks was a poor African American woman whose cells, the HeLa Cells, were taken without her knowledge in the 1950's by the doctors of Johns Hopkins University. HeLa Cells are immortal cells that derived from from Henrietta's cervical cancer. These cells assisted with many medical advances such as vaccines for life threatening diseases. The author, Rebecca Skloot, tells the long-lasting story of the impact of the HeLa Cells beginning with Henrietta's life. However, this story will never end because as long as the cells live, their impact will affect the lives of her relatives. Along with learning the history of the Lacks family, Skloot provides stories of her interactions with Henrietta's loved ones, especially her daughter, Deborah, and husband, Day.

Henrietta's cells have played a very important role in the medical field and have impacted so many lives in positive ways. The story of Henrietta Lacks and the HeLa Cells is one driven by the often-unseen circumstances of medical research. Her immortal life provides feelings of unease and empathy for her and her loved ones. If you are prepared, brace yourself and learn about Henrietta Lacks, the Lacks Family, and the HeLa Cells.

"In "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," Rebecca Skloot introduces us to the "real live woman," the children who survived her, and the interplay of race, poverty, science and one of the most important medical discoveries of the last 100 years."

-NYTIMES

"IT'S A DEFTLY CRAFTED INVESTIGATION OF A SOCIAL WRONG COMMITTED BY THE MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT, AS WELL AS THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL MIRACLES TO WHICH IT LED."

-WASHINGTON POST

"THE STORY OF HENRIETTA LACKS AND THE HELa CELLS IS AN ALMOST TOO PERFECT EPITOME OF OUR CONFUSIONS ABOUT HUMAN NATURE AND BIOLOGY."

-THE INDEPENDENT

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Rebecca Skloot



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