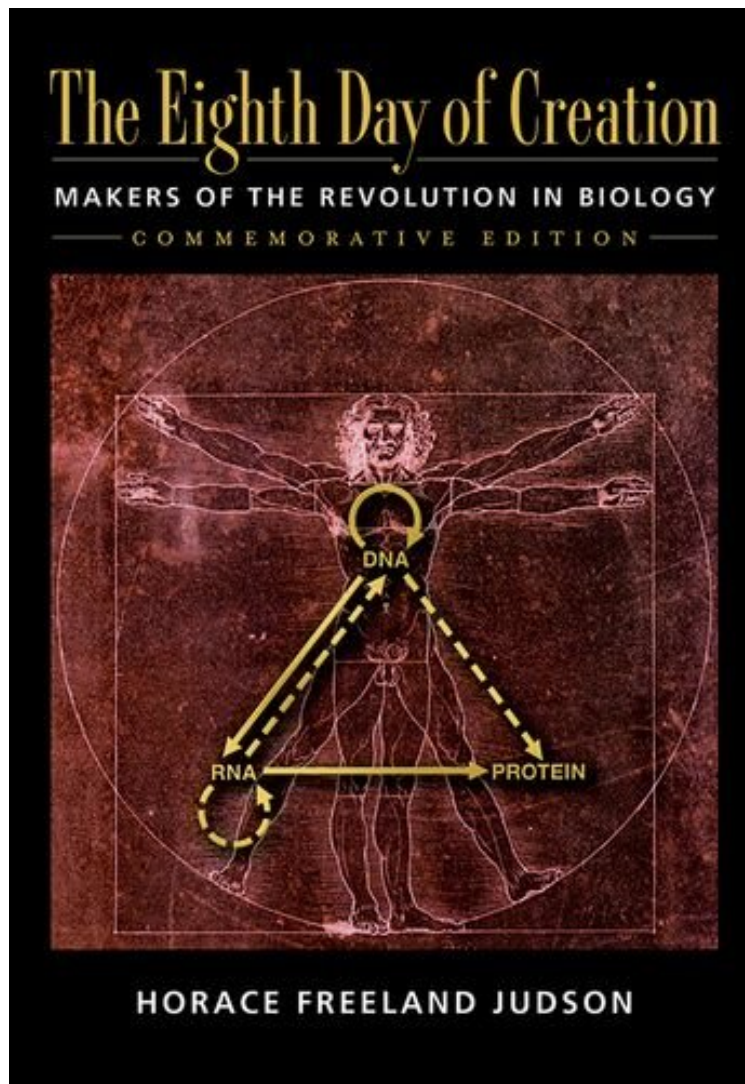


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The Eighth Day of Creation: Makers of the Revolution in Biology, Commemorative Edition

Horace Freeland Judson

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Horace Freeland Judson : The Eighth Day of Creation: Makers of the Revolution in Biology, Commemorative Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Eighth Day of Creation: Makers of the Revolution in Biology, Commemorative Edition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book and story. Best to buy a newer edition, though By Rob Carnes I have always loved this book. I lost the original I had. This is an "OK" printing but is not on acid-free paper

and the copy I bought through is yellowed considerably. Given that this is really a personal library book you might want to keep: buy a the newer versions of the book. I did, and it's easier to read. All that aside, this is an amazing story of how different disciplines converged to create our understanding of the structure and function of DNA, and the whole discipline of molecular biology. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Imagination and science By Chris Albert Wells When I received the book, advised by a friend, I got a shock. So thick with such small writing, I thought I'd never get through it! What a mistake; the text engulfed me and although not always prepared to such exposure of scientific material, my interest rarely subsided. I was fascinated to see how imagination and common sense were instrumental to push research. How ideas that are so obvious today seemed as wild hypotheses. How people just missed them. And how "gentlemanly" research was in those days. People spoke to each other, compared results, even before printing an abstract. Today, to preserve priority claims, scientists rush to the editor! Fierce competition has taken over. DNA is central to our epoch and it's difficult to imagine that reputed scientists thought that the molecule was stupid, that it had nothing to do with genetics and that a genetic code was a hopeless idea. And the worst was still to come once the structure of DNA had been discovered! The eighth day of creation, a beautiful title, is a great book for those interested in the background of research work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful history of the development of molecular biology and its profound impact on the biological sciences By Carter Bancroft This is a masterpiece, describing in a very interesting and readable fashion how the development and subsequent practice of molecular biology forever changed our knowledge of the structure and expression of genes. I was a student and later a lab head in that field during the period described in Judson's book, and nevertheless found the book very exciting and also informative.

In this classic book, the distinguished science writer Horace Freeland Judson tells the story of the birth and early development of molecular biology in the US, the UK, and France. The fascinating story of the golden period from the revelation of the double helix of DNA to the cracking of the genetic code and first glimpses of gene regulation is told largely in the words of the main players, all of whom Judson interviewed extensively. The result is a book widely regarded as the best history of recent biological science yet published. This commemorative edition, honoring the memory of the author who died in 2011, contains essays by his daughter Olivia Judson, Matthew Meselson, and Mark Ptashne and an obituary by Jason Pontin. It contains all the content added to previous editions, including essays on some of the principal historical figures involved, such as Rosalind Franklin, and a sketch of the further development of molecular biology in the era of recombinant DNA.

.com In the foreword to this expanded edition of his 1979 masterpiece, Horace Freeland Judson says, "I feared I might seem the official historian of the movement"--molecular biology, that is. If by official he means "authoritative; definitive; the standard against which all others are measured" then his fears are warranted. Detailed without being overly technical, humane without being fulsome, *The Eighth Day of Creation* tells of molecular biology's search for the secret of life. "The drama has everything--exploration of the unknown; low comedy and urgent seriousness; savage competition, vaulting intelligence, abrupt changes of fortune, sudden understandings; eccentric and brilliant people, men of honor and of less than honor; a heroine, perhaps wronged; and a treasure to be achieved that was unique and transcendent." And in Judson this drama found its Shakespeare. "A historian has mused that the memory of man is too frail a thread on which to hang history; Judson's achievement, in drawing out the memories of so many participants in the epic of molecular biology and weaving them into a single robust skein, is magisterial. His work fittingly commemorates a golden age which already seems as remote as that of Darwin and Huxley." *Nature* "This reissue of a pioneering history of molecular biology, for some years out of print, is essentially a reprint of the first edition of 1979. Horace Judson has corrected a few minor errors (remarkably few for such a fact-filled book), given a sharper emphasis to Frederick Sangers' work on protein sequencing to reflect his (Judson's) conviction of its central importance, and added some personal details to a biographical sketch of Rosalind Franklin. Finally, an epilogue touches very briefly on developments in the 1970s that were the foundations for the subsequent vast expansion of molecular biology. This epilogue obviously is not meant to bring Judson's original story up to the present that would take another large book but only to point readers to topics that Judson leaves for other historians to explore. *The Eighth Day of Creation* has aged well, like a good vintage, and its very good to have it available again." *ISIS* "The revelations of modern biology make a remarkable human and scientific story, and it has never been told better than in Horace Freeland Judson's *The Eighth Day of Creation*. What is especially fortunate is that he is a graceful writer with a keen sense of the human as well as the scientific drama. I finished the book with a great sense of elation and a deepened sense of admiration for what the human family, at its best, can accomplish." (of the First Edition) JEREMY BERNSTEIN, *New York Times Book* "In his massive, marvelous history of molecular biology Judson introduces us to many fiendishly clever experiments, some fiercely competitive rivalries, and some of the greatest scientific minds ever to ponder the mysteries of biology. He has talked with nearly everyone involved, and *The Eighth Day of Creation* is a unique oral history of a scientific revolution; to my knowledge there has been nothing else like it." (of the First Edition) LEON

