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Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA

By Brenda Maddox

Harper Perennial. Paperback. Condition: New. 416 pages. Dimensions: 7.9in. x 4.8in. x 1.0in. In March 1953, Maurice Wilkins of Kings College, London, announced the departure of his obstructive colleague Rosalind Franklin to rival Cavendish Laboratory scientist Francis Crick. But it was too late. Franklins unpublished data and crucial photograph of DNA had already been seen by her competitors at the Cambridge University lab. With the aid of these, plus their own knowledge, Watson and Crick discovered the structure of the molecule that genes are composed of -- DNA, the secret of life. Five years later, at the age of thirty-seven, after more brilliant research under J. D. Bernal at Birkbeck College, Rosalind died of ovarian cancer. In 1962, Wilkins, Crick and Watson were awarded the Nobel Prize for their elucidation of DNAs structure. Franklins part was forgotten until she was caricatured in Watsons book The Double Helix. In this full and balanced biography, Brenda Maddox has been given unique access to Franklins personal correspondence and has interviewed all the principal scientists involved, including Crick, Watson and Wilkins. This is a powerful story, told by one of the finest biographers, of a remarkably single-minded, forthright and tempestuous young woman who, at the...



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