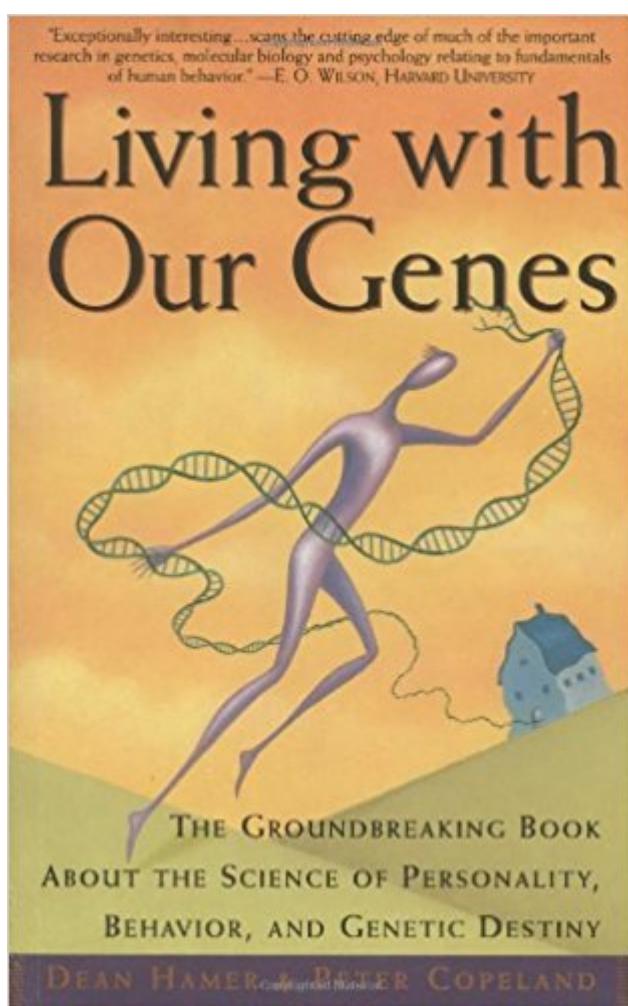


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# Living With Our Genes: The Groundbreaking Book About The Science Of Personality, Behavior, And Genetic Destiny



## Synopsis

"A lucid, thought-provoking account of the case for 'nature' as a determinant of personality." •Peter D. Kramer, Author of *Listening to Prozac* and *Should You Leave?* Nowhere is the nature-nurture controversy being more arduously tested than in the labs of world-renowned molecular scientist Dean Hamer, whose cutting-edge research has indisputably linked specific genes to behavioral traits, such as anxiety, thrill-seeking, and homosexuality. The culmination of that research is this provocative book, *Living with Our Genes*. In it, Dr. Hamer reveals that much of our behavior—how much we eat and weigh, whether we drink or use drugs, how often we have sex—is heavily influenced by genes. His findings help explain why one brother becomes a Wall Street trader, while his sibling remains content as a librarian, or why some people like to bungee-jump, while others prefer Scrabble. Dr. Hamer also sheds light on some of the most compelling and vexing aspects of personality, such as shyness, aggression, depression, and intelligence. In the tradition of the bestselling book *Listening to Prozac*, *Living with Our Genes* is the first comprehensive investigation of the crucial link between our DNA and our behavior. "Compulsive reading, reminiscent of Jared Diamond, from a scientist who knows his stuff and communicates it well." •Kirkus Reviews "A pioneer in the field of molecular psychology, Hamer is exploring the role genes play in governing the very core of our individuality. Accessible . . . provocative." •Time "Absolutely terrific! I couldn't put it down." •Professor Robert Plomin, Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Research Center, Institute of Psychiatry

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Anchor (February 16, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385485840

ISBN-13: 978-0385485845

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #91,490 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in Books > Medical Books > Basic Sciences > Genetics #406 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Personality #543 in Books > Science & Math > Evolution

## Customer Reviews

How many of our faults are in our genetic stars, and how many in ourselves? Human geneticist Dean Hamer, whose research team found the popularly termed "gay gene," surveys what is currently known about the inheritance of human behavior and personality. Hamer and science writer Peter Copeland take a calm, broad-minded look at hot-button topics such as sex, drugs (especially tobacco and alcohol), and violence, as well as anxiety, intelligence, and eating habits. Their conclusions are solidly on the side of both nature and nurture: "A DNA map offers possibilities and predictions but not certainty.... Free will is alive and well, and probably genetic." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a light, breezy style, Hamer, a biologist at the National Cancer Institute, and Copeland attempt to explain the extent to which our genes control our lives. In their second collaboration (following *The Science of Desire*), the authors devote chapters to the most compelling of human behaviors and conditions: sex, worry, anger, thrill-seeking, addiction, intelligence, eating and aging. They explore the biochemistry underlying the characteristics in question, and ask how much of that biochemistry is under genetic control. Along the way, a great number of fascinating pieces of information are related?e.g., that some researchers have proposed "that the brain has a set point for happiness just as the body has a set point for weight," and that "men with the high-anxiety form of the serotonin transporter gene had sex more often than those with the low-anxiety form." While the authors go to great lengths to remind readers that "predisposition is not predestination"?that genes may well play a role regarding complex behaviors but not necessarily a determinative one?in some instances, they seem to make claims not fully warranted by available data (e.g., "men are programmed to seek more partners and sexual novelty.... women want emotional attachment and financial security"), and they provide scant citations to the original literature. Nevertheless, from "Looking for Gay Genes" to "Making Brighter Babies," this thought-provoking book's explanations of how our genes "express" themselves is sure to capture the imaginations of readers. Author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I enjoyed this book for the insights it gave me into my own behavior and that of my friends and family. Some have expressed reservations that it releases us from responsibility for our own actions, but I disagree. Knowing the source of our motivation for an action or desire allows us (with effort and awareness) to act more responsibly.

Easy to read. Removed some of my misunderstanding because of myth.

A good introduction to possibly inherited family traits, illnesses and disorders.

Good deal

This is one of my husbands most favorite books.

In good conditions

Very Informative!

bad book

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