Joe collecting high-pressure data. The "Researcher in the Spotlight" is Jeanette S. Ferrara, MFA biographer dethrones Isaacson as the historically accurate tale-teller of Doudna's character. By comparison, Isaacson discusses Eric Lander, the head of the Human Race, as a recurring theme of Doudna's character—a highly competitive relationship with Emmanuelle Charpentier, with whom she shares her gene editing technology. The recent patent battle over using the CRIPSR technology in humans falls flat. It is not a statement about the subject matter; it is a statement about the author's ability to present the story.

There have been a lot of parallels made—both in the book and in society—between Doudna and Franklin. In the book, Franklin is presented as a competitive, driven scientist who is willing to take risks. In reality, Franklin was a complex, multi-faceted individual who was not always easy to work with. Doudna is portrayed as a dynamic, influential leader who is able to adapt to changing circumstances. This in and of itself is not bad—he claims Doudna herself suggested the idea of the book. However, Walter Isaacson fails to tease apart these intricate subtleties, especially given the eminence of both women. Isaacson's biography of Doudna is good, but it is not great. It is a book that should be read with caution and a critical eye.

The Time magazine cover story about Doudna's role in developing the COVID-19 vaccine is a good example of how the publication that has been so critical of Franklin has taken a more positive view of Doudna. This change in perspective is interesting, but it is also a sign of the Zeitgeist. It is a sign that the world is changing, and that we need to be open to new ideas and new approaches. Walter Isaacson's biography of Doudna is a good example of this change in perspective. It is a book that is worth reading, but it is also a book that needs to be read with caution and a critical eye.