



Is  
Henrietta  
Lacks  
an Angel?



THE MORAIN VALLEY LIBRARY & THE BOOKSTORE PRESENT  
ONE BOOK, ONE COLLEGE, 2010-2011

The **Immortal Life** of Henrietta Lacks  
by Rebecca Skloot

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### *I just want to know who my mother was...*

"When I go to the doctor for my checkups I always say **my mother was HeLa**. They get all excited, tell me stuff like how her cells helped make my **blood pressure medicines** and **antidepression pills** and how all this important stuff in science happen cause of her. But they don't never explain more than just sayin, Yeah, your mother was **on the moon**, she been in **nuclear bombs** and made that **polio vaccine**. I really don't know how she did all that, but I guess I'm glad she did, cause that mean she helpin lots of people. I think she would like that.

"But I always have thought it was strange, if our mother cells done so much for medicine, how come **her family can't afford to see no doctors?** Don't make no sense. People got rich off my mother without us even knowin about them takin her cells, now we don't get a dime. I used to get so mad about that to where it make me sick and I had to take pills. But I don't got it in me no more to fight. **I just want to know who my mother was.**"

—The words of Deborah Lacks  
from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* p. 9

### Watch this Video from CBS News

[Watch CBS News Videos Online](#)

### One Book Events

**Henrietta Lacks, Medical Research, and the Politics of Trust**  
*Tuesday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., library lounge*

**Special Guest, Ms. Toni M. Bond-Leonard**  
*Wednesday, March 23, 1-2 p.m.*

Visit our [events page](#) for more details

### Links

[Henrietta's Tumor](#)  
Hear the story of HeLa, Henrietta Lacks, and Deborah Lacks as told by Radiolab in this great piece.

[Rebecca Skloot](#)  
Visit Skloot's homepage.

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