The word “eugenics” was coined in 1883 by Francis Galton to express his dream of perfecting the human race by applying the laws of genetic heredity. Eugenics: A Very Short Introduction tackles the intricate and controversial history of eugenics. It synthesizes the enormous range of policies and experiments carried out in the name of eugenics around the world throughout the twentieth century. It questions the widespread belief that eugenics disappeared after World War II and evaluates the impact of eugenics on current reproductive and genetic sciences. Charting the development of such controversial practices as artificial insemination, sperm donation, and population control, this VSI offers a timely reflection on the frequent interplay between genetics and ethics.