



Elizabeth Holmes is the founder of the failed blood-testing company Theranos. She is facing decades in prison; a court found her guilty of **conspiring** to rob her investors of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Holmes was the world's youngest self-made billionaire, and media often described her as the next Steve Jobs. Her revolutionary medical testing method was easier, quicker, and cheaper because it required only a little bit of blood from a person's finger that could be tested for lots of diseases.

However, people found the testing needed more blood, and some people allegedly had incorrect test results. Holmes had attracted a lot of investors, and she'd received medical and financial support.

In 2015, journalists first questioned the reliability of the tests, and investors found Theranos maybe was doing something else. Holmes is now a convicted **felon**, and she's guilty of four conspiracy and **fraud** charges.

Difficult words: **conspire** (to make secret plans to do something bad or illegal), **felon** (a person who's committed a serious crime), **fraud** (the crime of getting money or financial benefits by a trick or by lying).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *conspire, felon and fraud*
2. Who is Elizabeth Holmes?
3. Why is Elizabeth Holmes facing decades in prison?
4. How did media describe Elizabeth Holmes?
5. What was unique about her revolutionary testing method?
6. What did people find out and complain about?
7. When and who first questioned the reliability of the tests from Theranos?
8. What is Elizabeth Holmes charged with?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Has any health technology company or clinical laboratory in your country been questioned for its validity and eventually ceased its operations for inaccuracy and failure rates?
2. Does your country use any special medical testing method or technology? What is it?
3. Is it possible to detect many different diseases with just very small amount of blood?