

The Checklist Manifesto:

by Atul Gawande (2009) # ISBN-10: 0805091742 # ISBN-13: 978-0805091748
ASIN: B0031Q9ZWY (Audio, unabridged, 5 CDs, 6.5 hours)

Reviewed By: Rose M. Johnston; Content-Matters.com

I read about this book in my Sunday paper. Unlike its unsexy title, I thought the book's description was compelling. So did many other people! I waited several months to crawl to #1 on the library's waiting list for both the hardcover and the audio editions.

I was expecting to get ideas on how to design and write better quick-reference cards and job aids in a variety of contexts. And while there were ideas on how to gather, design, and improve any checklist, the **stories** about the history of checklists and the author's own experiences as a surgeon were (a) riveting, and (b) riveting in a project management context!

Using stories from aviation, construction, medicine, banking, and other industries, the author does a great job of illustrating how businesses, services, products, limbs, and lives are saved or lost based on planning, disaster planning, and communicating with team members and stakeholders.

Checklists aside, there are a lot of take-away gems in this book that anyone could implement to begin improving any project. For example, who would have thought that the simple act of team members introducing – and reintroducing – themselves to each other could save lives? Read the book and find out why it's so.

Editor's Note: Thanks Rose! Rose stresses that the rating she gave below is based on the audio version, which she thought was excellently done. The book version may not receive that superlative rating.

Readers, if you would like to make a comment about this review, please [contact us!](#)

Overall Rating: 5 (out of 5):  Rose M. Johnston.