



The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Better* and *Complications* presents a case for the surprising power of the ordinary checklist.

We live in a world of great and increasing complexity, where error is rife and even the most expert professionals struggle to master the tasks they face. Longer training and ever more sophisticated technologies are offered up as a way to help, but we seem to fall only further behind. But in a hopeful twist, acclaimed surgeon and writer Atul Gawande shows us that a very simple tool is remarkably effective in decreasing error in a complex world: the checklist. First adopted in aviation decades ago by the US military, checklists have enabled pilots to fly aircraft of mind-boggling complexity. Now innovative checklists are being found to save lives in hospitals around the world, helping doctors and nurses respond to everything from flu epidemics to avalanches. Even in the immensely varied world of surgery, a simple ninety-second script tested in operating rooms around the globe cut the rate of fatalities by more than a third.

In gripping stories, Gawande takes us from Austria, where an emergency checklist helped save a drowning victim who had spent half an hour underwater, to Michigan, where a cleanliness checklist in intensive care units virtually eliminated a type of hospital infection that had claimed a thousand lives a year. He explains how checklists actually work, and why certain types make matters worse while others prompt striking and immediate improvements. Now, Gawande explains, the checklist revolution is spreading to fields well beyond medicine, from homeland security to investment banking and businesses of all kinds.

A fascinating exploration of how we handle complexity in our lives, *The Checklist Manifesto* showcases the vast potential of this humble and inexpensive technique. It is essential reading for anyone working to get things right.