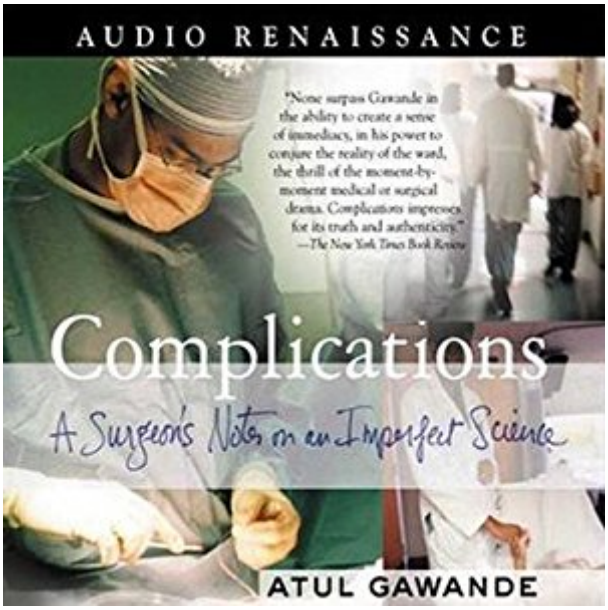
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Complications: A Surgeon's Notes On An Imperfect Science



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Synopsis

Autobiography of Atul Gawande, a surgeon in United States of America; this personal narrative exposes surgery of its follies to the extent it is human as it is idealised science. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

People usually are either one of these things or the other, and it’s not so often that we find someone who can both do things AND write and so expose us to a world that we might not have seen otherwise.***What of this book?1. It is written in three sections.a. Fallibility (The shortcomings of physicians)b. Mystery (Mystery Illnesses)c. Uncertainty (Gray areas and diagnostic uncertainty)2. I get the distinct impression that the author wrote a series of essays and then chose the best of them as could be fit into this book. It’s like he didn’t write only as many "songs" as he needed for this "album." He had a whole bunch of them in a vault somewhere and then just pulled some number of them together and then made the concept of the "album" after the fact.***What can we learn from this book? Much, as it happens. I can give some of the things that popped out at me the most1. Medicine is an empirical science. A lot of things are learned/ decided on the fly and with more information they might have been decided differently. There are no algorithms or simple answers.2. There are questions about ways that surgeries can be set up. Do you train one surgeon to do many things, or do you train many surgeons (teams?) to do one thing only. The discussion of the hernia repair team and the way that they improved their efficiency by doing the same thing OVER AND OVER again (p. 35) is food for thought.3. The training of physicians has to happen on *someone*.

And the training for procedures to be done on humans can only be done on humans. And yes, people who are poor and unable to purchase their own insurance are more likely to be guinea pigs. And that’s just the reality of things.4. There are no clear mechanisms to sanction physicians when they are past their prime and start killing patients. This book is about 15 years old, but then (as now), government accountants and colleagues will catch the physician before any ethics/ disciplinary board.Verdict: Recommended. The fact that this book is still high priced in spite of being 15 years old is its strongest recommendation. The present reviewer is offering one more.

I worked for several years in the healthcare space, and specifically around surgery.The marketplace is lacking in good literature on this subspace of healthcare, yet there are so many interesting and controversial aspects of it.Atul Gawande is a fantastic writer and thinker. I have read all of his books, but I find this one most interesting and instructive. "The Checklist Manifesto" is a great manual for preventing mistakes, but is a bit dry. "Better", his other book, has some interesting stories and presents a fair set of good ideas on improving care."Complications" is the one I found to be full of interesting and detailed accounts of what it is like to learn to be a surgeon, be a surgeon, and provides an insider’s view on the discipline and the industry. Atul does a great job providing detail on the practices without overwhelming with jargon.

People tend to see doctors as demigods, and they like to behave that way. I regularly browse the store for books, I tend to download the samples, if a book catches my imagination. This one... after I’ve read the first few chapters, I bought the book immediately, and from then on, I couldn’t really put it down.Opinion:This book is intriguing, it shows the hidden world of surgeons, and the imperfection both in themselves, and in their highly regarded profession. It has also made me more emphatic with doctors, as I have learned about their limitations and understood, that they are only humans, humans who make mistakes. As a software developer I could also feel the pain in the absent of standards, and well defined methods. Altough surgery is a bit older than Software Engineering, they are both children in their sense.A must read for everybody, especially my fellow colleagues, after this book you will see that they are in the same phase, already left the waterfall method for better ones, but struggling to find the perfect way of handling patients (processes).

I read COMPLICATIONS immediately after reading Dr. Gawande’s book, Being Mortal. It was interesting, but Complications seemed like dry cake crumbs. Being Mortal was like pie a la mode.Sorry...just could not feel the same intensity in Complications.

Purchased as a gift to one of my ROTC Cadets to begin their professional library. As part of a class assignment I asked each cadet what book would they no-kidding read, military or not, related to their academic major or not. After I compiled the list of books for the class I went online and ordered all the books from . I placed them at their seats prior to class and allowed them to enter the room w/o me being present for the first five minutes. It was, and still is, one of the good teaching moments of our time together. Thanks for helping me fulfill a need in their soon-to-be military career.

Wonderfully written book. Honest and forthright. gave an understanding of how difficult it is to become a doctor and the many trials and tribulations in completing school.

Well written, informative and thoughtful. The stories and anecdotes reveal the struggles doctors face when trying to give patients clear, definitive answers to oft times mysterious and perplexing health problems. I'm glad I read it. I will never look at medicine and doctors the same.

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