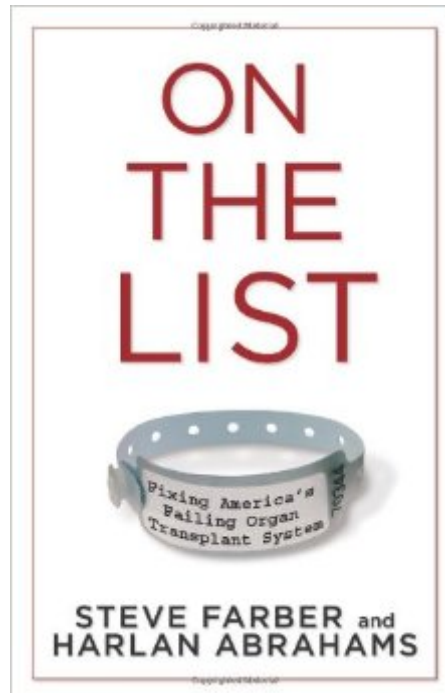


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# On The List: Fixing America's Failing Organ Transplant System



## Synopsis

Two families came together in the waiting room of a Denver hospital on May 11, 2004, to await kidney transplants for loved ones. In the first operation, Gregg Farber, 32, a real estate executive, donated a kidney to his father, Steve, a 60-year-old Denver lawyer and power broker. In the second, Guatemalan refugee and landscaper Ernesto Delaroca, also 32, donated a kidney to his sister Sandra, 19, a restaurant worker. The stories of how the Farber and Delaroca families made their separate journeys to the operating room offers insight into the hazards and inequities of a cobbled-together system that each year leaves more than 98,000 gravely ill Americans on the waiting list for a life-saving transplant. Steve Farber's experience inspired him to write *On the List* with Harlan Abrahams. They examine the ethical, legal, political, and economic debates over organ transplant policies, expose the gray market for transplants in Third World countries, and propose solutions to one of the world's most pressing health issues. An informative and inspiring guide to those who face transplant operations, the book is also a call to reform a system that is truly, and fatally, flawed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an avid reader of any medical material related to personal experiences, I was excited about reading this book. Also of interest to me was the prospect of needing a change in our current organ transplant system in the United States. However, the author's frequent comments regarding his social status detracted from this book. I noticed it early on in the book but wanted to give it a chance

and was waiting for the point where Steve Farber would bring the immigrant donor also highlighted in this book, further into the storyline. He did so but in what seemed to be a token pattern, as if he wanted to find a connection between himself and Ernesto in their common link in organ transplantation, but never could quite bridge the gap between the class lines. Really, Ernesto's social status was irrelevant in many ways because both he and Steve ended up involved in transplantation regardless of income. But Mr. Farber never failed to mention the limo he arrived in, or dining with Bill Clinton or the VIP treatment he received at the hospital. Halfway through the book I was ready to be done but was still waiting for his awakening and letting go of his obvious narcissism. It never happened. From downscale Lakewood, Colorado to his million-dollar lifestyle, the "moral of the story" was lost. There was some useful information regarding organ transplantation but overall, the picture of a wealthy man on his journey to receiving a kidney only reminded me of why I am glad I am not in his social class wining and dining with his wife Cindy who couldn't see the forest for the trees in the gift of life her son wanted to give his father. I actually felt bad for Steve that the apparent superficial nature of his wife and friends was leading him to buy a kidney so as not to put his son in danger as a donor.

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