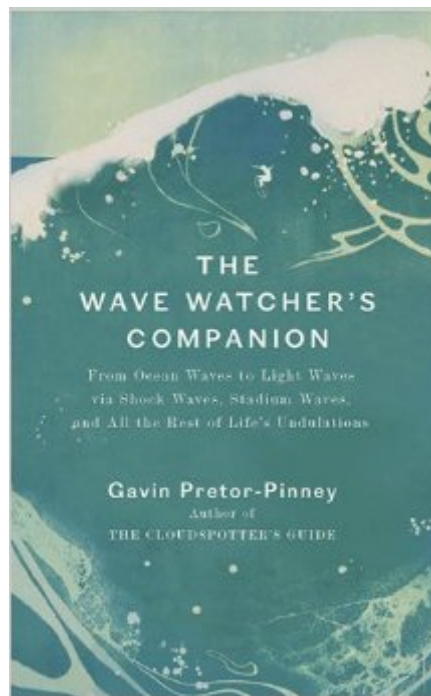


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# The Wave Watcher's Companion: From Ocean Waves To Light Waves Via Shock Waves, Stadium Waves, And All The Rest Of Life's Undulations



## Synopsis

Get ready for a global journey like none other—a passionate enthusiast's exploration of waves that begins with a massive surfable cloud and ends with the majestic Pacific ocean, making side trips along the way to reveal the ups and downs of brain waves, radio waves, infrared waves, microwaves, shock waves, light waves, and much more.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a great read! The author's sense of humor is terrific; along with the vivid descriptions of all types of waves, little-known facts emerge about every-day occurrences, like why there is a delay on some phone calls, why waves spread out after going through a small opening, and on and on. It is simply a delightful read, and the humor comes out when least expected. As the back of the book jacket claims, "Charming...spills over with strange and interesting asides." Boston Globe. Kirkus Reviews states "Lively, literate, and great fun to read." I am buying copies for two friends who love the sea and reading!

I bought this used almost on a whim. I've read books on ocean waves, oceanography, I kayak and study waves, this book covers a lot of familiar topics and details, adding things I'd never known, and describing aspects of waves in new and interesting ways. It's a joy to read.

I absolutely adore this book! It has answered a thousand questions ( as well as posing more, of course ) in a funny, user-friendly style. For me, the best thing a book can do is to look at the everyday, common things, and show the astonishing, miraculous and fascinating way they come

into being. This book does this over and over. I will not part with my copy; I do heartily recommend it and am planning on finding the author's Cloud Spotting Guide ASAP. Soom as I can find Mr. Pretor-Pinney's address I will send a sincere and personal "Thank you!" S.L.

This book describes different appearances of the phenomena of waves, in water, air, the earth, the esophagus, the brain, the electromagnetic field, traffic and spectators in a stadium. There is not an obvious definition of what a wave is; often people give imprecise verbal definitions like "a disturbance through a medium", which are similar to Euclid's inadequate definition of a straight line. ("A straight line is a line which lies evenly with the points on itself.") A book like the present one is the best way to sort out what waves are, by having different examples displayed to us of things that seem like waves. The world would be better off if there were more books like this: that talk about a phenomenon without on the one hand being technical and without on the other hand giving a vulgarization so detached from what actually happens as to teach the reader nothing (like so many popularizations of relativity theory and quantum mechanics).

I have not finished yet but so far as I can see this is truly a science book so the info is great but hard to digest. I had to read many passages more than once. Great info though and worth having if you are a water enthusiast.

I enjoyed this book for the knowledge of all types of waves that surround us, not just the ocean waves, and for the scientific comedic philosophizing, which I like to think included just a dash of agnosticism hidden in the mix underneath Pinney's awe for the universe around him. Swell reading indeed ;-)

This is the second copy of the book that I have purchased. I loaned/gave my first copy to a friend. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and think that the author has a great sense of humor as well as a good understanding of waves. I wish that I would have read it as a high school text.

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