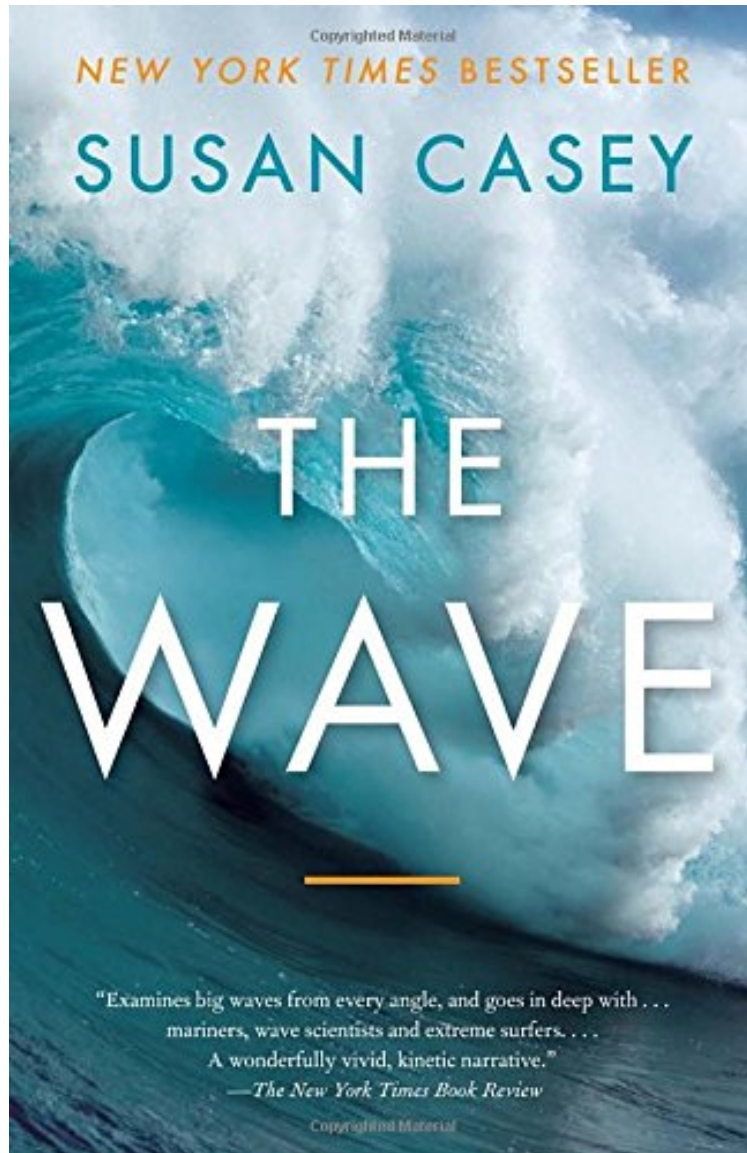


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# The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean

Susan Casey

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**Susan Casey : The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Best book I've read this year. By ealovitt Susan Casey embeds her

chilling climatological forecasts into a scintillating web of surfing stories, and other tales of adventure and tragedy on the high seas. I couldn't help comparing "The Wave" to Pulitzer-prize-winning author, John McPhee's fascinating nonfiction books on topics ranging from atom bombs to oranges. Both authors are deeply knowledgeable about their subject matter, and both perform amazing riffs on a wide range of topics--in Casey's case, everything to do with oceanic waves, ranging from big-wave surfing to Lloyd's of London insurance practices. Both authors also become physically involved in their subject. Casey becomes a surfing groupie, and travels all over the world with her new friends, searching for the next big wave. We meet some very interesting people along the way: mariners; extreme surfers; weather forecasters; and scientists. In the latter category is Bill McGuire (aka Disasterman), Director of the Aon Benfield UCL Hazard Research Center, volcanologist, Benfield Professor of geophysical hazards at the University of London, and author of the books *Apocalypse* and *Global Catastrophes: A Very Short Introduction* (Very Short Introductions). His section of this book (entitled "Wave Good-Bye") is where Casey works in some serious predictions about how the changing climate is going to affect (among other things) wave height: "McGuire had a lot to say about waves, unimaginably large waves." Nevertheless, the surfers almost steal the show. Here is the author's description of someone who looked like a surfer: "He had the same disheveled cool, a hint of a hell-raising look in his eyes, and a movie star smile." Better yet, here is her description of a wave called 'Mavericks' off of the California coast: "The Aleutian swells thunder three thousand miles across the North Pacific, barging past the continental shelf until their progress is rudely halted by a thick rock ledge...When it hits this shallower depth, the wave energy rears up, shrieking and screaming, forming the clawed hand that is Mavericks." Mavericks is one of the many waves that the surfers in this book ride...or die under. As if the sheer size and ferocity of the wave wasn't daunting enough, "Mavericks was located at the southern end of a region known as the Red Triangle because more attacks by great white sharks had occurred there than anywhere else on earth." The descriptions of Big Water in this book are so harrowing, that I cancelled my cruise around world (that I was going to take if I hit it big in the lotto). This author can write! She dumps the reader into the midst of Nature's most dangerous places in a way I haven't experienced since I read "Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster" by Jon Krakauer. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable To This Beach Lover. By CMBeachgirlI highly enjoyed this book, I thought her use of big wave surfers kept a book about waves lively. She had my attention the entire book, I never knew what would happen next. Would have been nice with more info about rogues, just because I find them interesting, but it turns out even the experts don't know a whole lot. For a while I thought she had a crush on Laird Hamilton, but gradually assumed she just admired all big wave surfers. She was very knowledgeable about their sport, the ups and downs. This book is about two subjects--big wave surfing and the science of waves. The subjects intertwine of course and I think she did it masterfully. Sure she uses flowery language a time or two, but I took that in stride. Maybe women just like more adjectives in their non-fiction than men. She also warned about climate change and the changing of storms. There was much knowledge to be gleaned in this one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun and educational read. By JGThe blends wave science with big wave surfing constantly going back and forth. May sound confusing but it works well sharing big wave surf stories with science and big wave analysis. Nothings boring... the science gives you depth and appreciation while the surfing blends in excitement and thoughtfulness about the subject. The author goes pretty deep in each direction, and she was able to gain access to information that I felt privileged to get to know about. Book goes fast, and you will walk away with much more knowledge about big waves than you started the book with.

A New York Times Notable Book A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year In her astonishing new book Susan Casey captures colossal, ship-swallowing waves, and the surfers and scientists who seek them out. For legendary surfer Laird Hamilton, hundred foot waves represent the ultimate challenge. As Susan Casey travels the globe, hunting these monsters of the ocean with Hamilton's crew, she witnesses first-hand the life or death stakes, the glory, and the mystery of impossibly mammoth waves. Yet for the scientists who study them, these waves represent something truly scary brewing in the planet's waters. With inexorable verve, *The Wave* brilliantly portrays human beings confronting nature at its most ferocious.

From Publishers Weekly Casey, O magazine editor-in-chief, travels across the world and into the past to confront the largest waves the oceans have to offer. This dangerous water includes rogue waves south of Africa, storm-born giants near Hawaii, and the biggest wave ever recorded, a 1,740 foot-high wall of wave (taller than one and a third Empire State Buildings) that blasted the Alaska coastline in 1958. Casey follows big-wave surfers in their often suicidal attempts to tackle monsters made of H<sub>2</sub>O, and also interviews scientists exploring the danger that global warming will bring us more and larger waves. Casey writes compellingly of the threat and beauty of the ocean at its most dangerous. We get vivid historical reconstructions and her firsthand account of being on a jet-ski watching surfers risk their lives. Casey also smoothly translates the science of her subject into engaging prose. This book will fascinate anyone who has even the slightest interest in the oceans that surround us. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Part science lesson and part adrenaline rush, *The Wave* is an intense thrill ride that manages to take a broad look at oversized, potentially devastating waves. The critics praised

Casey's eloquent writing and jaw-droppingly vivid descriptions of chasing--or trying desperately to steer clear of--these aquatic behemoths. Although the Los Angeles Times craved more technical information, and the New York Times Book considered the combination of science and surfing a bit odd, most critics brushed such concerns aside. Casey's entertaining and enlightening exploration of the world's giant waves will leave readers with "a healthy respect for the power of these waves" (Los Angeles Times) and a chilling sense of how little we truly know about the oceans that surround us. From Booklist Drawing on interviews with mariners, insurers, scientists, and surfers, Casey writes up a fascinating compendium of information about the scientists specialties and the global shipping industry's concern with high-amplitude waves, which apparently sink dozens of vessels annually. But her exciting passages concern the surfers, specifically. These are the thrill-seeking maniacs who ride breakers 60 feet and higher, emerging gloriously from the curl or vanishing in bone-breaking wipeouts. From tow-surfing stars such as Laird Hamilton, credited with inventing the sport, Casey relays both the characteristics of titanic waves and, more to the ineffable point, why surfers attempt to ride them. Journeying to surfer hangouts like Maui, Tahiti, and California, Casey intensely captures surfers' euphoric triumphs alongside giant waves' punishment, sometimes capital, of any mistake. Stoking the ever-popular topic of extremities of nature, Casey imparts awe in her rogue-wave connection of commerce, science, and sport. --Gilbert Taylor