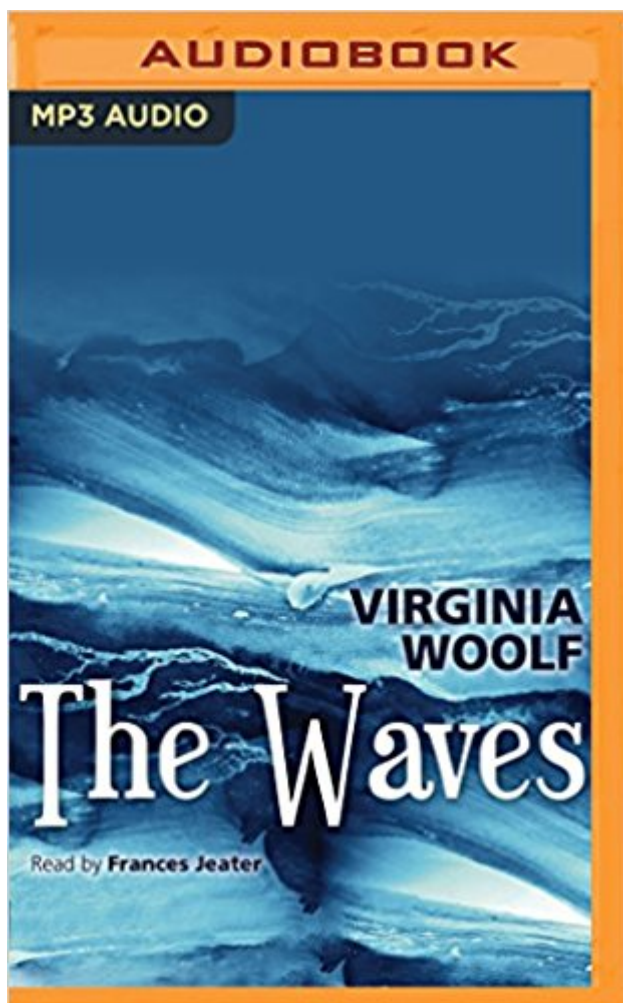


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# The Waves



## Synopsis

The *Waves* traces the lives of six friends from childhood to old age. It was written when Virginia Woolf was at the height of her experimental literary powers, and she allows the characters to tell their own stories, through powerful, poetic monologues. By listening to these voices struggling to impose order and meaning on their lives we are drawn into a literary journey which stunningly reproduces the complex, confusing, and contradictory nature of human experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Together these ten volumes make an attractive and reasonably priced (the volumes vary between L3.99 and L4.99) working edition of Virginia Woolf's best-known writing. One can only hope that their success will prompt World's Classics to add her other essays to the series in due course.'

— *Review of English Studies*, Vol. XLV, No. 178, May '94 (Elisabeth Jay, Westminster College, Oxford)

) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This edition will be the most extensive and authoritative, the most fully collated, scrupulously researched and explicated text available to scholars to date, and for considerable time to come. Based on the first edition of Woolf's most challenging novel, this volume is an essential purchase for libraries and scholars. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The *Waves* is a 20th century prose poetic study in childhood relationships. The children are like the author very intelligent and insightful and what a reader takes away is the poetic musical language of

remembrances and psychological discoveries of recall from youth and the compounded effect of later life. If you like the language of youth and the discoveries of heartfelt sentiment this may be appealing to you. If you're looking for standard prose storytelling this will not be an easy read. Sample the text and at least try engaging Woolf's extraordinary mind as she unveils the remembrances of the wave-like encounters of current and past friends from childhood. A relatively short work makes the reading of this experimental novel even more approachable for someone new to psychologically complex studies of time recollected from youth.

Woolf's writing engages readers in a rhythmic oneness with the universe, as if we are rowboats carried about by ceaseless waves. The story is told from six perspectives; it follows three boys and three girls through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The book is about more than just growing up, however. Through these "characters" (Woolf claimed that she intended not to write characters at all) we catch a glimpse of alternating lifestyles and worldviews framed by the vast, unemotional universe. The story explores the value of life and friendships in a cyclical, wavering world.

The writing is absolutely gorgeous. The concepts, themes, and ideas are also wonderful. The story is told from the perspectives of six different characters and the differences between how they see themselves and how they are seen by each other are fascinating and very realistic. The only problem is that not much happens in the story. The writing is so good that not much needs to happen, but I'm sure that some readers will get bored.

In this soliloquy on the inner life of six friends from childhood to the grave, Virginia Woolf takes the reader to a different experience of reading and even being. *The Waves* is not an easy read. It is not for the faint-hearted or for those looking for a rollicking story line but more akin to a poetic reflection in the manner of Proust's *In Remembrance of Things Past*. Interspersed with beautiful descriptions of the sea, there is a haunting prescience of the watery fate of Virginia Woolf. A remarkable book. Try it if you are strong enough!

fine reprint of Woolf's experimental novel. Recommended

An incredibly difficult read. But worth it if you make it through.

I have yet to read anything as brilliant and eloquent and will surely reread. I agree with the theory that Bernard was a manifestation of the other characters and this made it all the more genius.

Unforgettable novel!

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