

The Cloudspotter's Guide: The Science, History, and Culture of Clouds

By Gavin Pretor-Pinney

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Now in paperback: the runaway British bestseller that has cloudspotters everywhere looking up.

Where do clouds come from? Why do they look the way they do? And why have they captured the imagination of timeless artists, Romantic poets, and every kid who's ever held a crayon? Veteran journalist and lifelong sky watcher Gavin Pretor-Pinney reveals everything there is to know about clouds, from history and science to art and pop culture. Cumulus, nimbostratus, and the dramatic and surfable Morning Glory cloud are just a few of the varieties explored in this smart, witty, and eclectic tour through the skies.

Illustrated with striking photographs (including a new section in full-color) and line drawings featuring everything from classical paintings to lava lamps, *The Cloudspotter's Guide* will have enthusiasts, weather watchers, and the just plain curious floating on cloud nine.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
With tongue firmly in cheek and more than a little irony, Pretor-Pinney, founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society, clears up any confusion readers may have about what separates a stratus from a cirrus from a cumulonimbus. He starts at the bottom-that is, at sea level-and discusses the types of clouds that form at each level in the atmosphere. The result is an amusing and remarkably informative jaunt through the heavenly vapors that draws on classical poetry, physics, geekery and pop culture. Despite this improbable mélange, Pretor-Pinney succeeds in fleshing out subtleties and making difficult concepts like convection, advection, condensation and atmospheric optics comprehensible to almost any reader. The author has included dozens of illustrations, cloud photos (including one that looks like two cats dancing and another that resembles Thor hurling a lightning bolt) and diagrams showing the anatomy and lifecycles of clouds. Rounding out the volume are a chapter on the human effects on clouds and a narrative about the author's pursuit of the "Morning Glory," which he calls "the most spectacular cloud in the world." By mixing self-deprecating humor and hard science, Pretor-Pinney makes learning about clouds fun.
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Review
"Charming...spills over with strange and interesting asides."
--*The Boston Globe*

"This book will entice readers of every stripe."
--*The Seattle Times*

"Lively, literate, and great fun to read."
--Kirkus Reviews

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author
Gavin Pretor-Pinney is the co-founder of *The Idler* magazine in England. A former science nerd and a graduate of Oxford University, he has been obsessed with clouds since childhood. His writing has appeared in *The Telegraph*, *The Evening Standard*, and other publications in England, including *The Idler Book of Crap Towns*. Currently living in London, Gavin is the founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeanie Hynes:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want

really feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The actual The Cloudspotter's Guide: The Science, History, and Culture of Clouds is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Wilma Richards:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new details. When you read a publication you will get new information simply because book is one of various ways to share the information as well as their idea. Second, examining a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to others. When you read this The Cloudspotter's Guide: The Science, History, and Culture of Clouds, you can tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a guide.

Chung England:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book The Cloudspotter's Guide: The Science, History, and Culture of Clouds it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

Ronald Johnson:

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