

The Waterboys

Book of Lightning



(W14/Universal) £12.99

The holy run of The Waterboys' 1980s albums – *The Waterboys*, *A Pagan Place*, *This Is the Sea* and *Fisherman's Blues* – couldn't last forever. However, Mike Scott has somehow rediscovered his touch. *Book of Lightning* is almost a fusion of their "big music" and Celtic swing, Steve Wickham's evocative violin recalling the loftier heights of *Fisherman's Blues*. However, there's a new humour, with Scott poking fun at the weary public image of him as residing at the top of a mountain with Pan at one side and Arthur Guinness, at the other, unleashing a succession of killer one-liners. Crucially, he is again writing songs that feel like they have been handed to him from a crack in the clouds. The delirious, heady waltz of *Everybody Takes a Tumble*, salvaged from the *Fisherman's* sessions, is possibly the best song he's completed since 1985's *The Whole of the Moon*. **Dave Simpson**