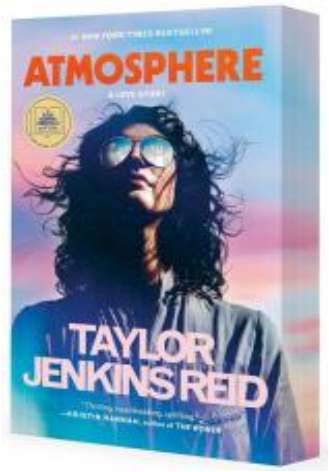
Atmosphere: A Love Story

by Taylor Jenkins Reid



About the Book

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO and DAISY JONES & THE SIX comes an epic new novel set against the backdrop of the 1980s space shuttle program about the extraordinary lengths we go to live and love beyond our limits.

Joan Goodwin has been obsessed with the stars for as long as she can remember. Thoughtful and reserved, Joan is content with her life as a professor of physics and astronomy at Rice University and as aunt to her precocious niece, Frances. That is, until she comes across an advertisement seeking the first women scientists to join NASA?s space shuttle program. Suddenly, Joan burns to be one of the few people to go to space.

Selected from a pool of thousands of applicants in the summer of 1980, Joan begins training at Houston?s Johnson Space Center, alongside an exceptional group of fellow candidates: Top Gun pilot Hank Redmond and scientist John Griffin, who are kind and easygoing even when the stakes are highest; mission specialist Lydia Danes, who has worked too hard to play nice; warmhearted Donna Fitzgerald, who is navigating her own secrets; and Vanessa Ford, the magnetic and mysterious aeronautical engineer, who can fix any engine and fly any plane.

As the new astronauts become unlikely friends and prepare for their first flights, Joan finds a passion and a love she never imagined. In this new light, Joan begins to question everything she thinks she knows about her place in the observable universe.

Then, in December 1984, on mission STS-LR9, it all changes in an instant.

Fast-paced, thrilling and emotional, ATMOSPHERE is Taylor Jenkins Reid at her best: transporting readers to iconic times and places, creating complex protagonists, and telling a passionate and soaring story about the transformative power of love --- this time among the stars.

Discussion Guide

1. Joan dreams of becoming an astronaut in a time when very few women are given the opportunity. What internal strengths does she draw upon during the processes of applying, training and then practicing for this career? Have you ever been in a situation where you were underestimated, or not given equal opportunities? What strengths did you draw upon?

2. Describe Joan?s relationship with her sister, Barbara. What bonds them? What are their fundamental differences?

3. How would you characterize Joan?s relationship with her niece, Frances? What does Joan provide for Frances that Barbara doesn?t? How does this triangle of relationships change over time?

4. ?She didn?t want to lower herself to the game men played,? Joan thinks. ?To be like them. Why would she follow people who were lost?? How do Joan, Vanessa, Lydia and Donna all react differently to being women in a male-dominated field?

5. When Joan does finally make it to space, it?s not what she expected. How does she process the realization that her life?s dream has changed? Have you ever achieved a dream, only to discover you want something different now?

6. ?People say opposites attract, but Joan found this to almost never be true. People just couldn?t see the ways they were drawn to exactly who they feared --- or hoped --- they might be.? Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.

7. Which of the other mission crew members were you most drawn to? Whose arc did you find most moving? Most surprising?

8. If you were making a movie or TV show of ATMOSPHERE, who would you cast in the lead roles?

9. What did you think of the book?s ending? Why do you think the author chose to end the book that way, especially with that final line? What do you imagine for the characters in 10 years?

10. If you?ve read other books by Taylor Jenkins Reid, what themes does ATMOSPHERE share with her previous novels? What sets it apart?

Author Bio

Taylor Jenkins Reid is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novels ATMOSPHERE, CARRIE SOTO IS BACK, MALIBU RISING, DAISY JONES AND THE SIX and THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO, as well as

ONE TRUE LOVES, MAYBE IN ANOTHER LIFE, AFTER I DO and FOREVER, INTERRUPTED. Her books have been chosen by Reese?s Book Club, Read with Jenna, Indie Next, Best of Amazon, and Book of the Month. Her novel, DAISY JONES AND THE SIX, is now a limited series on Prime Video. She lives in Los Angeles.

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