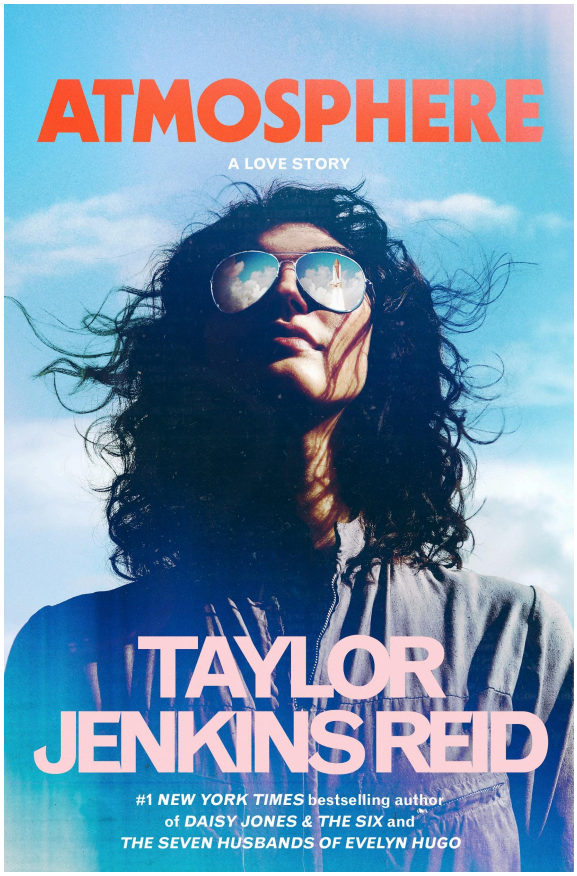


#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER *GOOD MORNING AMERICA* BOOK CLUB PICK From the author of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* and *Daisy Jones & The Six* comes an epic new novel set against the backdrop of the 1980s space shuttle program about the extraordinary lengths we go to live and love beyond our limits.

A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: *Time*, NPR, *People*, *Good Housekeeping, them, Marie Claire, Seattle Times, Book Riot, Library Journal,* Chicago Public Library*, She Reads,* Denver Public Library

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 of 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.

REVIEWS

- **Publishers Weekly:** Reid's transportive latest (after Carrie Soto Is Back) revolves around a forbidden love between two female astronauts in the 1980s. In 1984, a botched satellite deployment by the Navigator space shuttle kills several members of the crew. As the disaster unfolds, capsule communicator Joan Goodwin desperately tries to advise surviving engineer Vanessa Ford from Houston's Johnson Space Center. The narrative then rewinds seven years, to when Joan, a "Goody Two-shoes" astronomer at Rice University, feels a "pull deep down in the layers of her skin" upon learning that NASA is recruiting women for its astronaut corps. While training as a mission specialist, she meets tall, curly-haired Vanessa, an aeronautical engineer who longs to pilot the space shuttle. The two women are drawn to each other and begin a romance, which they keep secret due to NASA's prohibition against "sexual deviation." Their reticence makes the ill-fated 1984 flight even more poignant as Reid keeps the reader in suspense about what happens to Vanessa. Along the way, Reid makes palpable the astronauts' passion for their work and captures in vibrant detail the era's high-stakes and fast-paced shuttle program. The author's fans will find much to enjoy. (Reviewed 04/21/2025) (Publishers Weekly, vol 272, issue 16, p)

- **Library Journal:** * Starred Review * Once again, Reid (Carrie Soto Is Back) shows that her prose has the power to launch. She takes the 1980s NASA space shuttle program to new heights in a novel that explores feminism, sexual identity, and humans' innate desire to find a world bigger than themselves. At the heart of the story is Joan Goodwin, who leaves her quiet life as a physics professor at Rice University when she's selected to train at Houston's Johnson Space Center. There, she prepares for space travel alongside pilots, scientists, mission specialists, and engineers who become like family to her. One of these is Vanessa, a brilliant astronaut who challenges Joan's ideas about love. At the same time, Joan feels anchored to Earth by her family, especially her niece. At the center of the novel is a deadly catastrophe on mission STS-LR9, for which Joan is serving on the ground in Mission Control. The plot unfolds in chapters that move between the STS-LR9 crisis and the years leading up to it, giving glimpses of what happened before that make what's happening in the moment even more gripping. VERDICT: From Reid's tender introductory letter to readers, all the way through the final chapter, this gritty and glorious book challenges what it means to look at the universe from different vantage points, but it never loses sight of the plot's urgency or authenticity of the characters. --Emily Bowles (Reviewed 05/01/2025) (Library Journal, vol 150, issue 5, p86)

- **Kirkus:** * Starred Review * A female astronaut in the 1980s encounters sexism and finds romance as she chases her dreams.Joan Goodwin has always been obsessed with space, which is why she became an astrophysics professor at Rice University. But then, something happens that she's only dreamed about—NASA announces that it's looking for female scientists to join the space program. Joan is accepted on her second try, and

in 1980, she begins training with a group of male and female candidates who, while all brilliant, have a wide range of personalities. Some of the men are sexist and spend most of their time cracking offensive jokes, but Joan finds a friend in kind-hearted pilot Hank Redmond, who gives her plenty of opportunities to learn. Joan finds both camaraderie and competition among the women—there's determined Lydia Danes, who embodies the "I'm not here to make friends" ethos, and the more supportive Vanessa Ford, who quickly becomes one of Joan's most trusted allies. As the group trains together, they begin to feel like a family—and as Joan grows closer to Vanessa, she realizes that life on Earth may contain just as many wonders as the cosmos. The story cuts back and forth between a disaster in 1984 and the story of Joan's journey through the space program. Reid keeps the tension high, making this perhaps her most propulsive novel yet as she balances the drama of Joan's personal life with the fast-paced action of a catastrophe in space. Even with the high-stakes action, the touching and surprising love story is the emotional heart of the book. A heart-pounding race against the clock combined with a love story adds up to a novel that's impossible to put down. (Kirkus Reviews, May 1, 2025)

OTHER RESOURCES

- Author website: https://taylorjenkinsreid.com/
- Atmosphere Book Club Kit (Penguin Random House)
- 🎵 Atmosphere Spotify Playlist
- NPR Author Interview: In 'Atmosphere', Taylor Jenkins Reid imagines the first women astronauts
- YouTube: 'Atmosphere' by Taylor Jenkins Reid is the 'GMA' Book Club pick for June
- YouTube: Taylor Jenkins Reid on The Kelly Clarkson Show
- Time Magazine: How Taylor Jenkins Reid Became a Publishing Powerhouse

---

PROGRAM IDEAS

- **Stargazing party** - Host an after-hours stargazing event, possibly in a local park, if your library doesn't have a good, low-lit outdoor area. Provide binoculars or a telescope and constellation charts. See about a local astronomy club or university leading the event.
- **Women in STEM** - Host a panel of women from STEM professions to speak about their career path and share interesting stories. Professions could include NASA, forensics,

medicine, engineering, chemistry, coding and computer technology, food sciences. Good program for adults and teens.

- **1980s Space/NASA Mixer** - Host an after-hours 80s plus space themed event, featuring 80s music, snacks from that era, themed drinks like "Cosmic Cocktails." Encourage attendees to dress up in 80s or astronaut attire. Have activities like a scavenger hunt for clues hidden within the library, with themes related to the book's plot, or building paper rockets and small science experiments.

- **"Bad Art" Night: Space Edition** - Put out your random craft supplies and some blank art canvases for a low-pressure crafting session where participants create 80s-inspired, space-themed art with whatever supplies are available. Have the participants vote on a winner!

READ-ALIKES

- To the Moon and Back by Eliana Ramage
- The Calculating Stars by Mary Robinette Rowal
- Detour by Jeff Rake and Rob Hart
- Learning Curves by Rachel Lacey
- Station Eternity by Mur Lafferty
- The Mimicking of Known Successes by Malka Older
- Shoot the Moon by Isa Arsen
- Tripping Towards Mars by Richmond Scott
- Notes on Infinity by Austin Taylor
- Worth a Fortune by Sam Ledel
- The Six: The Untold Story of America’s First Women Astronauts by Loren Grush