

BERKLEY

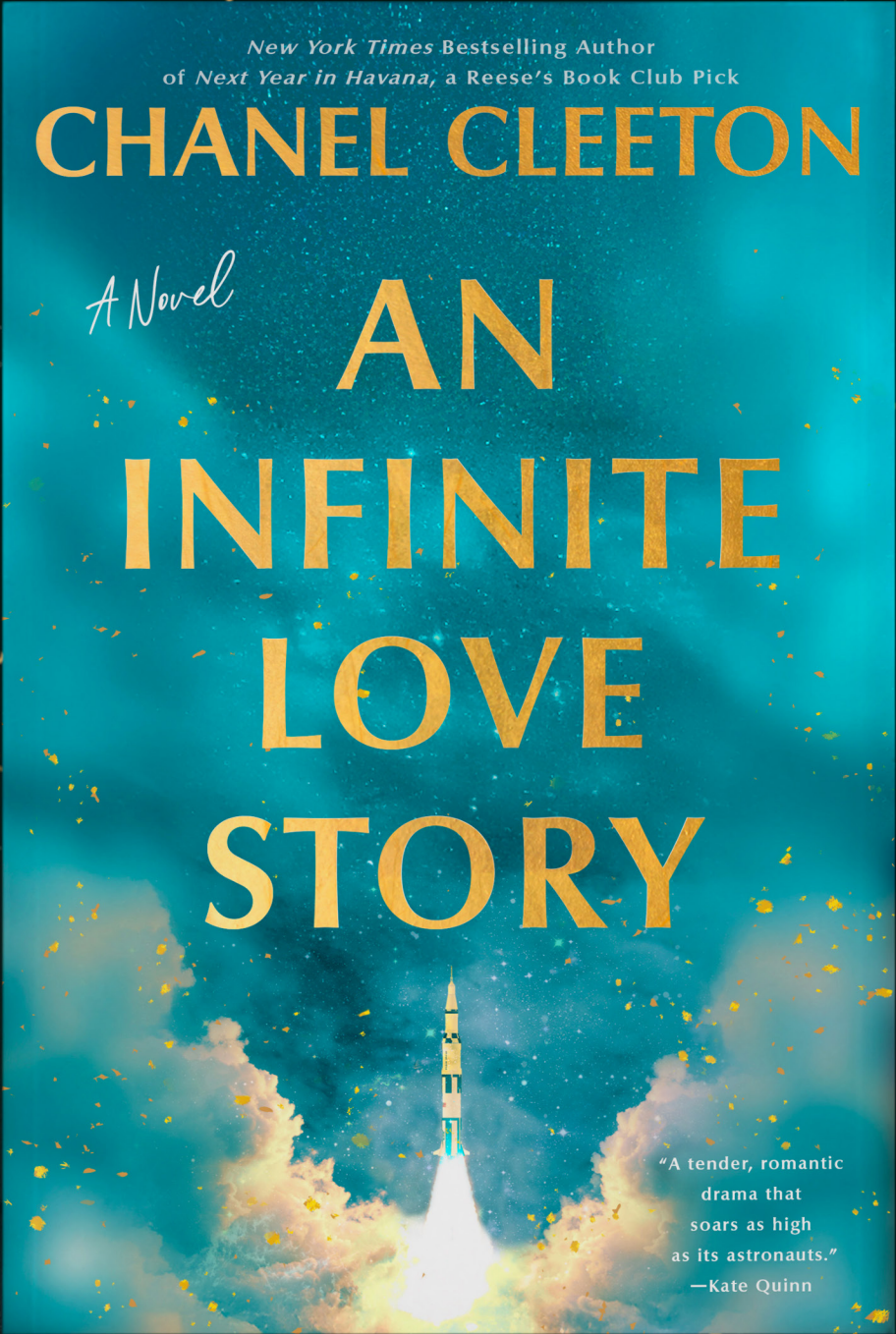
# BOOK CLUB KIT

*New York Times* Bestselling Author  
of *Next Year in Havana*, a Reese's Book Club Pick

CHANEL CLEETON

*A Novel*

# AN INFINITE LOVE STORY



"A tender, romantic  
drama that  
soars as high  
as its astronauts."  
—Kate Quinn

## DEAR READER,

It was one of those nights—my husband and I were trying (rather unsuccessfully) to decide on a movie to watch. We'd been discussing and discarding options for so long that I could feel the evening creeping past the point where I would be able to stay up and actually watch something. I was in the mood for a love story, and he, well, he was in the mood for his version of a love story.

When he suggested we watch *The Right Stuff*, I reluctantly agreed. It was, to be fair, a movie I hadn't seen before, and while the Space Race wasn't my usual choice (I had envisioned something with lots of longing looks between the main characters), he was so excited about it that I agreed. After all, being married to a pilot for as long as I have, you learn to accept a degree of romanticism around aviation and space.


Once the movie started, though, I was surprised by how deeply the story resonated with me. I watched as many of the struggles I faced as a military spouse played out on the screen. And while the challenges they confronted were relatable in many ways, the first astronauts' wives additionally had to contend with the even more daunting and unique experience of navigating the unknown of spaceflight. Not to mention the fact that they became instant celebrities, thrust into a limelight they were unprepared for as their home life and personal choices were avidly dissected by the public. Their courage and strength in the face of so many difficult situations inspired and moved me.

Their stories stayed with me throughout the years, as so often happens for writers. When it came time to think of the idea for my next book, on a brainstorming call with my editor, I decided that I wanted to write an epic love story set across the backdrop of the 1960s Space Race. *An Infinite Love Story* is the story of Vivian Mitchell, whose husband, Joe, loses contact on a fictional mission to the Moon. As Vivian relives their epic love story, fervently hoping for his safe return, she begins receiving messages she believes only Joe could send, and she wonders if their love is stronger than space and time. I hope you enjoy their story!

Thanks for reading!

**CHANEL CLEETON**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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- A vertical rocket is shown launching from the bottom left, ascending towards the top left. It leaves a massive, bright yellow and orange plume of fire and white smoke that fills the lower half of the frame. The background is a dark, starry space with a gradient of blue and green. The rocket itself is white with black and grey details.
1. Were you familiar with the Space Race before you read *An Infinite Love Story*? What was your impression of it? Did you learn anything new that surprised you?
  2. Have you ever watched a space launch either live or on television? What did you think of it?
  3. Do you support space exploration? Why or why not? If given the opportunity, do you think you would want to go to space?
  4. Vivian believes that her career in television provides an opportunity to connect the public through the shared experience of major televised events. Joe similarly believes that going to the Moon will provide hope and inspiration. Are there world events that you remember in your lifetime that created the sense of connection Vivian and Joe aspire to? What memories do you have of these events?
  5. Vivian struggles to be taken seriously as a woman working in television. Did you identify with some of the challenges Vivian faced? Why or why not?
  6. When Vivian initially meets Joe, she doesn't really think he is her type. Little by little, she starts to realize that they have more in common than she thought and her attraction to him deepens. What interests or traits do you think they share? How are they different?

7. Despite the love that they have for each other, Vivian and Joe struggle with navigating their marriage amid the demands of his career in the military and later as an astronaut. Did you identify with some of the challenges they faced? Were you surprised to learn that the divorce rate was so high for members of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs?
8. Vivian talks about her struggles with feeling as though she is somewhat of a celebrity due to the interest in her husband's job. What did you think about the way she was expected to share her grief with the world? Did you understand her point of view? How would you feel if you were put in such a situation?
9. Throughout the novel, Polly and Vivian's friendship is a source of strength for both women as they navigate triumphs and tragedies. What examples of their friendship did you see in the novel? Do you have a friend like that in your life?
10. Joe views space travel as an opportunity to explore the universe around us and to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between space and time. Do you believe time travel is possible? What do you think exists in space?
11. What similarities do you see between Cal's and Joe's characters? What differences? Do you think one is better suited for Vivian's personality?

