

i love you to the moon and back book

i love you to the moon and back book is a beloved children's story that has captured the hearts of families worldwide. Its enchanting narrative, charming illustrations, and heartfelt message make it a timeless gift for young children and a cherished addition to any family library. Whether you're a parent searching for the perfect bedtime story, a grandparent wanting to pass down a treasured book, or an educator seeking a meaningful story to share with students, understanding the essence and significance of the "I Love You to the Moon and Back" book is essential. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the origins of the book, its themes, illustrations, variations, and why it continues to resonate with readers of all ages.

Origins and Background of the Book

Author and Illustrator

The "I Love You to the Moon and Back" book was originally written by author and illustrator Amelia Hepworth. Her gentle storytelling and warm illustrations have endeared her to many families seeking meaningful stories that emphasize love and connection. The book has been illustrated with soft, whimsical artwork that complements its tender message.

Publication and Popularity

Since its first publication, the book has become a bestseller worldwide. Its popularity is driven by its universal themes of love, security, and the bond between caregivers and children. The book's widespread acclaim has led to numerous editions, gift versions, and even themed merchandise.

Core Themes and Messages

The Power of Love

At its heart, the book celebrates an unconditional and enduring love between a parent and a child. It beautifully demonstrates that love is vast, limitless, and always present, regardless of distance or circumstances.

Exploring the Universe and Imagination

The narrative uses the metaphor of traveling to the moon and back to symbolize the vastness of love. It sparks children's imagination, encouraging them to think beyond their

immediate world and dream big.

Reassurance and Security

The story offers comfort and reassurance to children, emphasizing that no matter where they are or what they do, they are loved beyond measure. This message is especially powerful during times of separation, such as starting school or moving to a new home.

Structure and Content of the Book

Storyline Overview

The book follows a simple yet poignant storyline:

- It begins with a parent (or caregiver) expressing love for their child.
- The child responds with their own declaration of love.
- They embark on a playful journey imagining traveling to the moon and back.
- The story concludes with reaffirming love and a comforting message.

Language and Tone

The language used is gentle, rhythmic, and easy for young children to understand. The tone is warm, nurturing, and playful, making it ideal for reading aloud.

Illustrations

The illustrations play a crucial role in conveying emotion and enhancing the story. They feature:

- Soft pastel colors
- Whimsical depictions of the night sky, moon, stars, and cuddly animals
- Expressive characters that evoke warmth and affection

Variations and Editions of the Book

Different Versions

Over the years, numerous editions of "I Love You to the Moon and Back" have been released, including:

- Board books for infants and toddlers

- Hardcover editions for collectors
- Gift editions with special packaging or personalized covers
- Illustrated versions with additional artwork or story variations

Related Books and Spin-offs

Many authors and publishers have created similar themed books inspired by "I Love You to the Moon and Back," emphasizing love, family, and imagination. Some popular spin-offs include:

- Books focusing on different animals expressing love
- Stories about siblings or grandparents sharing love
- Interactive books with flaps or textures to engage young readers

Why the Book Continues to Be a Favorite

Universal Message of Love

The message that love is boundless and everlasting resonates deeply with both children and adults. It reassures children that they are cherished unconditionally.

Perfect for Special Occasions

The book makes an excellent gift for:

1. Birthdays
2. Baby showers
3. Mother's or Father's Day
4. Bedtime routines
5. Newborn gifts or christenings

Educational and Developmental Benefits

Reading "I Love You to the Moon and Back" with children offers opportunities to:

- Develop language and vocabulary
- Encourage imagination and creativity
- Promote emotional bonding
- Teach concepts of love and security

Tips for Reading and Using the Book

Making Reading Time Special

To maximize the impact of the story:

- Create a cozy reading nook with soft lighting and plush cushions
- Use expressive voices and gestures to bring characters to life
- Pause to discuss the illustrations and ask questions like "How do you think the character feels?"
- Follow up with a hug or a loving gesture to reinforce the message

Incorporating the Book into Daily Routines

The book can be part of:

1. Bedtime rituals to foster security and relaxation
2. Morning routines to start the day with love
3. Special occasions or family moments to create lasting memories

Where to Purchase the Book

Online Retailers

Popular platforms such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Book Depository offer a variety of editions, including hardcover, paperback, and gift versions.

Local Bookstores

Supporting local bookstores helps sustain small businesses and often provides personalized service and recommendations.

Specialty Gift Shops and Baby Stores

Many stores carry themed or personalized versions of the "I Love You to the Moon and Back" book, making it a perfect gift.

Conclusion

The "I Love You to the Moon and Back" book remains a symbol of unconditional love and affection across generations. Its simple yet profound message, combined with enchanting illustrations, makes it a must-have in any child's library. Whether used as a bedtime story, a gift, or a tool for emotional connection, this book continues to inspire feelings of love, security, and imagination. By understanding its themes and significance, parents and caregivers can cherish this beautiful story and pass on its heartfelt message for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'I Love You to the Moon and Back' book?

The main theme is expressing limitless love and affection, emphasizing that love is boundless and enduring, no matter the distance or circumstances.

Who is the author of 'I Love You to the Moon and Back'?

The book was written by Amelia Hepworth and illustrated by Tim Warnes.

Is 'I Love You to the Moon and Back' suitable for young

children?

Yes, it is a popular children's picture book, perfect for young kids to learn about love and bonding.

What age group is 'I Love You to the Moon and Back' intended for?

The book is mainly aimed at preschool and early elementary-aged children, typically ages 0-8.

Are there any special editions or versions of 'I Love You to the Moon and Back'?

Yes, there are various editions including hardcover, paperback, and special gift editions, some with extra illustrations or personalized options.

How can parents use 'I Love You to the Moon and Back' to bond with their children?

Parents can read the book aloud, discuss its themes of love, and use it as a bedtime story to foster emotional connection.

Has 'I Love You to the Moon and Back' won any awards or recognitions?

While it is highly popular and beloved among readers, specific awards may vary by edition, but it is widely recognized as a cherished children's book.

Additional Resources

I Love You to the Moon and Back Book: A Heartfelt Exploration of Love, Connection, and Timeless Sentiment

The phrase "I love you to the moon and back" has become a cherished expression of deep affection, capturing the boundless nature of love that transcends distance and time. This sentiment has inspired countless books, stories, and heartfelt messages, but few have achieved the emotional resonance and universal appeal of the beloved picture book titled I Love You to the Moon and Back. Whether gifted to a child, a partner, or a loved one, this book exemplifies the power of words and illustrations to convey love in its purest form. In this guide, we will delve into the origins, themes, illustrations, and cultural impact of I Love You to the Moon and Back, offering a comprehensive analysis for fans, parents, educators, and literary enthusiasts alike.

The Origins and Popularity of I Love You to the Moon and Back

The Phrase as a Cultural Phenomenon

The phrase "I love you to the moon and back" originated as a poetic expression of immense love, often used by parents and caregivers to reassure children of their unwavering affection. It encapsulates the idea of love being vast, infinite, and unending — a journey that extends beyond the physical realm into the universe itself.

From Popular Saying to a Children's Classic

While the phrase predates the book, *I Love You to the Moon and Back* popularized it as a literary and visual medium. The book, first published in 2017 by author and illustrator Amelia Hepworth and illustrated by Tim Warnes, quickly gained popularity among families and educators. Its compelling combination of heartfelt words and charming illustrations made it a go-to gift for newborns, birthdays, and special occasions.

The Core Themes of *I Love You to the Moon and Back*

1. Unconditional Love

At its heart, the book emphasizes unconditional love — a love that remains constant regardless of circumstances. It reassures children and readers that love is limitless, resilient, and enduring.

2. Exploration and Curiosity

Through the narrative of a parent and child exploring the universe, the story encourages curiosity about the world and beyond. It sparks imagination about celestial bodies, space, and the universe, fostering a sense of wonder.

3. Bonding and Connection

The book highlights the deep bond between parent and child, illustrating that love and connection provide comfort, security, and joy.

4. Growth and Adventure

By depicting the parent and child embarking on an imaginary journey, the narrative promotes growth, adventure, and discovery as integral parts of life and love.

Analyzing the Illustrations and Design

Visual Style and Aesthetic Appeal

Tim Warnes' illustrations are characterized by their warm, gentle, and inviting style. The artwork employs soft pastel colors, expressive characters, and whimsical space-themed imagery that appeals to children and adults alike.

Use of Space and Imagery

The illustrations feature:

- Celestial bodies like moons, stars, and planets that symbolize vastness and wonder.
- The parent and child engaging in imaginative play, floating among stars, and exploring the universe.
- Cozy scenes that evoke feelings of safety and love.

Typography and Layout

The text is often integrated seamlessly with the illustrations, using playful fonts that add to the book's whimsical and tender tone. The layout guides the reader's eye smoothly across the pages, enhancing engagement.

The Narrative Structure and Literary Devices

Simple, Rhythmic Text

The language is straightforward yet poetic, employing rhyme and rhythm to make the reading experience engaging and memorable. For example:

"I love you to the moon and back,
To the stars and beyond, on a cosmic track."

Repetition

Repetition reinforces the central message of boundless love, making it accessible for young readers and memorable for all.

Personification and Imagination

Characters—such as the parent and child—are personified in their adventures, and the universe becomes a playground for imagination, fostering emotional connection and creativity.

The Impact and Uses of I Love You to the Moon and Back in Different Contexts

As a Gift and Keepsake

This book is frequently given as a gift for:

- Births and baptisms
- Birthdays
- Graduations
- Reassurance during difficult times

Its universal message of love makes it suitable for all ages and relationships.

Educational Tool

Teachers and parents use the book to:

- Teach children about space and astronomy in a gentle way
- Discuss emotions, love, and relationships
- Encourage reading and literacy through rhythmic, engaging language

Emotional and Psychological Benefits

The comforting themes can:

- Provide reassurance to anxious children
- Foster emotional bonding
- Promote positive self-esteem and security

Critical Reception and Cultural Significance

Positive Reviews and Popularity

Critics and readers praise *I Love You to the Moon and Back* for its heartfelt message, beautiful illustrations, and ability to connect emotionally across generations. Its widespread use in homes and classrooms attests to its cultural impact.

Influence on Popular Culture

The phrase and the book have inspired:

- Merchandise (toys, mugs, apparel)
- Social media campaigns sharing love and appreciation
- Adaptations and similar stories in the children's literature genre

Enduring Appeal

The timeless nature of its theme ensures that *I Love You to the Moon and Back* remains relevant, cherished, and influential.

Final Thoughts: Why *I Love You to the Moon and Back* Continues to Touch Hearts

The enduring appeal of *I Love You to the Moon and Back* lies in its simple yet profound message: love is vast, unconditional, and everlasting. Its masterful combination of poetic language, enchanting illustrations, and universal themes make it more than just a children's book — it is a symbol of affection that resonates with people of all ages. Whether reading it aloud to a young child at bedtime or sharing it with a loved one during a special moment, the book offers a gentle reminder of the depth and reach of love.

Summary Checklist for Appreciating I Love You to the Moon and Back

- Understand the origins of the phrase and its significance in expressing love.
- Recognize the key themes: unconditional love, exploration, connection, growth.
- Appreciate the illustrations' role in conveying warmth, wonder, and intimacy.
- Use the book as a tool for education, bonding, and emotional reassurance.
- Celebrate its cultural impact and enduring popularity.

Whether as a gift, a reading experience, or a source of inspiration, I Love You to the Moon and Back stands as a testament to the universal language of love, reminding us that no matter how far we go, love remains within reach — to the moon and back.

[I Love You To The Moon And Back Book](#)

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back Amelia Hepworth, 2017-09-05 Show your child just how strong your love is every minute of the day! Features a To and From personalization page, making this an ideal gift for baby showers, birthdays, and new parents. Now in a tall padded board book format! The sun rises, and a bear and cub begin their day together. They splash in the water, climb mountains, watch the colorful lights in the shimmering sky, and play with friends. They show their love for each other by touching noses, chasing each other, and, of course, hugging and snuggling before bed. · A sweet book for babies and toddlers ages 0-3 · Perfect Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, baby showers, birthdays, and new parents · Includes a To and From personalization page in the front of the book, making this heartwarming book an ideal gift

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back, 2020

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back All Year Long Amelia Hepworth, 2023-11-07 In this follow-up to the best-selling I Love You to the Moon and Back, a bear and cub experience the seasons and celebrate their love that stays strong all year long. This sweet story that follows on the best-selling I Love You to the Moon and Back is a warm celebration of the love between parent and child. In spring, the cub marvels at the way the new plants grow; summer brings hot days of playing under the sun; in fall, the two crunch in leaves that have fallen from the trees; and when winter comes around again, the snowflakes cheer the winter skies as they fall asleep beneath the Moon's light. This is the perfect book to share with a little one at bedtime. Sweet, year-round adventures of Big Bear and Little Bear, stars of the best-selling I Love You to the Moon and Back, by Amelia Hepworth and illustrated by Tim Warnes The perfect picture book for children ages 3 to 7 Perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, or any day!

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back Kari Carr, 2022-11 Little Mouse's family wants him to know how very much he's loved. They've come up with a variety of fun ways to tell him! But...what does love really mean? I Love You to the Moon and Back is a delightful rhyming picture book where the concept of love is presented to children in a relatable way. With whimsical illustrations and charming characters, it's an enchanting expression of unconditional love! Inside this book, children can find a list of things they can look for, learn the different phases of the moon, watch the lifecycle of the Luna Moth, use this book to express their (or your) feelings for someone, and witness a growing friendship between a Ladybug and a Snail. There are also lesson plans to go along with the book for teachers or homeschooling parents. Curl up with your child and read I Love You to the Moon and Back together and feel all the feels!

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back Notebook

Brahim Moumen, 2021-10-30 This I Love You To The Moon And Back book is the perfect way to say I love you. .good quality cover .120 pages .8.5×11 inches

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back 2 Book Set

Amelia Hepworth, 2025-10-14 An attractive boxed set for children ages 2-5 featuring the best-selling I Love You to the Moon and Back and I Love You Forever and a Day from the talented team of author Amelia Hepworth and illustrator Tim Warnes. Packaged in a sturdy slipcase that's ideal for gift-giving! This attractive boxed set for children ages 2-5 features Tiger Tales' best-selling board book I Love You to the Moon and Back and I Love You Forever and a Day from the talented team of author Amelia Hepworth and illustrator Tim Warnes. The gender-neutral text in each book includes sweet, uplifting messages of love between parent and child all during the day and night. Packaged in a sturdy slipcase that's ideal for gift-giving! Show your child just how strong your love is every minute of the day and night with these gender-neutral board books that feature sweet, gentle rhymes. A bear and cub spend their days and nights together splashing in the water, climbing trees, exploring mountains, visiting friends, and singing songs as they express their love for one another. Packaged in a sturdy slipcase, this is an ideal gift for holidays, baby showers, birthdays, and new parents.

i love you to the moon and back book: *I Love You to the Moon and Back* Julie Gallagher, Jane Schnitker, 2009-01-01

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back Sandra

Magsamen, 2020-12 Rhyming text celebrates how much children are loved by their parents.

i love you to the moon and back book: Love You to the Moon and Back... Why I. Love You Books, 2018-02-22 Give this amazing gift to the one you love for less than the cost of an expensive card! Fill in the blanks of this journal and let your words bring light to someone you care about. With plenty of space and a fun design, let the one you love know why you love them to the moon and back! This is sure to be a perfect memorable gift, one they will cherish for a lifetime!*Not relationship specific so could even be given to mom or dad from child, or to child from mom or dad, or anyone else you love.*

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back sarra flowers,

2021-10-20 This I Love You To The Moon And Back book is the perfect way to say I love you. Whether you are looking for a notebook to gift for your daughter, son, grandparent, mom, dad, aunt, uncle, sibling or friend this cute I love you to the moon and back gift is something they can make good use of. page:120

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back Notebook loua loua, 2021-04-14 I Love You to the Moon and Back notebook size :6*9page : 110

i love you to the moon and back book: I Love You to the Moon and Back , 2016-09-08

'Love knows not distance; it hath no continent; its eyes are for the stars.' Gilbert Parker Love can truly make you feel out of this world. This delightful book, packed with swoony statements and heartfelt quotations from romantics old and new, is the perfect way to say, 'I love you to the moon and back.'

i love you to the moon and back book: *The Fit Foodie Meal Prep Plan* Sally O'Neil,

2020-01-14 The practical three-step guide to filling your fridge with healthy ready-to-eat meals so you can have delicious food even on your busiest days! The fuel you put in your body is the first step towards achieving the healthy lifestyle you've been craving. Cooking at home, or better yet, healthy meal prepping, not only saves time but is a key factor to overall wellness. With The Fit Foodie Meal Prep Plan, you will master the three steps to successfully fill your fridge with flavorful options for every meal of the day. Whether you are on the go or are looking for a quick meal in, these steps take the stress of cooking out of your day. The three steps include: -Step 1 is basic prep mastery—think quick baked salmon, herby roast chicken, spiralized veggie noodles, or an assortment of basic dressings. -Step 2 shows you how to pack your freezer and pantry with batch-cooked healthy staples, such as fruit crumble, a simple curry base, and sweet potato muffins. -Step 3 is where it all

comes together. Assemble utterly decadent and completely healthy meals, such as chia pudding with berries, salted cinnamon granola, boiled eggs with paleo bread, and more! This essential guide is designed to help you make the most of your days so you can spend less time in the kitchen cooking while still staying on track with your health goals!

i love you to the moon and back book: How to Make Anything in an Air Fryer: Easy Dinners! Hayley Dean, 2024-08-15 THE INSTANT SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER - from hugely popular @hayleys.world Not sure what to cook tonight? Air fry it. Discover 100 quick, easy and flavour-packed recipes in this must-have cookbook for anyone with an air fryer. From 20-minute meals for busy weekdays, to Friday night fakeaways, weekend favourites, lighter options (and some puddings for those who like something sweet!), this a comprehensive collection of main meals that'll ensure you always have inspiration for what to make next. With every recipe using easy-to-follow instructions, UK measurements, and ingredients you can easily find in your supermarket, it's never been easier to find new delicious dishes and twists on popular classics to make in your air fryer. So, whether you're an air fryer beginner or have had your appliance for a while, here are the properly tasty meals everyone will love and that you'll keep coming back to time and time again. Sunday Times Bestseller August 2024

i love you to the moon and back book: One More Hug Megan Alexander, 2019-11-12 From Inside Edition's national correspondent Megan Alexander comes a heartwarming picture book in the tradition of *The Wonderful Things You Will Be* that shows us there's always time for one more hug as a young boy starts his day and his journey through life. A tree branch tapping on a window, a pretend sword breaking in two, the skreeeetch of a school bus door: one more hug by mom is always needed to comfort and reassure a young boy that he has the inner confidence to carry on. As time passes, and he outgrows his childhood fears, he returns the favor by giving his mother one more hug as he goes on his way. This timeless tale of unconditional love and comfort for an anxious young boy as he leaves the nest and starts his journey through life is a perfect story for mothers to share with their sons to show them that it's okay to have fears and needs—even as they get older—and it's okay to share those feelings with the people who love them.

i love you to the moon and back book: Falling for the Rookie: A Never Say Never Football Romance (Book 4) Carina Rose, 2023-02-15 People rarely catch me off guard. I'm Collin St. James, after all, starting wide receiver for the Virginia Thunder, and playing football has kept me on my toes. But nothing could have prepared me to mentor our newest teammate, kicker Charlie Nicholson. I wasn't caught off guard because I had to take someone under my wing, or because Charlie was easily banging sixty-yard kicks through the uprights. It happened when the rookie's silver helmet came off and long blonde hair spilled out. Completely baffled, I edged closer and took in the prettiest blue eyes I'd ever seen. Charlie wasn't only a complete knockout, she was also my younger sister's closest friend, and when she smiled at me, I knew right then and there I was in serious trouble. The last thing I needed was a distraction, but thanks to my gorgeous new teammate—and, to my surprise, my roommate—that was exactly what I got.

i love you to the moon and back book: Red Storm Vanessa Y. Reed, 2016-12-06 *Red Storm* by Vanessa Y. Reed The author Vanessa Y. Reed was inspired to write *Red Storm* by God through His Holy Spirit. She clearly remembers the day God spoke to her, sitting at work and feeling empty because she just lost her mom. God said to the author, "Write a book," and the author looked puzzled - she knew it was God's voice and His prompting that was leading her, but why write a book? The author asked God, "Write a book about what?" God replied, "About your life." The author felt she didn't want her life on display and, furthermore, who would be interested in hearing about a survivor of molestation, domestic violence and drug addiction? The author asked God, "What do I say?" God said, "Tell the truth." The author asked God, "Where do I start?" God said, "From the beginning." *Red Storm* is inspired by true and actual events. Writing this book was very painful. So many memories were brought to the surface. Having been beaten, battered, abused, feeling hopeless, and wanting to die, the author cried out to God. At one point while writing this book, the author could actually remember the smell of one of her molester's cigarette-stench breath. Some of

the memories made the author cry while writing this book. The author now understands why God had her write her life story. Mainly to help those who are still suffering especially in silence and to let others know that if you seek God, He will answer your prayers. He promised He would never leave nor forsake us. This book is a living testament to the Grace, Mercy, and favor God gives over our lives. If one life is changed or touched by the author's testimony then she's touched many.

i love you to the moon and back book: Beyond Goodbye Zoë Clark-Coates, 2019-11-28

Beyond Goodbye guides you through your darkest days of suffering and offers hope for your future... Grief can leave us feeling alone and lost in the world, not knowing where to turn for help. And yet grief is one of the few certainties in life - it is impossible to experience love without suffering loss. Leading grief expert Zoë Clark-Coates examines the different losses we may endure in our lives, and provides the much-needed support that helps you navigate your own path through loss. From losing loved ones - parents, partners, children, siblings, family members and friends - to answering the most common questions that are asked in this time of mourning and beyond, Zoe tackles topics that are rarely discussed but essential to address. Beyond Goodbye balances practical advice with personal stories and emotional support. It explores common myths around loss, and offers advice for those supporting the bereaved. Zoe's caring and compassionate guide includes a unique 60 day support plan to guide you on your way. Beyond Goodbye will be a beacon of hope to all who read it.

i love you to the moon and back book: Creative Cookie Decorating Emily Hutchinson, 2019-10-01 "I've never seen someone decorate a cookie better, and I've never tasted better cookies. . ." —Debbie Matenopoulos, cohost, Hallmark Home & Family "Talk about gorgeous. This is a gorgeous book." —Lance Bass An instant classic containing Emily Hutchinson's never before shared cookie recipe! Emily Hutchinson, of The Hutch Oven, has spent years mastering the art of buttercream-frosted sugar cookies—and now she's ready to share her secrets for creating her picture-perfect (and delicious) sweets. Here Emily will take you through the four seasons with a series of cookies for each, all while sharing her story—how she struggled after her young daughter's death and later triumphed in the kitchen, turning pain into purpose. Relatable, passionate, and honest, Emily presents a collection of recipes and tips that will make you fall in love with her style and technique as well as the process of frosting traditional cut-out cookies that people will rave about for years to come. Creative Cookie Decorating is unlike other cookie cookbooks because of Emily's ability to elevate the typical cookie into a masterpiece that looks "too good to eat" but is too delicious not to. Recipes include: Classic sugar cookie Gluten-free sugar cookie Dairy-free sugar cookie Chocolate sugar cookie Red velvet cookie Crusting buttercream Dairy-free buttercream Honey glaze Berry buttercream And more! Through hundreds of detailed, step-by-step photographs, you'll learn how to roll, cut out, and create 100 different cookie designs as well as become familiar with the necessary steps to make perfect, smooth-crusting buttercream. In addition to basic, dairy-free, and gluten-free cookie recipes, you'll get easy ideas for transforming your buttercream in flavor and design. With Emily's help, you will be encouraged and inspired to make perfect and beautiful cookies for any event, party, or celebration.

i love you to the moon and back book: To the Moon and Back (Reese's Book Club) Eliana Ramage, 2025-09-02 A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK: "A breathtaking debut about family, identity, and love across generations." —REESE WITHERSPOON "Eliana Ramage will break your heart and take you to the stars. From painfully accurate depictions of adolescence to effortless jumps through time and space—I loved it all." —KILEY REID In this dazzlingly powerful story of family, ambition and belonging, one young woman's obsessive quest to become the first Cherokee astronaut irrevocably alters the fates of the people she loves most. My mother took my sister and me, and she drove through the night to a place she felt a claim to, a place on earth she thought we might be safe. I stopped asking questions. I picked little glass pieces from my sister's hair. I watched the moon. Steph Harper is on the run. When she was five, her mother fled an abusive husband—with Steph and her younger sister in tow—to Cherokee Nation, where she hoped they might finally belong. In response, Steph sets her sights as far away from Oklahoma as she can get, vowing that she will let nothing get in the way of pursuing the rigorous physical and academic training she knows she will

need to be accepted by NASA, and ultimately, to go to the moon. Spanning three decades and several continents, *To the Moon and Back* encompasses Steph's turbulent journey, along with the multifaceted and intertwined lives of the three women closest to her: her sister Kayla, an artist who goes on to become an Indigenous social media influencer, and whose determination to appear good takes her life to unexpected places; Steph's college girlfriend Della Owens, who strives to reclaim her identity as an adult after being removed from her Cherokee family through a challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act; and Hannah, Steph and Kayla's mother, who has held up her family's tribal history as a beacon of inspiration to her children, all the while keeping her own past a secret. In Steph's certainty that only her ambition can save her, she will stretch her bonds with each of these women to the point of breaking, at once betraying their love and generosity, and forcing them to reconsider their own deepest desires in her shadow. Told through an intricately woven tapestry of narrative, *To the Moon and Back* is an astounding and expansive novel of mothers and daughters, love and sacrifice, alienation and heartbreak, terror and wonder. At its core, it is the story of the extraordinary lengths to which one woman will go to find space for herself.

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