



# The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story

By Lily Koppel

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As America's Mercury Seven astronauts were launched on death-defying missions, television cameras focused on the brave smiles of their young wives. Overnight, these women were transformed from military spouses into American royalty. They had tea with Jackie Kennedy, appeared on the cover of "Life" magazine, and quickly grew into fashion icons.

Annie Glenn, with her picture-perfect marriage, was the envy of the other wives; platinum-blond Rene Carpenter was proclaimed JFK's favorite; and licensed pilot Trudy Cooper arrived on base with a secret. Together with the other wives they formed the Astronaut Wives Club, meeting regularly to provide support and friendship. Many became next-door neighbors and helped to raise each other's children by day, while going to glam parties at night as the country raced to land a man on the Moon.

As their celebrity rose and as divorce and tragic death began to touch their lives they continued to rally together, and the wives have now been friends for more than fifty years. "The Astronaut Wives Club" tells the real story of the women who stood beside some of the biggest heroes in American history."

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"The men catapulted into space in the 20<sup>th</sup> century were interesting, sort of. The women they left back on earth were fascinating. . . . A lively account of how the wives coped with fame, fear, [and] loneliness." *People* (A "Great Summer Read" selection)

### **About the Author**

Lily Koppel is the bestselling author of *The Red Leather Diary*. She has written for *The New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Huffington Post*, and *Glamour*.

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