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Infinity

+

One



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Amy Harmon

INFINITY + ONE

*When two unlikely allies become two unwitting outlaws,
will two unforgettable lovers defy unbeatable odds?*

Bonnie Rae Shelby is a superstar. She's rich. She's beautiful. She's impossibly famous.
And Bonnie Rae Shelby wants to die.
Finn Clyde is a nobody. He's broken. He's brilliant. He's impossibly cynical.
And all he wants is a chance at life.

One girl. One boy. An act of compassion. A bizarre set of circumstances.
And a choice – turn your head and walk away, or reach out your hand and risk it all?

With that choice, the clock starts ticking on a man with a past and a girl who can't face the future, counting down the seconds in an adventure riddled with heartbreak and humor, misunderstanding and revelation. With the world against them, two very different people take a journey that will not only change their lives, but may cost them their lives as well.

Infinity + One is a tale of shooting stars and fame and fortune, of gilded cages and iron bars, of finding a friend behind a stranger's face, and discovering love in the oddest of places.



Publication date: June 8, 2014
Genre: Romantic Suspense, Inspirational, Action & Adventure
Recommended for ages: +16



ATTENTION
**THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES SPECIFICS YOU MIGHT WANT TO AVOID
UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THE BOOK.**

CHARACTERS

The love story is centered around Bonnie Rae Shelby and Infinity 'Finn' James Clyde. Do you consider them the only main characters in this novel or do you think there are others who play a pivotal and influential role? If so, who and why?

Do you think the characters were realistically portrayed? Describe these character's personalities, motivations, inner qualities.

How does the way the characters see themselves, differ from how others see them? How do you see the various characters?

What did you think about their attraction to each other? What drew them in? What did you think of their fast relationship?

Finn seems to have an internal war between what his heart and his mind are telling him to do when it comes to Bonnie. Have you ever had this happen to you? Did you follow your mind or your heart?

What is motivating the actions of the characters in the story? What do the sub-characters want from the main characters and what do the main characters want with them?

Were there any moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently?

Why didn't Bonnie just call the police? What were her thought processes?

What past influences are shaping the actions of the characters in the story?

Who did you like best? And who do you like the least? Why?

Do the main characters change by the end of this novel? Do they grow or mature? What events trigger such changes?

Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?

What were the dynamics of "power" between the characters? How did that play a factor in their interactions?

THEMES, DEFINITIONS & SYMBOLISM

Judgment

noun

1. The ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions
2. A misfortune or calamity viewed as a divine punishment

“When you judge another, you don’t define them, you define yourself.” – Wayne Dyer

“The tattoo is a reminder that choices made out of desperation are almost always bad choices.”

What do you think Finn meant when he said his tattoo was “never about hate”?

One of the main themes of the book is **judgment**. About characters who appear one way but are really, beneath the surface, completely different. You never really know who someone is simply by looking at them. This is exemplified in a lot of different ways. Can you find them all?

Have you ever judged someone based on what you see? Were there particular events that made you do this? Did you realize that your judgment might not really be what you think?

Self-Discovery

noun

the act or process of acquiring insight into one's own character, understanding your abilities and feelings

Self-discovery refers to a travel, pilgrimage, or series of events whereby a person attempt to determine how they feel, personally, about spiritual issues or priorities, rather than following the opinions of family, friends, neighborhood or peer pressure.

"If you don't get lost, there's a chance you may never be found." – Anonymous

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." — Aristotle

"We weren't so different, Finn and I. Cages come in lots of colors and shapes. Some are gilded, while others have a slamming door. But golden handcuffs are still handcuffs."

"Then she'd looked at him, and Finn saw something he'd seen on a thousand faces in the last six and a half years. Beat-down, hopeless, finished, blank. It was a look he had battled in his own reflection."

Another theme of the book is **self-discovery**. How can one really know themselves? How do you think Finn and Bonnie discovered themselves? What made them discover themselves?

Have you ever come to a point where you need to discover or re-discover yourself? Was there a particular event for that to happen?

Are there others themes in the book? Discuss.

Bonnie & Clyde

Bonnie Elizabeth Parker and Clyde Chestnut Barrow were criminals who traveled the central United States with their gang during the Great Depression, robbing and killing people. And were eventually ambushed and killed by law officers.

What did you think of the comparison between our main characters and the real Bonnie & Clyde? What are your thoughts about how the media depicted Finn and Bonnie? Do you think the impression they shared in the news changed the course of the characters in the book?

“We're Bonnie and Clyde! Wanted and unwanted. Caged and cornered. We're lost and we're alone. We're a big, tangled mess. We're a shot in the dark. We're two people who have nowhere else, no one else, and yet, suddenly that feels like enough for me! I'm sorry if it's not enough for you.”

What do you think Bonnie meant when she said that? Seeing as how they are not actually criminals, what do you think Bonnie's infatuation with the real Bonnie and Clyde was?

QUOTES

“Miss Bonnie? If you is watchin’, listen up. I had a dream last night. A girl named Minnie and a boy named Fish-looked just like you and Mr. Infinity- they told me they is saving you tow a big room in the Grand Hotel, but no hurry. You’ve got Infinity, and they’ve got each other. And Fish says, ‘Who’s the genius now?’”

This is one of the most highlighted quotes from the novel. What are your thoughts about it? Do you have any favorite quotes or passages in the novel that you enjoyed or found insightful?

Discuss the following quotes.

“No matter how many words we get, there's always going to be the last one, and one word is never enough.”

“The government gives us stuff but then when someone gets a job, they take it away, so everyone becomes afraid of work, not because they’re lazy, but because the job doesn’t cover what the handouts do, even if the handouts make you feel like trash and keep you poor. Being poor becomes the easiest thing to be . . . and the hardest too, because nobody really knows how to do something different.”

“Sometimes hope is the difference between life and death.”

Were there any particular quotes that stood out to you? Which ones and why?

STRUCTURE, WRITING & GENERAL DISCUSSION

What did you think of the overall structure of the novel? Were you engaged immediately?

What did you think about the time-line and points of view? Did you prefer Bonnie's first-person point-of-view or Finn's third-person point-of-view?

How did you feel reading it? Which emotions conveyed the story? Did the story keep you interested?

Would you say this is a plot-driven book or does the story unfold slowly with a focus on character development? Were you surprised by the plot? Or did you find it predictable?

How credible did the author make the setting and dialogue?

What scene did you find was the most pivotal for the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place?

What scene resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way?

Did certain parts of the novel make you uncomfortable? Were there any scenes that made you laugh?

What is the significance of the title? Did you recognize it in the book? Would you have given the book a different title? If yes, what is your title?

What surprised you the most about the book?

How important is the setting & time period to the story? How would it have played out differently in a different setting? What about a different time period?

Based on the prologue, did you expect the ending or were you surprised?

Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?

How have the characters changed by the end of the book?

Have any of YOUR views or thoughts changed after reading this book?

What do you think will happen next to the main characters?

Are there any books that you would compare this one to? How does this book hold up to them?

What do you think about the cover of this book? Would you change it? How?

Has this book changed you, broadened your perspective? What did you learn from, take away from, or get out of this book?

Have you read any other books by this author? Were they comparable to your level of enjoyment to this one? Can you discern a similarity – in theme, writing style – structure? Or are they completely different?

FUN EXTRAS

If you've read the acknowledgements, you'll know Bonnie's song "**Machine**", is written and performed by Paul Travis. [Listen on YouTube.](#)

The song, "**Infinity + One**", that Bonnie sang in the night club is a song the author wrote for the book.

Lyrics

"I cannot describe
Or explain the speed of light
Or what makes thunder roll across the sky
And I could never theorize about the universe's size
Or explain why some men live and some men die

I can't even guess
I would never profess
To know why you are here with me
And I cannot comprehend
How numbers have no end
The things you understand, I can't conceive

Infinity + One
Is still infinity.
And no matter how I try
I'm bound by gravity.
But the things I thought I knew
Changed the minute I met you.
It seems I'm weightless
And I'm endless after all.

Weightless and endless.
Timeless and restless.
So light that I'll never fall.
Weightless and endless.
Hopelessly breathless.
I guess I knew nothing at all."

Fan made book trailer with music and lyrics of "**The Wayfaring Stranger**", performed and arranged by Amy's long-time friend Heather Goedel Parker and Xavier O'Connor. [Watch and listen on YouTube.](#)

Bonus scene

“Let me see it – please?” Bonnie pleaded.

Finn felt suddenly shy and stupid, questioning the design he’d instructed the tattoo artist to ink across his chest. It had taken hours, and he’d wanted to go alone. He’d been pleased with the results. But it had been more emotional than he’d anticipated, and the emotion was still tightening his gut and making him feel raw and jittery.

“I thought about having it removed – but that didn’t seem right either.” Finn shrugged. “I like the idea of starting over. I like the idea of changing.”

“Yeah. Me too,” Bonnie whispered, and she leaned in to kiss his neck, making him lose his train of thought in the sweep of fragrant dark hair that brushed his cheek. She’d started growing it out, and it hung in a straight, swinging line around her jaw – the jawline she’d discovered looked a little too much like her brother Hank’s for her comfort. She said she wasn’t going blonde again, but she was going to keep growing her hair until it was as long as Finn’s. He still had her beat.

“Are you going to show me?” Bonnie said, pulling away enough to meet his eyes.

He grabbed the edges of his T-shirt and pulled it up over his shoulders and off his head so she could see the swirling numbers across his chest that curled and twisted around the double eights and the ugly black swastika, completely obscuring them. He thought he would never be free of them. And he wouldn’t be. Not entirely. No one would be able to see them anymore. They were camouflaged and changed by the numbers and the brush of red that twisted like a ribbon through the equation he’d inked over his heart. No one would know the story of why Finn, in desperation, had clung to the only safety the prison walls could afford him. No one would know how he’d wept in shame. And no one would know how he’d survived and come out on the other side. And that’s why he didn’t remove it. He needed to remember. But he didn’t want to promote ugliness or hate. So he covered it, he changed it. He transformed it into something hopeful.

“What does it mean?” Bonnie asked, fingering the numbers gently.

“It’s a proof in transcendence.” Finn replied, and shrugged because he knew he was a nerd.

“Transcendence?”

“I could explain what it means in math – but I’d rather explain what it means in life.”

“And what does it mean in life?” Bonnie said, a smile playing about her lips. When she looked at him like that, her eyes heavy with emotion, love apparent in the way her eyes drank him in, he believed in transcendence, in all its wonder.

“It means surpassing our usual limits,” Finn said seriously.

Her smile grew wider and her eyes grew bright, but he continued.

“It means ‘beyond comprehension.’” Finn felt a lump form in his throat as Bonnie leaned forward once more and brushed her lips across his.

“It’s beautiful, Finn. You are beautiful.”

She sighed against his mouth and for several moments their kiss communicated the things that were more easily expressed in action than in word.

“And Finn?” she whispered

“Hmm?”

“You’ve always been beyond comprehension.”

Interview with Amy Harmon

Interview with Vilma Gonzalez for USA Today - Love in Suspense

[Originally posted on USA Today - Love in Suspense 6/9/2014](#)

Vilma: What inspired you to write *Infinity + One*?

Amy: I love the story of Bonnie and Clyde, but anyone who knows that story knows that it ended badly. They died, and violently! But the love story, the tale of two people against the world, going down together, is fascinating. I didn't want to retell their story, but I wanted to use it as a backdrop for my own Bonnie and Clyde, with a much better ending.

Vilma: Finn and Bonnie seem like very different people ... they've lived very different lives up until the point when they meet. How would you describe their dynamic?

Amy: I love how different their personalities are, how they play off each other, how they surprise each other, and how they spark. Yet, they discover, along with the reader, that they understand each other on a very elemental level. They also find they have a great deal in common, which creates a very strong bond almost from the beginning. That bond and understanding is the foundation for their love affair.

Vilma: This book has adventure, romance, suspense, humor and heartbreak. There are so many emotions evoked. What was your writing experience like? Was it different from any of your previous novels?

Amy: After the overwhelming success of [A Different Blue](#) and then [Making Faces](#), it's always scary to put out a new book. The temptation is to copy a formula, but I challenge myself to be original and to write a completely different story each time around. I want the reader to have a whole new experience with every one of my books. There is risk in that, because every book is not going to appeal to everyone. As far as the writing experience, for some reason, *Infinity + One* really flowed for me. I didn't get stuck and I didn't write in pieces or scenes like I usually do. This book made me laugh and made me anxious for my characters all at the same time; I wanted things to go well, but I knew I had to make Bonnie and Finn work for their relationship.

Vilma: Each of your books tends to impart a bigger message which contributes to the reading experience. Is that your intention from the beginning or does that happen organically?

Amy: I like my books to have underlying themes. Sometimes I have to search for that theme as I go, and other times I know what it is going in. With *A Different Blue*, it was redemption. With *Making Faces* it was beauty, with *Infinity + One*, I think the theme is faith. Not necessarily faith in a higher power or anything religious, but just faith that there are second chances and brighter days and hope

after heartache. I don't have any desire to teach the reader, or to instruct them. But for a book to really resonate, the characters have to grow and learn some things along the way, otherwise the journey is pointless and the story falls flat.

