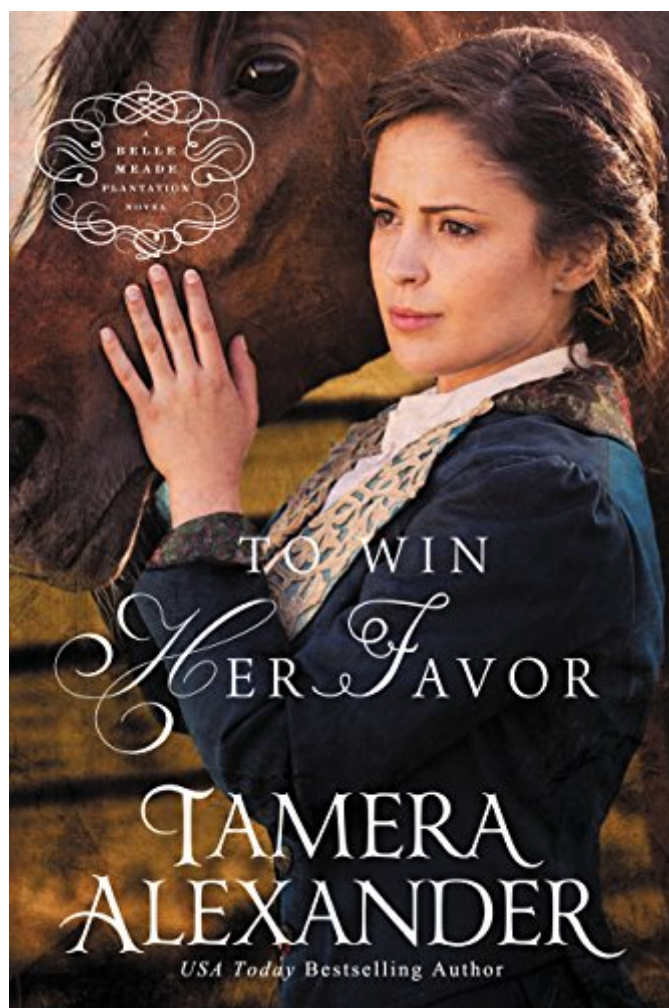


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To Win Her Favor (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 2)



Synopsis

2016 Audie Winner from #1 CBA Bestselling Author Tamera Alexander...
A gifted rider in a world where ladies never race, Maggie Linden is determined that her horse will become a champion. But the one man who could help her has vowed to stay away from thoroughbred racing forever. An Irishman far from home, Cullen McGrath left a once prosperous life in England because of a horse racing scandal that nearly ruined him. He's come to Nashville for a fresh start, hoping to buy land and begin farming, all while determined to stay as far away from thoroughbred racing as possible. But starting over proves harder than he's d wagered, especially when Maggie Linden's father makes him an offer he shouldn't accept yet cannot possibly refuse. Maggie is certain that her mare, Bourbon Belle, can take the top purse in the inaugural Peyton Stakes, the richest race ever run in America. Maggie only needs the chance to prove it. To give her that chance--and to save Linden Downs from being sold to the highest bidder--Maggie's father, aging, yet wily as ever, makes a barter. His agreement includes one tiny, troublesome detail--Maggie must marry a man she's never met. A man she never would have chosen for herself. Set against the real history of Nashville's historic Belle Meade Plantation, the most influential thoroughbred stud farm in America's history, *To Win Her Favor* is a passionately stirring, highly acclaimed marriage-of-convenience story involving overcoming post-Civil War obstacles and racial discrimination. "If you read one historical novel this year, make it *To Win Her Favor*."~ Colleen Coble, USA Today bestselling author "Captivating beyond expectation. . ."~ Cindy Woodsmall, New York Times bestselling author " . . sizzle[s] with tension and passion."~ Jody Hedlund, author of *Love Unexpected*

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Customer Reviews

Having read, and enjoyed, all of Tamera Alexander's books, this one is among my favorites. The author has such a knack for creating characters that you easily become attached to and this story is no different. This book tells a beautiful love story in such a terrible time in our nation's history, with all the emotion you can expect. I sincerely hope Mrs. Alexander is busy writing another novel for me to enjoy!

So I should start off by saying that Tamera Alexander's books have been some of my all-time favorites (I particularly like *To Whisper Her Name* and *A Lasting Impression*) so I was very eager to read her newest! First of all, the pros: *Her writing is exquisite, as always. The pictures she paints in my mind are so vivid and beautiful...but this is also a con (see below). *The story was very interesting and was full of many likable characters whose fates were all intertwined. *I always like stories about women who were a little "ahead of their time" and how they coped. *There are mentions of other characters of hers from previous books and I always enjoy when a writer makes her own little world of people. Uncle Bob, ohhh I'm happy to meet him again. Cons: *She's great at painting vivid pictures with words...which is why I found some of her romance scenes too much for me. I understand the characters are married when the romance kicks in, but I don't read Christian fiction to be able to picture two people making love in my head. I was a bit shocked at first because I don't recall any of her other books being so explicit. Sure, they had steamy, heart-fluttering moments, but nothing like giving you a play-by-play of all their foreplay. This is one of the reasons I stopped reading Deanne Gist novels (who I loved at the beginning too) but her romance scenes were more than what I like to read. With that being said, this is one book I am not going to keep in the house for my two girls to discover when they hit their teen years! I actually stopped about 2/3 of

the way through after the third love scene and just skimmed through to see how it ended. That makes me so sad, because this is Tamera Alexander...*The story did seem to lag in some parts too, and some scenes I could not figure out how they really played into the larger story. The only thing I can figure is that it is a set-up for another Belle Meade novel (thinking the Savannah Darby character?). All that being said, this is not my favorite of hers at all. I'm a bit disappointed. I can't say that I dislike it altogether because I really enjoy reading her writing, but I do hope her future novels are a bit cleaner. I guess that makes me a prude, but hey! that's just my personal preference. If this review is helpful to you in anyway, then I'm glad. If not, please move on to the next =).

I visited Belle Meade Plantation last summer. We walked the grounds and read all of the posters in the slave quarters. I have been looking forward to this book for a long time. I was not disappointed. There is enough historical fact in the book to make it very believable but to also allow the imagination to grow. One interesting thought I have had after reading the novels about Belle Meade is the size of the homes. We in America are so used to plenty. Big is always better. The plantation homes were the top of the line back in their day but compared to homes now the rooms were small. I was very surprised at the sizes when we toured the home.

Ms. Alexander never disappoints! She is one heck of a writer and great story teller. Regarding a commenter's complaint about the sexual content, it is NOT explicit and in no way detracts, IMHO, from the story. Do Christians not enjoy sex with their husbands? Personally, I was glad of the way Ms. Alexander handled it because sex is part of romance and marriage and to blatantly leave it out is not being faithful to the characters' humanity. Anyway, another great book by one of my favorite authors. Well done.

This was a unique perspective of Reconstruction-era south, as one of the protagonists was Irish and was the recipient of cruelty and racism, especially from the KKK. The era was vividly portrayed, which made this book painful to read at times. The main characters are flawed but realistic. At the beginning their flaws, especially the heroine's lack of struggle with racism, make them hard to love. Other reviewers said this book has explicit sexual content. It doesn't. It is steamier than your average inspirational romance novels (The main characters are married.), but definitely not explicit.

It's really interesting to wait a week and read the reviews, after reading the book for myself first. This is another great read from Tamera Alexander, who is one of my all time favorite authors. You fall in

love with the characters, who are both flawed and complex. Most of her books run normal "christian lit" where you meet the characters before their marriage and ends with it, or something along those lines. This book starts with an arranged marriage, with characters that learn to love each other and have what appears to be a very healthy relationship. Learning that they need to communicate, to lean on the other, trust in God, and love each other. Yes, this book includes more sexual type situations (thinking about and actions) but it is all very tastefully handled and nothing is explicit. These characters, of all her myriad characters, felt very real in dealing with their marriage of convenience and making it be a good, loving relationship. It would be odd and hard to believe if the characters didn't feel something for the each other!! It was nice to see a slight change to her normal fare. Great book, strong characters, vivid and poignant scenes. I want to learn to soar like Maggie! (on the lovely Bourbon Belle) :)

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