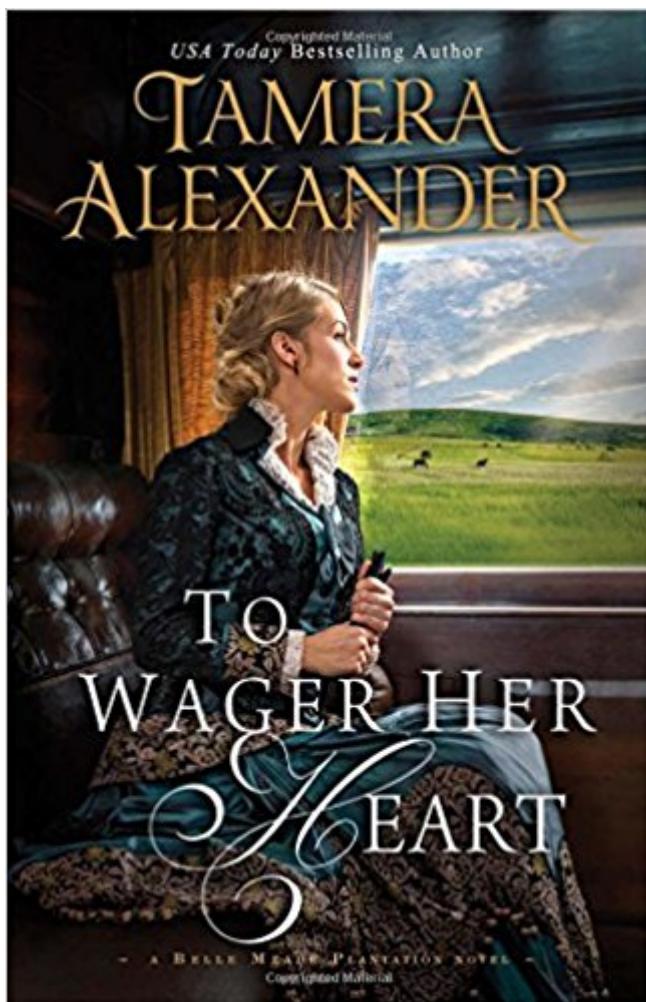


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# To Wager Her Heart (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel)



## Synopsis

Impeccable historical research woven with heart-gripping fiction from USA Today® bestselling author Tamera Alexander . . . Set against the real history of Nashville's Belle Meade Plantation and the original Fisk University Jubilee Singers ensemble, *To Wager Her Heart* is a powerful love story about seeking justice and restoring honor at a time in American history when both were tenuous and hard-won. Sylas Rutledge, the new owner of the Northeast Line Railroad, invests everything he has into this venture, partly for the sake of the challenge. But mostly to clear his father's name. One man holds the key to Sy's success--General William Giles Harding of Nashville's Belle Meade Plantation. But Harding is champagne and thoroughbreds, and Sy Rutledge is beer and bullocks. Seeking justice . . . Sy needs someone to help him maneuver his way through Nashville's society, and when he meets Alexandra Jamison, he quickly decides he's found his tutor. Only, he soon discovers that the very train accident his father is blamed for causing is what killed Alexandra Jamison's fiancé--and has shattered her world. Struggling to restore honor . . . Spurning an arranged marriage by her father, Alexandra instead pursues her passion for teaching at Fisk University, the first freedmen's university in the United States. But family--and Nashville society--do not approve, and she soon finds herself cast out from both. Through connections with the Harding family, Alexandra and Sy become unlikely allies. And despite her first impressions, Alexandra gradually finds herself coming to respect, and even care for this man. But how can she, when her heart is still spoken for? And when Sy's roguish qualities and adventuresome spirit smack more of recklessness than responsibility and honor? Sylas Rutledge will risk everything to win over the woman he loves. What he doesn't count on is having to wager her heart to do it. With fates bound by a shared tragedy, a reformed gambler from the Colorado Territory and a Southern Belle bent on breaking free from society's expectations must work together to achieve their dreams - provided the truth doesn't tear them apart first.Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Having read all of Tamera Alexander's books, it came as no surprise that To Wager Her Heart is another masterpiece of storytelling. Tamera's gift for detail made Sylas and Alexandra come alive, and you'll find yourself cheering them on as they pursue their destinies. As an African American, I'm always thrilled to read a novel that includes people of my race - in this case the Fisk University Jubilee Singers. I'd heard some of their story from my former college music professor who was a Fisk Alumnus, but Tamera's inclusion of them in this novel is a blessing and honor. This is a book for everyone, and I highly recommend it!"~

Veronica Brayboy, Reader from New Jersey ~ "To Wager Her Heart pulled me into a long-ago time that we must not forget. The characters in this amazing book captured my heart and helped me learn even more about my beloved South. No one writes southern fiction better than Tamera Alexander."~ Patti Jo Moore, Reader from Georgia ~ "For lovers of historical romance, To Wager Her Heart offers the very best of both history and romance. Tamera Alexander's well-told story details the early years of Fisk University as a school for freedmen after the Civil War. I was fascinated from beginning to end.~ This thoroughly enjoyable novel proves why Tamera Alexander is one of the genre's most beloved authors - and one of my favorites."~ Lynn Austin,

Bestselling author of Waves of Mercy and Until We Reach Home ~ "To Wager Her Heart is a wonderful historical romance with sweet and caring characters who are looking for justice and redemption from the past. Real-life people from history are intertwined throughout the novel, enhancing the plot. Alexander has certainly done her research in this lovely Belle Meade Plantation inspirational romance!"~RT Book Reviews, four stars! ~ "A steadfast heroine, a redemption-seeking hero, and a complex Southern society in post-Civil War America seamlessly combine in Tamera Alexander's To Wager Her Heart. Fans of Alexander's Belle Meade Plantation novels will fall in love with this new installment--but the real stars are the depth of research and the masterful attention to setting the perfect historical scene. Honor. Faith. And love . . . this novel's a journey in them all!"~Kristy Cambron, Bestselling author of The

Illusionist's Apprentice" "Tamera Alexander has created a story that blends true historical events with unforgettable characters. Her vivid depiction of the struggles of the newly freed slaves, the expansion of the railway, and the journey of the Jubilee Singers brings post-Civil War Nashville roaring to life." To Wager Her Heart interweaves heroic life challenges with rich spirituality and a sigh-worthy romance. The story and characters will stay with you long after the last page is turned."~Susan Anne Mason, award-winning author of Irish Meadows "To Wager Her Heart is a poignant glimpse into our country's history and conflict after the Civil War. From the very beginning of this novel, Tamera Alexander invites readers on a remarkable journey, traveling alongside resilient characters determined to do what's right even when family and peers choose prejudice and contempt. Well done, Tamera! This was a journey that I didn't want to end."~ Melanie Dobson, award-winning author of Catching the Wind "This is a book for everyone, and I highly recommend it!"~ Veronica Brayboy, Reader from New Jersey "No one writes southern fiction better than Tamera Alexander."~ Patti Jo Moore, Reader from Georgia "To Wager Her Heart is a wonderful historical romance with sweet and caring characters who are looking for justice and redemption from the past. . . Alexander has certainly done her research. . ." (RT Book Reviews, 4 stars)

I'm eager to share this story with you that is chock-full of real history including that of Belle Meade Plantation and Fisk University (the first freedmen's university in the United States) and the original ensemble of the Fisk Jubilee Singers. To Wager Her Heart, the third and final standalone novel in the Belle Meade Plantation series, releases August 8, 2017.

4 1/2 Stars Alexander has once again written a historically rich, beautiful and evocative tale! Fans of historical fiction and of the series will enjoy curling up with this one. Alexander takes readers into the time, place and experience of those at Fisk University and the Jubilee Singers; really it is but a taste of what they experienced and most likely felt, but worthy reading all the same. While there is a bit of romance to this tale with Sy and Alexandra, really this story reads as more of a historical account of the times and the strides, victories, and tragedies found in it. Well written, with moments of insight and inspiration this is one to add to your read list. On another note, I always look forward to reading her Author's note section to learn more about the actual history/people her novel is based upon. I hope to explore these places for myself one day. While this was not my favorite of the series, there is much to recommend it.

Because I was born and raised in Nashville, TN, Tamera Alexander's novels are precious to me. As I read, I pretend I was there around the time my great-grandparents would have been living in West Tennessee and Middle Tennessee. Alexandra Jamison is privileged in many ways with parents of reputation and means. However, she is stunted in her early life as far as change and growing faith until she is forced to look outside her family and home to support herself. She had counted on a marriage of love with a school teacher but a tragic accident prevented that union from taking place. But God had another plan for this bright young woman with gumption and direction. She will become strong because of who she is, what she goes through and whom she meets along the way. This is a courageous story with Christ in the center of the present and future. Another very good one! Mary Ann Young Robinson, Boise, ID

Tamera Alexander has written a well constructed period story full of people and situations straight from history. Although fiction, this can easily be fact-checked and many of the events and minor characters verified. She doesn't tie up loose ends and recognizes that life is messy, at least from our point of view. Not everything works out like we want it to. But the events in our lives always unfolds exactly how God wants them to for us in his gracious, loving sovereignty. I binged this, listening to it on the audible recording as well as reading it over a weekend. It was a delightful weekend as I got to know the players in this post civil war era where prejudice boiled to the surface both North and South. Excellent storytelling.

To Wager Her Heart is the third and final installment to Tamera Alexander's Belle Meade Plantation series. I love how the actual real life, historical events surrounds the story. The author really did her research. I just love the characters, Alexandra and Sylas. The scenes with those two were my favorite. So much fun to "see" them together. Any reader that is looking for a fun, great, clean, and full of historical details in a book, then To Wager Her Heart is one for them. I cannot wait to see what the author is releasing next. Highly recommended. 5+ stars.

I enjoyed reading this story, but I just didn't love it. I so wanted to. I adore Tamera Alexander-the stories she creates and the way she writes them. Something just felt missing with this one. The relationship between Alexandra and Sy was very secondary to everything else going on in the story (Alexandra teaching/touring and Sy's work). I feel like there were moments that the readers missed out on in their relationship. I typically enjoy how she ties faith into her books, but felt this one went a little preachy at times. I've read all of Tamera's novels (faves including To Whisper Her Name, To

Win Her Favor, A Lasting Impression, Beyond This Moment), and just didn't think this was as good as those. If you're a Tamera Alexander fan, I'd still recommend this book, but just don't expect a full romance story with it.

To Wager Her Heart is the last of the trilogy plus a novella surrounding events near Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville Tennessee. Tamera Alexander weaves actual historical events into her fictional storytelling, and thereby she pulls you into the happenings, puts you on the trains, in the hotels, leaves you shivering with the Jubilee Singers as they endeavored to earn money to keep the fledgling Fisk university afloat. I highly recommend this book. I seldom give 5 stars, so that is an indication of my appreciation of this story.

Alexandra gives up everything to live the life God has called her to. Sy's search for the truth about his father leads him to meet Alexandra. This was an excellent story about respect, honor, and seeking God's will. It was more than a love story. That is a small part of it. The story reveals the deep prejudices we hold in our hearts when someone doesn't look like us. And the depths of hatred a man will go to, to follow the lies he believes. I highly encourage you to read a part of our history this book uncovers.

I love reading Tamera Alexander novels. They flow so easily. It is very hard to put them down until they are devoured. That's probably because she writes stories about the times in which I would loved to have lived in. I am sorry to see the Belle Meade and Belmont series come to an end but I am looking forward to her Carnton Plantation series. I just read the first 3 chapters of the preview Christmas novella coming in October. She doesn't write fast enough to suit me even though she had 3 this year.

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