



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

By Tamera Alexander

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From *USA Today* 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'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.

"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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Editorial Review

Review

"Marriage of convenience stories are my favorite and *To Win Her Heart* by Tamera Alexander is no exception. The challenges and dynamics of the unlikely relationship between a southern lady and handsome Irishman sizzle with tension and passion..."

~ **Jody Hedlund, bestselling author of *Love Unexpected***

"Tamera Alexander is one of my favorite authors, so I expect a lot from her novels. *To Win Her Favor* is captivating beyond expectation! This novel has everything readers are looking for--rich characterization, page-turning intrigue, a heartwarming romance charged with tension, and more!"

~ **Cindy Woodsmall, NYT bestselling author**

"I have rarely read a more wonderful book than *To Win Her Favor* by Tamera Alexander. Rich with historical detail and fully developed characters, this novel held me spellbound until the last page. If you read one historical novel this year, make it *To Win Her Favor*."

~ **Colleen Coble, USA Today bestselling author**

"Tamera Alexander has done it again! *To Win Her Favor* is peopled with fascinating, richly-drawn characters that drew me into their very hearts and souls. Maggie and Cullen's story captures the drama and tragedy of the post-Civil War era, but more importantly, it captures the humanity of those who triumphed after a dark time in our nation's history to rebuild lives marked by joy and anchored by faith."

~**Deborah Raney, author of *The Face of the Earth***

"No insta-love here! Readers get to experience the growing attraction between the headstrong and determined Maggie and the swoon-worthy Cullen. The deeply drawn characters move the story along at a steady pace - even Bucket, the dog, and Bourbon Belle, the mare, will win readers over."

- **RT Book Reviews, 4 stars**

From the Author

Go on location with Tamera Alexander to Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville, Tennessee, the backdrop for the history of this story. She's waiting for you there, mint julep in hand. TameraAlexander.com

From the Inside Flap

"Strong characters, a sense of the times and the themes of love, friendship and the importance of loyalty and determination make *To Win Her Favor* a triumph."

~ **Library Journal starred review**

Against the backdrop of one of the most turbulent times in American history, the post-Civil War era, one woman struggles against prejudice, injustice and suffocating conventions of the 19th century to pursue her dream. Tamera Alexander's *To Win Her Favor*, the second stand-alone novel in the Belle Meade Plantation series, is already receiving high praise.

Q&A with the author:

Q: What made you choose to set your new novel, *To Win Her Favor*, during the tumultuous years following the Civil War?

Born and raised in the South (Atlanta, GA), I've long held a strong connection with Southern history. And what historical event defines the South as much as the War Between the States? Family homes became headquarters for troops, churches and schoolrooms became hospitals for the wounded, and the hills thick with pine and the meadows lush with grass became hallowed ground with the blood of the dead and dying. The years of Reconstruction forged a steel in the hearts of surviving men and women for a new life, a new country. I find myself fascinated by what they accomplished in the face of overwhelming odds. And remember, ultimately, so much good came from this time of suffering in our history too. So many advances in medicine, botany, mental health and social justice, to name a few.

Q: What is the central message of *To Win Her Favor*?

That through hope and determination even the greatest obstacles can be overcome. The story explores questions of race, faith and loyalty and offers perspective on how Reconstruction affected racial relations, social status and economic fortunes in the post-war South -- and a passionate love story is at its very heart.

Q. Many Kentucky Derby winners today trace their lineage back to thoroughbreds at Belle Meade Plantation in the 1860s and 70s. Describe the horse racing culture of the 19th century and what part it plays in your story.

Through three generations of the Harding/Jackson family at Belle Meade, Belle Meade Plantation became the preeminent stud farm and nursery for the horse racing industry. Belle Meade's thoroughbred legacy is at the center of the history of American horse racing and owes its heritage to a line of successful studs, starting with Epsilon in 1844, then following in the 1860s with Jack Malone, Vandal, Bonnie Scotland, Great Tom, Enquirer and Luke Blackburn. You're familiar with the 1973 Triple Crown Winner Secretariat and perhaps the 2012 Kentucky Derby winner I'll Have Another. These modern-day winners and so many more trace their lineage back to Belle Meade. Horse racing in the 19th century was the king of sports, but it was an industry dominated by males. White men owned the blood horses, and young slave boys were the ones who jockeyed the magnificent thoroughbreds. Women and girls weren't allowed -- at least, not until Margaret Linden in *To Win Her Favor*.

Q: Some of the scenarios in the book paint a gritty picture of this unsettled time. Why do you think it's important we not gloss over this chapter in American history?

The old adage comes to mind, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Human history is filled with atrocities: race against race, religion against religion, and greed-lust that annihilates anyone in its path. No matter the era, be it the 19th century or the 21st, human nature hasn't changed. We still struggle with the same sins and temptations, and we have a responsibility to remember our past. So many of the racial issues people dealt with following the Civil War are still prevalent in parts of our country (and world) today, and glossing over -- or rewriting history -- not only denies the truth, but it cheapens the price so many paid for the freedoms we do have.

Q: As a southerner yourself, how do you embrace the culture of the south while still acknowledging its difficult place in the American story?

Very simply, the only way to embrace the Southern culture (or any culture) is by knowing how that culture was formed and by acknowledging all parts of its history, even the ugly and shameful parts. Dig deep enough into any culture's history (you won't have to dig far), and you'll find deceit, greed, lust, murder, envy, and strife. Because at the core of who we are, we are all the same: sinners in need of a Savior, no matter the color

of one's skin. So to downplay the racial injustices perpetrated by the people of that time -- toward people of every race, color and creed -- is to risk making those same reprehensible choices again.

Q: You've said Kizzy is your favorite character in this book; tell us about her and why she captured your heart.

I fell in love with Kizzy and would love to write her continuing story some day. Kizzy represents so much of the bold hope, tenacity, and raw courage that was present in the generation of freedmen children coming of age after the Civil War. In many ways, it was a brave new world for them. Yet, in others, the world hadn't changed nearly enough, and the war was still being fought. I adore Kizzy's approach to life and how she sees herself. And how she sees others.

Q: What kind of impact do you hope *To Win Her Favor* will have on readers?

The same kind of impact it had on me . . . that it will cause readers to search their own motives and hearts in relation to prejudice and that they'll have the courage to follow God's lead in taking whatever steps are necessary toward healing the divide.

To connect with Tamera Alexander, visit tameraalexander.com, become a fan on Facebook ([tamera.alexander](https://www.facebook.com/tamera.alexander)) or follow her on Twitter ([@tameraalexander](https://twitter.com/tameraalexander)) or Pinterest ([tameraauthor](https://www.pinterest.com/tameraauthor/)).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Lacher:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have to do something to make these people survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this kind of *To Win Her Favor* (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 2) book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Raymond Blalock:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The particular *To Win Her Favor* (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 2) is kind of publication which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Josephine McIntire:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the textbooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some study before they write for their book. One of them is this To Win Her Favor (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 2).

Alexandra Dickey:

This To Win Her Favor (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 2) is completely new way for you who has attention to look for some information since it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having bit of digest in reading this To Win Her Favor (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 2) can be the light food for you because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

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