



Readers Discussion Guide

Beyond This Moment

A Timber Ridge Reflections novel, Book 2

By Tamera Alexander

SPOILER ALERT! The Discussion Questions contain “spoilers.” So if you haven’t read or finished reading the book yet, these will ruin a few plot surprises. Also, you don’t have to use every question in your group discussion. Pick and choose, or add some of your own.

Dear friends,

I’m thrilled you’ve chosen *Beyond This Moment* as your reading group selection, and I hope you enjoyed James and Molly’s story. Christ drew me closer to Him as I wrote this story, and my prayer is that somewhere along the way as you read, you took a step closer to Him too.

I’d love to join your group discussion!

If you’re interested in having me join your group via a Virtual Book Club Meeting, visit my website (www.TameraAlexander.com) and click on BONUS FEATURES to learn more about Virtual Book Club Meetings. Also, if you’re ever in Nashville, please make a point to see the Belmont Mansion. See www.belmontmansion.com for details, and be sure to ask them about the special “novel tour” for readers.

Thanks again, and I hope our paths cross again soon,
Tamera

1. Have someone in the group read the opening paragraph of Ch 1 aloud, then consider these questions: Have you ever experienced the feelings Molly felt here? That uncertainty of where to go or perhaps what to do next? That sinking feeling of having failed at something? Or having failed someone? If you’re comfortable doing so, share that experience with the group.

2. Read the last sentence of Ch 4, and consider these questions: Do you believe Molly

was truly “alone” in what she was about to do? Have you ever made a decision and knew full well it wasn’t what God desired for you to do, but you did it anyway? Please share the consequences of that decision.

3. Molly Whitcomb, a woman determined to hide a secret, meets James McPherson, a man sworn to uphold all that’s right and true. Perfect combination for romance! And conflict! In Ch 5, Molly and James come face to face for the second time, and the slippery slope of her lying begins. What struck you most about their interaction in this chapter? After reading the last two paragraphs of this chapter, what options do you think she had? Everything considered, what would you have done differently?

4. Near the end of Ch 8, Molly vows never to ask James another direct question unless she really wants his answer. What did she ask him? What was James’s response? Are you “direct” by nature, like James? Or do you find it difficult to speak the truth to someone? Why do you think that is? What does the Bible say about speaking the truth (see Ephesians 4:15)?

5. God’s grace is amazing. He gives us what we don’t deserve. At the opening of Ch 10, Molly is given a *gift*. What is it? How does she respond inwardly to this gift from God? As you read this section, what thoughts came to mind about undeserved blessings in your own life? Read Matthew 7:10-12. What does the Bible say about God as a gift giver?

6. In Ch 13, Molly invites someone to attend the school while she and James are having dinner. Who is it she invites? Molly was raised in the South and yet she doesn’t have the same biases as some others in town do. What experiences (or who) helped reshape her belief system regarding racial equality? Also, how do James’ beliefs differ from hers at their core? Or do they?

7. Read the last six paragraphs of Ch 17. Do you think God was meting out justice, as Molly thought? Sin always has consequences. Considering Molly’s thoughts here in this section, name some ways that sin robs from us.

8. In Ch 20, nearing the end of the chapter, the section concludes with a flashback to the moment of Molly’s *mistake*. Was her choice really made in a *moment* in time? Or was it a series of decisions? Or a series of indecisions?

9. As the story progresses, something happens at the end of Ch 30 that prompts Molly to finally come clean and tell the truth. What is it that happens? Has this ever happened to you? How would you define your experience in hearing God’s “voice?”

10. Just when Molly’s decided to tell James the truth, James goes and does something incredibly sweet, making it even harder for her. What does James do? Why is it, once you’ve decided to be honest about a wrong you’ve done, does it sometimes seem like events start conspiring against you, making it harder to tell the truth? In Ch 32, how does Molly handle the previous pledge she made to God to tell the truth?

11. In Ch 42, James and his sister, Rachel, have a confrontation that involves James revealing something to her about his past. What does he reveal? How does Rachel react? Do you have “secrets” like this in your family? Secrets that, perhaps, everyone knows about but no one discusses? What are the pros/cons of guarding these family secrets?

12. Once James knows the truth, he tells Molly he needs some time to sort things through. Did that seem like a reasonable request to you? Do you understand why Molly, in turn, felt like leaving Timber Ridge was the best thing she could do for Josephine? And for James?

13. *Beyond This Moment* is a story of second chances and of undeserved grace. We all sin, we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We ought not sin so that grace may increase (Romans 6:1), but we must extend grace to one another *when* we sin. In light of Romans 8:1-4, discuss how living according to the Spirit changes our outlook on sin and on forgiving one another. Read also Matthew 6:15. Do we have a choice whether to forgive or not?

14. In this story, a character from a novel in a previous series made a cameo appearance. Who was it? Hint: what couple was it?

15. What was your favorite scene in *Beyond This Moment*? What was your favorite passage? Who was your favorite character and why? Through your eyes, what was the take-away message of this story, and what events/characters in the book led you to that conclusion?

Would you be willing to send Tamera a picture of your book club? She'd love to feature it on her [Facebook Page](#). Send the picture to TameraAlexander@gmail.com with your name(s), your group's name, and the city where you're located. Be sure to hold up your books!

Tamera's website:	www.tameraalexander.com
Facebook:	http://www.facebook.com/tamera.alexander
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Pinterest:	http://pinterest.com/tameraauthor
Tamera's group blog:	http://inspiredbylifeandfiction.com
Contact Tamera:	tameraalexander@gmail.com

Recipe Idea for *Beyond This Moment* Group Gatherings

Miss Clara's Peach Cobbler

4 cups peeled and sliced fresh peaches (OR you may use a 29 ounce can of sliced peaches, using only 1 T of lemon juice, and omit the ½ cup of sugar over peaches)

2 T. lemon juice

½ cup sugar

½ t. cinnamon

1 cup milk

1 cup Self Rising flour

1 cup sugar

1 stick butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt stick of butter in oven-safe casserole dish in oven, being careful not to burn. Meanwhile, pour the two T. lemon juice over the peaches. Stir to coat. Pour ½ cup sugar over peaches (remember omit this if you're using canned peaches). Stir. Heat in microwave for 1 minute so that sugar begins to melt. Mix together 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and cinnamon until blended. Pour in 1 cup milk and mix until blended. After butter is melted, take casserole out of oven and pour batter on top of melted butter. Pour peaches on top of batter. DO NOT STIR! Sprinkle a tablespoon of sugar over pie. Place in 350 oven and cook for 55 minutes or until golden. Enjoy!

**Recipes from all of Tamera's novels are available
at www.TameraAlexander.com**

Tamera's Complete Book List--

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*To Mend a Dream***, a Belle Meade Plantation novella (ISBN B00PWOGZVM)

* I've written these two three-book Southern series (**the Belmont Mansion novels and the Belle Meade Plantation novels**) to be read individually OR together (your choice!), because the families in the mansions knew one another. So seeing that their lives connected in the 1800s, it only makes sense that they should connect *again* on the page of these novels.

**"To Mend a Dream" is available by itself as an ebook, or in print form in the Southern novella collection entitled *Among the Fair Magnolias* (ISBN 978-1401690731).