



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH TAMERA ALEXANDER

1. Tell us a little about what you write.

I write historical fiction with stories that, so far, have been located in the Colorado Territory (1860-1870s). Since I lived in Colorado for seventeen years, I absorbed so much of that history and reveled in the gorgeous Rocky Mountains, so that became a natural setting for the stories I write. I also love Southern history (being born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia) and look forward to incorporating that heritage in future books.

2. What is the underlying theme/message of *Beyond This Moment*?

Sometimes God rescues us by keeping us right where we are. Although we ask—and oftentimes beg—to be “rescued” from our current circumstances, God most often leaves us there, to mold us, to shape us, to make us more like Christ. I want readers to take away from *Beyond This Moment* that God knows exactly where you are, every step of your journey. And that you are where you are right now...because He has either ordained it (through His will), or allowed it (through your poor choices). And bottom line, regardless of how alone you may feel, God knows every detail of your situation and loves you with a depth you cannot begin to fathom.

3. Why did you write *Beyond This Moment*?

Beyond This Moment has its roots in historical research and in a question I was struggling with in my own life at the time. I'd been researching “women firsts” in this country and learned that the first woman to receive her Ph.D. in the United States was in 1877 (a doctorate in Greek). I started asking the age-old “what if” question that writers ask themselves, and it somehow became intertwined with another question, “Why does God often extend grace in the face of direct disobedience?”—and the character of Professor Molly Ellen Whitcomb (the first woman who received her doctorate in the U.S., and her subsequent fall from grace) was “born.”

4. Are you a full-time writer or do you hold a day job? What is the biggest challenge/obstacle you face in protecting your writing time?

I'm a full-time writer, and the biggest obstacle in protecting my writing time is the tendency to underestimate the time needed to balance the two sides of writing—the business side (which I love since my background is in business marketing) and the creative writing side (which is hands down the hardest thing I've ever done and therefore makes it tempting to procrastinate).

I tend to underestimate how long it will take me to write a book, while also underestimating the many “valid” interruptions life will inevitably throw into the mix as I'm writing. It's a balancing act, and I've had to learn to say no to even “good things” simply because there's not enough time to do everything all at once.

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Beyond This Moment

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5. What kind of characters are you interested in as an author?

I love reading about characters who are flawed and who are given opportunities to grow. Characters who take those opportunities to grow and who squander them, trying to control their own destinies and failing miserably. The greatest joy for me, as a reader, is journeying with an authentically-flawed character who realizes who they really are without Christ, and who then finally surrenders to God’s will for their life, whatever that means in their journey.

Because until we realize who we are without Christ, we’ll never be able to love and accept others—or love and accept ourselves—in the way God intended.

A particular character that comes to mind is Hadassah from Francine Rivers’ *A Voice in the Wind*. I wouldn’t want to go through all that Hadassah went through in order to become the woman of God she became; so much pain and betrayal. But that “being refined by fire” seems to accompany all authentic character growth. No way around it.

6. Any final words for readers or writers?

I invite the readers to stop by my website (<http://tameraalexander.com/contest.html>) and sign up for the current giveaway. No obligation. No catches. It’s just a chance to win a free book. It’s my way of saying thanks to my current readers (and hello to new readers).