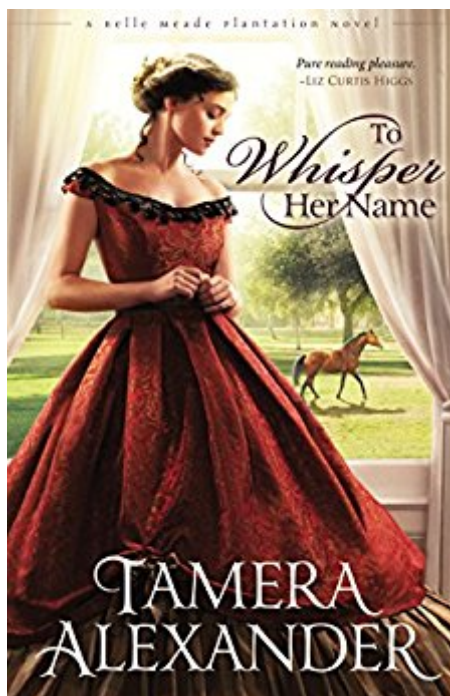


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# To Whisper Her Name (A Belle Meade Plantation Novel Book 1)



## Synopsis

USA Today's Bestselling Author's From the USA Today bestselling author of *A Lasting Impression* and *A Beauty So Rare* comes an exquisite historical novel set against the real history of Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville, TN that explores the struggles of real people of the post-war South and the journeys of a man and a woman scarred by betrayal. Olivia Aberdeen, destitute widow of a man shot as a traitor to the South, is shunned by proper society and gratefully accepts an invitation from "Aunt" Elizabeth Harding, mistress of Belle Meade Plantation. Expecting to be the Harding's head housekeeper, Olivia is disillusioned when she learns the real reason Elizabeth's husband, Confederate General William Giles Harding, agreed to her coming. Not finding the safe haven she expects, Olivia is caught off guard by her feelings for Ridley Adam Cooper, a Southern man who seems anything but a Southern gentleman. Branded a traitor by some, Ridley Cooper, a Southern son who chose to fight for the Union, is a man desperate to end the war still raging inside him. Determined to learn "the gift" that Belle Meade's head horse trainer and former slave, Bob Green, possesses, Ridley harbors secrets that threaten both their lives. As Ridley seeks to make peace within himself for "betraying" the South he loved, Olivia is determined to never be betrayed again. [Excerpt from Chapter 1]...Settled on the carriage seat, Olivia drew in a deep breath, the first in what felt like five years. She knew it was wrong, what she was feeling. Because a widow of only a week shouldn't wish to dance a jig. But God help her, that's precisely what she wanted to do. Not on the grave of her recently deceased husband, of course--that would be considered rude. Just off to the side would suffice."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Following the War Between the States, Lt. Ridley Cooper arrives at Belle Meade Plantation with a plan. He would learn everything there was to know about horses and be gone in 6 weeks--2 months at the most. On the same day that he arrived, Olivia Aberdeen, widow of a traitor to the South (who had been shot, dragged through the streets of Nashville, & hung for all to see what happens to traitors) arrived at Belle Meade to be a companion to the owner's wife. Struggling to shed the stench from her husband's evil deeds that Nashville society attached to her as well, Olivia takes on the additional job of accountant for the plantation. Meantime, Ridley Cooper has realized there is no way he can learn everything in so short a time. He becomes a valued employee of Gen. Harding, who convinces him to stay for a year. Woven into the story are Seabird, a thoroughbred mare, her colt Dauntless, Uncle Bob (head hostler at Belle Meade), a freedman's school, and a glimpse of the Klan. My only disappointment was that the Klansmen were not unmasked, although I have my suspicions as to their identity. I got book 2 in this series either free or at a very reduced price. When I saw it was the second in the series, I had to buy book 1. I'm so glad I did. I seldom give a 5 star ranking but this is a book that deserves it. I highly recommend it. A touch of history, a touch of hidden secrets, a touch of romance, a hint of more to come. Excellent.

I only give 5 stars to book that I feel everyone should read or will be readable forever, a message that never gets old. With that said, this book is excellent still. I enjoyed everything about it especially the ongoing horse theme. I loved that everything written about the horses was true. Sometimes the information given is not well researched. I loved how the characters grew but were not all of the sudden perfect with all their prayers answered. The message hidden in this novel was not syrupy sweet but understated and powerful. Thank you for a well written story of post civil war items.

This novel seemed too simplistic. While there were threads of what could have been a bit more action between some of the male characters, it was bland. Oh Lawd everything works out for a reason, but not without taking a pound of flesh first! I love reading historical novels, love reading about the "Ole South", but I don't for one minute think post Civil War was a walk in the park! I'm giving this 3 stars mainly because of all the effort and research the author put into this book, otherwise it wasn't worth my time.

I loved this novel. The relationship between the hero and heroine sparkled. Ridley made an awesome hero. Olivia made a wonderful heroine, one that showed Ridley met his match. While it's not Rhett Butler and Scarlett, emotions are evoked. I love books about plantations and call them plantation novels. This one provided something extra, nonfiction and fiction mixed allowing for a great storyline with nonfiction about a real plantation and the use of it in developing the plot. There were some areas I felt could have been better, since Grady Matthews threatened the auction but nothing more was ever done regarding him and his threats. That was like having a gun, and it never being used in a book. I kept waiting for him to do something. Then, I felt surely he'd be one of those faceless men, but they were never caught. The description was vivid. The characters were realistic, and the writing was well done. Uncle Bob was a favorite character of mine as well. If you enjoy historical romance and books about plantations, you'll love this one. A favorite part was when Ridley said he knew what bittersweet tasted like when he kissed Olivia, yet knowing their situation. I also loved it when the author included thanking God for knowing what he was doing, even when one of the characters didn't. I said that very thing to someone a few days ago. Really enjoyed this read. Author BJ Robinson

Post-Civil War in the South. What a hard time to live in particularly if you have Northern sympathies. Ridley, a man from South Carolina, fought for the North. He is not telling anyone while living in Nashville on one of the most prominent stud farms in the country, Bell Meade, and working for General Harding, a decorated Southern general. But he can't stop his ways of treating everyone equal and fairly, which gets him to trouble with some of the white workers, but earns him respect with nearly everyone else. Olivia is a young widow that is being exiled to Bell Meade due to her late husband's shameful greediness during the war. Her long time family friend and adopted Aunt has invited her to live on the horse farm, despite her fear of horses. Olivia helps smooth family relationships and keeps Aunt Elizabeth company as she is sick. Olivia and Ridley's paths cross and while they are not friends to begin with, they become friends and share a deep bond. A true tale of

Southern romance and the rebuilding of a country after destruction and changing relationships and dynamics. I was not as fond of the horse farm as I was other locations that Tamera Alexander has written about. However, I loved many of the characters. Uncle Bob, Racheal, Savannah, Jimmy, and Ridley were my favorites. I didn't really care for Olivia or the Hardings. I understand that time period had its prejudices and traditions, but some of it didn't seem real (or right through my 2016 eyes). My favorite scenes all involved the former slaves, especially church and the dance. I was actually surprised at the ending. I kind of figured out that Olivia and Ridley would end up together, but the way that they do was a shock!

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