

# BEYOND THIS MOMENT

## Reading Group Guide

### A TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS novel

#### By Tamera Alexander



**Warning!** 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.

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A note from Tamera:

Dear friends,

I’m honored 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, email me at [tameraalexander@ymail.com](mailto:tameraalexander@ymail.com) and inquire about Virtual Book Club Meetings. I’ll also send you a Book Club Packet with goodies to distribute to your group.

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

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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's 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?

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#### 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 Tbsp. lemon juice

½ cup sugar

½ tsp. cinnamon

1 cup milk

1 cup self rising flour

1 cup sugar

1 stick butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 350° F. Melt stick of butter in oven-safe casserole dish in oven, being careful not to burn. Meanwhile, pour the two Tbsp. lemon juice over the peaches. Stir to coat. Pour ½ cup sugar over peaches (remember to 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° F oven and cook for 55 minutes or until golden. Enjoy!

### **Tamera's Complete Book List:**

*Rekindled*, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 1, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0108-5)

*Revealed*, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 2, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0109-3)

*Remembered*, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 3, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0110-7)

*Fountain Creek Chronicles Trilogy*, Books 1- 3 in one volume, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0736-5)

*From a Distance*, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 1, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0389-3)

*Beyond This Moment*, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 2, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0390-9)

*Within My Heart*, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 3, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0391-6)

*The Inheritance*, *Women of Faith* Fiction, Thomas Nelson Publishers (ISBN 978-1-59554-632-6)