

A Beauty So Rare (A Belmont Mansion Novel)

By Tamera Alexander

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From #1 CBA Bestselling Author Tamera Alexander . . .

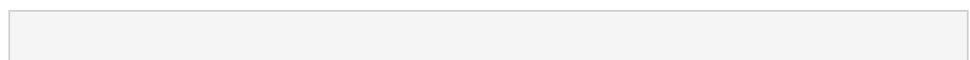
Pink is *not* what Eleanor Braddock ordered, but maybe it would soften the tempered steel of a woman who came through a war . . . and still had one to fight.


Eleanor Braddock - plain, practical, no stunning Southern beauty - knows she will never marry. But with a dying soldier's last whisper, she believes her life can still have meaning and determines to find his widow. Impoverished and struggling to care for her ailing father, Eleanor arrives at Belmont Mansion, home of her aunt, Adelia Acklen, the richest woman in America - and possibly the most demanding, as well. Adelia insists on finding her niece a husband, but a simple act of kindness leads Eleanor down a far different path - building a home for destitute widows and fatherless children from the Civil War. While Eleanor knows her own heart, she also knows her aunt will *never* approve of this endeavor.

Archduke Marcus Gottfried has come to Nashville from Austria in search of a life *he* determines, instead of one determined for him. Hiding his royal heritage, Marcus longs to combine his passion for nature with his expertise in architecture, but his plans to incorporate natural beauty into the design of the widows' and children's home run contrary to Eleanor's wishes. As work on the home draws them closer together, Marcus and Eleanor find common ground - and a love neither of them expects.

But Marcus is not the man Adelia has chosen for Eleanor, and even if he were, someone who knows his secrets is about to reveal them all.

From *USA Today* bestselling author Tamera Alexander comes a moving historical novel about a bold young woman drawn to a group of people forgotten by Nashville society - and to the one man with whom she has no business falling in love.



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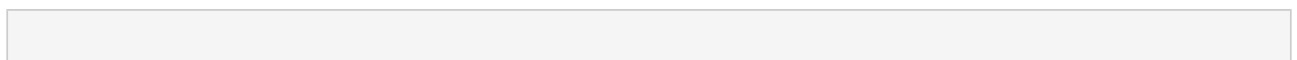
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A Beauty So Rare (A Belmont Mansion Novel) By Tamera Alexander Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review After Eleanor Braddock's brother is killed fighting for the South, and her father is institutionalized, she has no choice but to move into Belmont Mansion with her aunt, Adelia Acklen, the richest woman in America. Adelia is obsessed with finding a proper husband for her too-tall spinster niece and insists that Eleanor conform to society expectations. But Eleanor, who volunteered on the battlefields of the Civil War, feels called to establish a home for war widows and their children. Marcus Geoffrey is in Nashville to enjoy a respite from his duties and dabble in some plant breeding, and Adelia has given him permission to perform his experiments in her greenhouse. When Eleanor has a run-in with Marcus, she has no idea that he is an archduke from the House of Habsburg, second in line to the Austrian throne, and under orders to marry Baroness Maria Elizabeth Albrecht von Haas. As Marcus and Eleanor strive for freedom from others' demands, they grow close despite overwhelming odds. Alexander's (Within My Heart, 2010) exquisitely written historical tale is filled with unforgettable characters, a romance that seems hopeless, and a close-up look at the aftermath of a war that nearly destroyed the country. --Shelley Mosley

Review

"Better than sweet tea on a veranda. I want to live at Belmont!"

~ **Francine Rivers**, New York Times bestselling author of *Redeeming Love* about *A Lasting Impression* (a Belmont Mansion novel)

"Pure reading pleasure."

~ Liz Curtis Higgs, NYT Bestselling author of *A Thorn in My Heart* about *To Whisper Her Name* (a Belle Meade Plantation novel)

"To put it simply: This book is a full-on HIT!"

~ USA Today about *A Lasting Impression*, a Belmont Mansion novel

"Romance, secrets and Civil War battles line the pages of Alexander's second in her Belmont Mansion series. Fantastic!" 4 1/2 Starred Review

~ **Romantic Times** about *A Beauty So Rare*

"Bestseller Alexander will delight fans... Alexander's lengthy tale is full of bends and curves, as Eleanor and Marcus face down their struggles, deal with romantic entanglements, and begin to achieve their greatest dreams."

~ **Publishers Weekly** about *A Beauty So Rare*

"Alexander's exquisitely written historical tale is filled with unforgettable characters, a romance that *seems* hopeless, and a close-up look at the aftermath of a war that nearly destroyed our country."

~ **Shelly Mosley (Booklist)**

From the Author

View the book trailer for *A Beauty So Rare* by visiting Tamera's Amazon author page (by clicking on the author name above).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Loza:

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Jennifer Nava:

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Isaiah Owens:

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