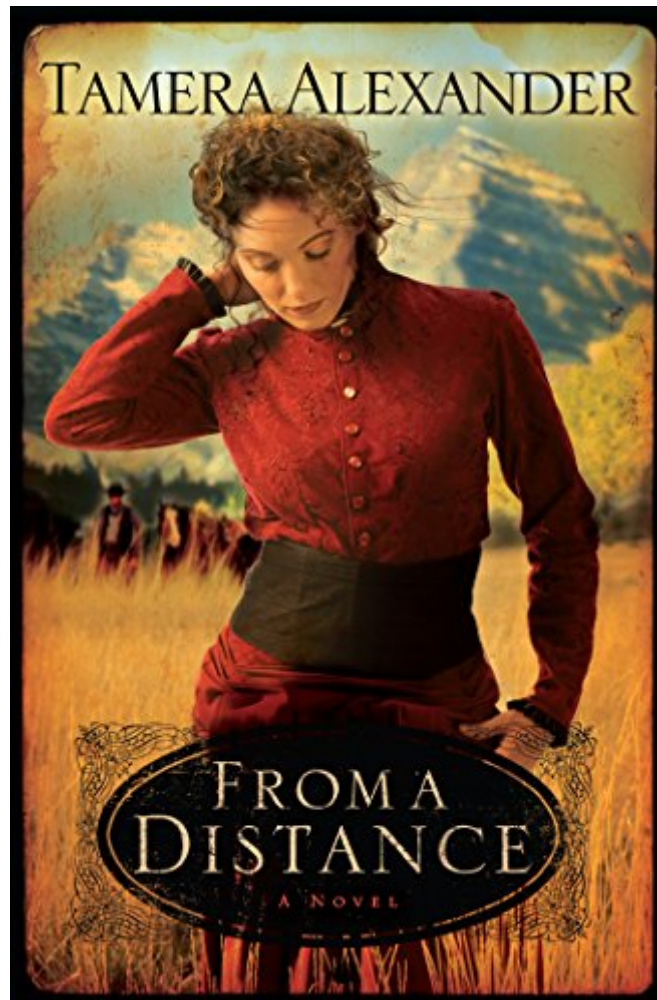




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# From A Distance (Timber Ridge Reflections Book #1)



## Synopsis

From the USA Today bestselling author of *A Lasting Impression* and *To Whisper Her Name...* What happens when the realization of a dream isn't what you imagined. . . and the secret you've spent a lifetime guarding is finally laid bare? Determined to become one of the country's premier newspaper photographers, Elizabeth Westbrook travels to the Colorado Territory to capture the grandeur of the mountains surrounding the remote town of Timber Ridge. She hopes, too, that the cool, dry air of Colorado, and its renowned hot springs, will cure the mysterious illness that threatens her career, and her life. Daniel Ranslett, a former Confederate sharpshooter, is a man shackled by his past, and he'll do anything to protect his land, and his solitude. When an outspoken Yankee photographer captures an image that appears key to solving a murder, putting herself in danger, Daniel is called upon to repay a debt. He's a man of his word, but repaying that debt could bring secrets from his past to light. Forced on a perilous journey together, Daniel and Elizabeth's lives intertwine in ways neither could have imagined when first they met . . . from a distance. *From a Distance*, the 2009 Christy Award winner for Best Historical

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very much enjoyed reading this piece of historical fiction located in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. The heroine, Elizabeth, works as a newspaper assistant aspiring to make a name for herself through both her photography and articles. She takes on the Wild West with the intention of procuring a full time position that males are also contending for. However Elizabeth takes on much more than she bargains for when she tries to hire a guide who can take her to Ute Territory, Mesa Verde. Elizabeth had also hired a negro man to assist her in her travels and setting up up her photography tent and all it's incidentals necessary to take pictures using necessary glass slides and developing chemicals. A negro man traveling with and working for a white woman back in the 1800's was frowned upon. Elizabeth finds a beautiful Elk in the wild to photograph only to have the blast of a rifle stun her into dropping and breaking the glass slide her picture would have been developed upon. Going up to the man Ranslett, Daniel, she cons him into taking her on a hunting day trip for the loss of her prize photograph. Thus began a quirky relationship between a rugged hunter and a senator's daughter in the most beautifully rugged country I personally have encountered. There is murder, intrigue, suspense, drama, land grabbing, humor, sadness, robbery, assault, tender love exchanges; just about everything you would want covered in a good mystery story in this book. I kept getting stopped throughout reading this kindle book due to an error message that said I needed to delete the book and reinstall. I would let it rest a day or days and go back to it only to repeatedly have this error happen. I persevered and finally completed reading the entire book and was glad I did. I only hope it won't happen to others when they download and try to read *From A Distance*, which I encourage others to do as it was an excellent story in my estimation. Thank you Tamera Alexander.

The book actually started out rather slow for me. I actually took the book off my Kindle, then later decided to try again. This time I made it through. The book was well-written with plenty of adventure to keep one reading. I would listen to this book as I took my morning walks and would find myself laughing out loud at one point and saying "oh no!" at another point. Daniel was a very interesting character. At times, Elizabeth got on my nerves. For me she sometimes came off as unfeeling and uppity. I will say that is is a more liberal book of the Inspirational line. I love Inspirational, but a lot of authors write what strict Christian readers want to hear - little sin among Christians. In this book, we have some grey areas. Daniel likes to look at Elizabeth's butt, and Elizabeth dresses in a way that draws attention to it. At one point, Daniel even touches her backside. There's also a scene where they sleep together (innocently) and Daniel makes it known in his thoughts and voice that he'd like to do more than touch her...Though some Christians may shun away at things like this, I think it

shows the more human side of us. It added some fizz to the story...

This first book in the Timber Ridge Reflections series was amazing. The characters were so compelling, each flawed by their past; yet their relationships were so warm and caring. I loved that the author developed such a deep relationship between Elizabeth and Josiah- a friendship between a white woman and a man of color was totally out of character at this point in history. The slow emerging friendship/romance between Daniel with his rough, gruff, private yet tender spirit and Elizabeth was wonderful. The closeness between Daniel and his dog, Beau, as well as his growing understanding, connection, and respect for Josiah as he began to understand more about each of their pasts. Elizabeth was such a strong woman for her time period, yet at the same time had her vulnerabilities. The story line and setting were superb. Alexander's obvious research into photography of that time period and historical context as well as her knowledge of Colorado culture, topography, and native American lifestyle all added to the richness of the overall story. Winding its way through the plot was a faith thread that was both credible and believable. If you like historical fiction, definitely don't miss this one. It made my 2016 favorites list. FAVORITE QUOTES: (Way too many to include but a few!) "Better to keep your focus on the goal rather than the obstacles." "There can't be different versions. Truth is a constant. A person's perspective might be skewed, but that doesn't change what the truth is." "That's what God does with us, after all. Puts us out into the world where the only real boundary is that of His love. His love either compels us or restrains us. There is nothing stronger.." "As long as you're still breathing, child, you still got choices."

I liked how this book started out right in the middle of a scene. When an author uses this technique, more likely than not, it's successful in pulling me into the action and keeping my interest throughout the novel. Tamera Alexander does this well. I liked how spunky (well, let's face it, Josiah was right . . . sassy!) Elizabeth was, but that she also learned how to be humble and allow herself to be taught by those who knew more about specific things than she did. I especially liked that she learned to give all her hopes and dreams to God and that He would give her even better ones in return! I also enjoyed Daniel's character. He was definitely flawed, and haunted by the things he'd experienced, especially in the war, but he also learned to be humble and trust in God's leading. However, I think my favourite character just might have been Josiah. His kind and gentle humour was definitely a high point for me.

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