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# Open Your Heart/Time Will Tell/Now Picture This (The Sierra Jensen Series 7-9) (Sierra Jensen Collection, Volume 3)



## Synopsis

Happenstance—Or God's Great Plan? She's the bold, free-spirited type. She's cute, she's fun, and she's following God. She's Sierra Jensen, Christy Miller's good friend, ready for her junior year of high school! All twelve books in the popular Sierra Jensen series come together in four volumes to reveal the ups and downs of Sierra's incredible God-led journey! Volume Three: An exciting trip to Europe challenges Sierra to Open Your Heart to loving others without expectations. At the start of her senior year, only Time Will Tell the truth about Sierra's friendships. And in Now Picture This, she wonders if her relationship with Paul is as picture perfect as she thinks! Christy Miller knows a good friend when she meets her, and so will you! •Sierra Jensen is at it again! Open Your Heart What an adventure! Having Christy Miller invite Sierra on an all-expenses-paid trip to Europe was amazing—but that was just the beginning. Sierra never imagined she'd meet someone like Alex, a dark-eyed Russian college student who's a Christian. Or that they'd all come face-to-face with disaster. Through it all, one question haunts Sierra: can she learn to love others without expecting anything in return? Will she finally be able to open her heart to others—and to God? Time Will Tell Sierra's senior year of high school is here, but after the great summer she just had, how can it be anything but a letdown? Sure enough, the year tanks big-time when the school issues her buddy Randy an ultimatum. Stuck in the middle—Sierra wonders, what's right? Her friend or the rules? She longs to talk it over with Amy, but Sierra's best friend still isn't talking to her. What's worse, she hasn't heard a word from Paul! No doubt about it, this school year is totally frustrating! Will Sierra ever understand her friendships or God's plans for them? Now Picture This Why can't everyone just leave Sierra alone? All she wants to do is find a place to read the letter she just received from Paul—to soak in every word and memorize the photo he sent her—but Thanksgiving at the Jensen house means relatives everywhere! Sierra hides out, immersed in her ideas for Paul's birthday and Christmas gifts, especially his requested gift: a photo of her. Sierra's determined—the photo has to be spectacular! But a small voice of doubt nags at her. What does God think of her ignoring her family and friends this way? Is her picture-perfect relationship with Paul really all she thinks it is? Story Behind the Book—“After writing the twelve-book Christy Miller series for teens, a new character showed up on the pages of the final novel. Her name was Sierra Jensen, and she was so compelling as a teenage character that readers began asking for a series about Sierra in order to hear more about her life choices. Our family had just moved to Portland at the time, and I found it

easy to picture a sixteen-year-old like Sierra shopping at the local vintage clothing stores, hanging out with friends at a garage band concert, and serving at the homeless shelter on weekends.

•Robin Jones Gunn

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Robin Jones Gunn is a God-lover who can't stop telling stories. And by the way, she's still crazy about her husband after twenty-eight years and confesses their two kids turned out pretty good only because of the extravagant grace poured out on their family.

SIERRA'S HEART POUNDED. Her pulse hammered in her ears. Gripping the armrests of her seat, she tried to scream, but no sound emerged. We're going to crash! This airplane is about to nose-dive into the freezing Atlantic Ocean! We're doomed! Instead of Sierra's whole life passing before her eyes, only the events of the past few days flashed through her mind. She saw herself at Doug and Tracy's wedding in Southern California. Her sister, Tawni, was catching the bouquet. Her good friend Christy was standing beside Aunt Marti, and all of a sudden they were inviting Sierra to go with the two of them to Switzerland. Then Sierra saw herself in California, prompting her parents over the phone as they searched her messy room in Portland to find her passport. "Try looking on my desk," she urged them.

“Or maybe it’s in the bottom dresser drawer.” These suggestions drifted from Sierra as she watched herself boarding a plane early that morning with her passport in hand. Now, here she was, spiraling into the icy blue. Sierra screamed inside her mind. From far away, a familiar voice called, “Sierra, are you okay?” She felt a soft touch on her right arm. The voice seemed to come closer. Sierra’s eyes fluttered open, and she gasped for breath. “We’re getting ready to land,” Christy said from the seat beside Sierra. “Are you okay? You were talking in your sleep.” Sierra blinked at Christy and took in her surroundings. Looking out the window, she could see the bright blue sky. The plane was confident and steady. In the seats beside Sierra, Christy and Marti were calmly preparing for the landing. “That was an awful nightmare!” Sierra moistened her lips and caught her breath. “I thought we were going to crash.” She tried to act as if the idea was funny, but the terror of the dream still loomed over her. The details were too close to reality. Sierra was actually on a plane headed for Germany. From there, she, Christy, and Marti would take a train into Switzerland. It really had been only a few frenzied days since Sierra had attended Doug and Tracy’s wedding in Newport Beach. After the wedding, Sierra had been invited to travel with Christy and Marti at the last minute. Only one part of Sierra’s dream wasn’t true—the plane showed no signs of spiraling into the Atlantic. “Do you want a washcloth?” Christy asked. “I took one for you when they came by a little earlier. It’s probably cold now.” Sierra opened the cooled cloth and held it over her face, breathing in the faint citrus fragrance. Lifting her long, curly blond hair, she held the washcloth against the back of her neck and looked down at her loose jeans. The mustard stain above her right knee was still there in the shape of an ivy leaf, left over from a deli sandwich she had eaten somewhere above Nova Scotia. When Sierra had tried to open a mustard packet with her teeth, a flying blob had landed on her leg. She rubbed at the stain with the washcloth. It didn’t help. The spot would probably be with her for the rest of the trip. Because Sierra, Christy, and Aunt Marti had left for Europe from Marti’s house in Southern California, Sierra hadn’t gone home to Portland to pack the right kind of clothes for Switzerland in August. She also hadn’t been able to help her frantic parents when they couldn’t find her passport. Fortunately, her brother Gavin had located it behind the dresser, and Mr. and Mrs. Jensen had sent it to Sierra through an overnight delivery service. Now Sierra wished she would have had them send a few more things, like a second pair of jeans. All the planning happened so fast. Sierra’s parents had been supportive when she called them and explained the invitation to join Christy and Aunt Marti. The Jensens were flexible, and since Sierra was the fourth of six children, they tended to

be fairly relaxed about her adventures. But this time, even Sierra wasn't sure what she had gotten herself into. Christy pulled her shoulder-length nutmeg hair up in a ponytail holder and crossed her long, slender legs. Sierra noticed that Christy also looked a little uneasy. Maybe she was stiff from sitting on the plane for twelve hours. Or maybe Aunt Marti was getting under Christy's skin the way Marti had already irritated Sierra.

"What time will it be when we land?" Sierra asked, adjusting her seat belt.

"Eight twenty-seven," answered Marti.

"Remember, it's morning here. We'll only have an hour to make it through customs, retrieve our luggage, and catch our train to Basel. We need to be quick about this." Marti meant business all the time. Sierra wasn't exactly fond of this petite, polished, and pushy woman. Marti had helped Sierra's sister, Tawni, find a modeling job in Southern California, which made Sierra's parents feel more comfortable about Sierra's accepting this last minute ticket to Europe. From anyone else, such an extravagance might be unusual, but with Aunt Marti, money was only a method to accomplish her goals. And right now, it was Marti's goal to get Christy to Switzerland so she could check out a college where she had been offered a scholarship.

"Here," Marti said, opening her leather purse and handing Sierra and Christy a pack of gum.

"Start to clear your ears now. We're beginning to descend."

"I don't need a whole pack," Sierra said.

"I only want half a stick." Irritation showed on Marti's perfectly made-up face. Not a hair was out of place, and her knit pantsuit didn't show one wrinkle. How did she manage to look so good after this long flight? Christy's clear blue-green eyes shot a message to Sierra to take the gum and hush up about it.

"Maybe I'll keep the rest for later," Sierra added quickly.

"Thanks." She stuck half a stick of the wintergreen-flavored gum into her mouth and pondered the mystery of why she had been invited on this trip. All Sierra could explain to her parents was that Marti had three ticket vouchers. The third was supposed to be for Christy's boyfriend, Todd, but he couldn't take the time off work to come. Christy's best friend, Katie, had broken her foot only a few days before. Marti hadn't even mentioned bringing her husband, Bob, which Sierra thought was strange. And Christy said her mom turned down the opportunity because she didn't know how she would handle such a long flight. That left Sierra. She didn't mind being last choice, though. She was excited about the chance to do some more traveling.

"Do you feel rested at all?" Christy asked.

"A little. How about you?"

"I slept for about two hours, I think. Remember how hard it was to get over jet lag when we went to England last

January? "I remember," Sierra said. "They say it's better if you stay awake the whole first day so you'll be able to sleep that night." "That's exactly what we're going to do," Marti said, her dark eyes checking Sierra's and Christy's seat belts to make sure they were fastened. "We'll take a train directly from the airport to Basel. After we check into the hotel, I've made an appointment for us to meet with the director of the school at two-thirty this afternoon." She chewed her piece of gum demurely. "That doesn't give us much time," Christy said. "I mean, for any goof-ups." Marti gave her a long, raised-eyebrow stare. "We aren't planning on having any goof-ups. And do chew your gum with your lips together, dear." "I'm just saying I've done a little bit of train travel in Europe before and I haven't?" Marti questioned. "I didn't hear lunch mentioned in the schedule," Sierra jumped in, hoping to lighten the tone. "When do we eat?" "We'll eat on the train," Marti said firmly. "At least we're in first class this time." Sierra knew Marti was still miffed that their airplane seats hadn't been first class as she had expected. Marti had angrily confronted the clerk at the check-in desk, but the best the airline could do was guarantee Marti first-class seats on the way home. "It looks as if it's going to be a nice, clear day," Christy said, nodding at the buildings, the highways, and fields rapidly becoming visible out their window. "It all seems so charming from up here. Really clean and quaint." "You don't think it's really like that?" Sierra asked. She noticed the runway coming into view. "Well, I've never seen Germany or Switzerland. But some parts of France and Spain weren't exactly postcard settings." Just as Christy finished her sentence, the plane's tires bumped gently onto the runway, and the giant aircraft slowed. Sierra gripped her armrests and clenched her teeth, waiting for the plane to stop. We didn't crash, she thought. We're here! It was only a dumb nightmare I probably got from rushing around to get ready for the trip. Or maybe from the pickles on that deli sandwich. "Ready? Don't forget your backpacks," Marti urged. Sierra and Christy exchanged glances as they undid their seat belts and reached for their packs under the seats in front of them. Sierra couldn't help but wonder if Christy was having the same thought she was: A week with Marti might be harder than they realized.

This has to be my favorite series as of yet. Sierra's character is magnetic and her relationship with the Lord is so transparent and real. I relate to her so much. I love this author as well. I feel she creates characters much like herself, and that's what makes them so relatable. Thanks Robin. You're a blessing.

I loved this series, I bought it for my daughter

Nice book, not disappointed.

I love this book! It is perfect for any teenage girl who is a Christian or an aspiring one for encouragement.

great

This book was very good!! I really loved it up to the last few chapters. But it was really good:)

Sierra Jensen has just finished the summer of a lifetime. After taking big trips to Europe and California, Sierra's return home to start her senior year of high school doesn't seem to be an exciting prospect. In *TIME WILL TELL*, the eighth installment in Robin Jones Gunn's Sierra Jensen series, she is faced with a number of challenges that make life far less than perfect. Sierra learns that her once best friend Amy is upset with her and totally avoiding her. She is not even given the chance to find out what's wrong, let alone reconcile. As she fruitlessly attempts to save the friendship, her family is involved in a drama of its own. Something big is happening to her older sister Tawni, but no one will tell her what's going on. Frustrated and lonely, Sierra seeks solace in her now growing relationship with long-time love interest Paul. He is attending school in Scotland, and the two write each other increasingly personal and romantic letters. With Paul on the other side of the world and Amy refusing to speak to her, Sierra realizes just how important good friends are. Things begin to look up when a new friend emerges from a very unlikely place. Sierra also starts spending more time with Randy, who is having a dramatic start to senior year himself. He has defied the rules of their private school and grown his hair out long. While this may seem inconsequential, it has turned the school upside down, with student body and administration at odds with one another. When Amy finally agrees to talk to Sierra, a family emergency abruptly ends her attempted reconciliation. With things off to a rocky start, will Sierra be able to enjoy her senior year? Will Amy

give their friendship another chance? And what is the big secret her family is hiding from her? In TIME WILL TELL, readers will be glad that the spotlight is back on Sierra Jensen after quite a bit of focusing on Gunn's other protagonist, Christy Miller. Some might find the book to be a bit overly dramatic, particularly in the amount of attention and emotion dedicated to Randy's decision about whether or not to cut his hair. This aside, the author manages to produce another well-written novel in an enjoyable series that will definitely please fans. --- Reviewed by Jennifer Crosby

A cute little book, I personally find it hard to journal everyday but if you are inclined to do so this is definitely a must-have daily notebook. The pages are a bit small so on days with more compelling topics you will have to either cram or really cut down your response for some days.

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