Let's take a trip to New Orleans

by Rebekah Millet, author of *Kate Landry Has a Plan*

I'm so grateful Carrie has invited me to spend some precious time with all of you! And with that time, I'd love to take y'all on a tour of the setting of my next book, *Kate Landry Has a Plan*, which is my hometown of New Orleans.

Let's start with St. Charles Avenue. This street is one of the most iconic in New Orleans. Mature live oaks frame the way, along with a mixture of historic and majestic mansions. The heroine of this story, Kate Landry, inherited one of these magnificent homes from her beloved mawmaw. She and her sister then turned the first floor of the residence into a beignet café in their grandma's honor. When researching this book and envisioning Kate's home and café, I combined the front view of Buckner Mansion with the rear courtyard of Terrell House. And we can't visit St. Charles Avenue without spotting one of the green streetcars consistently running right down the middle of the avenue. These streetcars have been operating since 1835, and are on the U.S National Register of Historic Places. A favorite (and fun) scene between Kate and her adopted teenaged niece, Hayley, happens on one of these streetcars.







Next, let's mosey on over to City Park. With this park covering 1,300 acres, I thought we'd focus on two areas where scenes from *Kate Landry Has a Plan* takes place. The first is the Old Grove. This stretch of property houses a collection of live oaks, several of which are estimated to be over 700 years old. Some of these trees are so massive, they require crutches to hold their heavy branches up.



Past these historic oaks is the second area in City Park I wanted to you show you, and we'll take a charming stone footbridge to get there. It's called Goldfish Island. This sweet little spot is the perfect resting place for scenic views of Bayou Metairie and The Peristyle (an open-air pavilion), which is just across the bayou's waters. This setting was the ideal location for Kate, and the hero of the story, Micah, to have one of their fun, flirty and chemistry-filled moments.



I'd like to wrap up our trip with one final stop at The French Market, which is where a special scene takes place between Kate, Micah, and Hayley. This locale is an open-air structure wedged between the edge of the French Quarter and the Mississippi River. The first half of the space is all about the food. Think farmer's market meets food court, with an emphasis on prepared foods via walk-up eateries. You'll find all sorts of delicacies ranging from burgers to seafood po'boys. The back half of the area is a long stretch of vendor tables selling items like souvenirs, paintings, jewelry, handcrafted tchotchkes, t-shirts, and elaborate Mardi Gras masks.





Well, I guess that brings us to the end of our tour of some of the spots where *Kate Landry Has a Plan* takes place. Thank you for going on this little trip with me. I hope you enjoyed our time together (I know I did), and will want to experience the other areas in New Orleans that my Beignets for Two series will take you.