



Third Time's a Charm

Marquita Valentine

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Note: Alternate/new cover edition for ASIN# B0096TKHAO

To the world, Alexander "Sasha" Romanov is a sexy, globe-trotting playboy that parties with the very rich and famous. But behind the façade exists a ruthless man willing and able to destroy anyone and anything standing in the way of his ultimate goal ...until he meets Rose Holland.

Twenty-three year old Rose Holland is perfectly content with her role as Holland Springs' most notorious woman. Despite her less than stellar reputation, the men and women of her small town can't help but shop in her store and ask for love advice. It's tradition, after all. Then Sasha Romanov appears in town, with his heated looks and charming smiles that seem to be for Rose only.

A series of unfortunate events leads to close quarters for Rose and Sasha. Extremely close. And neither can stop themselves from giving into their secret desires. But when the real reason Sasha is in Holland Springs comes to light, Rose's world comes crashing down.

Can these two enemies-to-lovers and then back-to-enemies again come together to save one another?

Third Time's a Charm Details

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From Reader Review Third Time's a Charm for online ebook

Alyssa says

I hadn't read any of Marquita's work prior to Third Time's a Charm, but I think now I'm going to have to go find her other work, because this book was great!

It's supernatural without it being over the top, which is a nice change in comparison to a lot of the paranormal/urban fantasy/etc. that I see out there. And the romance is incredibly charming. I challenge you not to fall in love with Sasha and Rose!

Christi Snow says

My Review:

Okay, let me just state for the record that when I read this book, I was coming down with a bad head-cold. As a result, I kept feeling like I was missing parts of the story especially at the beginning with the first few opening scenes. I don't think it was truly an issue with the book...I think my brain was just foggy. But even with that (perceived) issue, I got completely caught up in this story.

This is a book that has a little bit of everything. It takes place in a small town where Rose's family has centuries of reputation behind it...and it's not exactly a good reputation. Rose herself has a little bit of a witchy side...mysterious things happen around her. Some of them were explained and some never were. It definitely added an aura of mystique around her and her "abilities". There are family issues for both Rose and Sasha. Sasha is being blackmailed by his uncle to do some truly awful things...right now the focus of those things is Rose...since his uncle is trying to take her land away for corporate/money-making purposes. Rose has all kinds of family issues...her sisters, her missing mother, her surprise of a father who also isn't above blackmail. Overall, neither of these characters has a family that they can turn to or count on....for the most part.

Rose has an herbal shop in town where she sells herbal remedies, soaps, and oils that come from centuries of recipes from her ancestors. Despite having served almost everyone in town at one point or other, she really doesn't have many friends or much of a support system. She's raising her sister's baby and working to support her other sisters college schooling. She has a LOT of responsibility and a 10-year back-tax notice breathing down her neck.

Sasha hasn't spent the last few years doing anything that he's proud of. His mother's in a coma and his uncle is responsible for her care. If Sasha doesn't do what he says, then his mother's care suffers. For the most part the things he's had to do have been okay with him though because he was going up against men that were just as despicable as his uncle. That's not Rose's situation and he can't feel good about what he's having to do. Sasha was an interesting character...much more in touch with his feminine side than most guys in romance novels. He's into fashion, likes decorating, adores the baby...but he also has these super-sexy nipple piercings, is really jealous, and is so into Rose. He's really a sensitive soul when it comes to her. It was an interesting dichotomy. And I absolutely loved his relationship with Blackbeard, Rose's cat...their relationship kept me giggling.

Rose is tough... she doesn't give up and just keeps giving to this town that probably doesn't deserve her

loyalty after the way that a lot of them have treated her. She's always the first to forgive and offer a helping hand...to absolutely everyone...including the guy who broke her heart a few months ago, Sasha. I loved her witchy side and the way that the weather seemed coincidentally in-tune with her emotions. It added a really fun little paranormal twist to the story. The history of her family was interesting and added some other fun elements.

This was an entertaining story. It's the second in the series, but it definitely works as a stand-alone. I haven't read the first, but I did go out and buy it after reading this book. It features Sasha's cousin, Christian. I'm hoping his other cousin and Christian's twin, Sebastian also gets a story because I LOVED his actions at the end of this book.

Melody May (What I'm Reading) says

Appears on <http://sillymelody.blogspot.com>

All right, I have been reading Third Time's a Charm by Marquita Valentine. Let me just say this up front, Marquita is becoming one of my favorite writers for contemporary romance novels. I really love this book. Her first book Twice Tempted was amazing, but I think this one even beats that one. So here is a quick sum up of the story:

The story starts off with Alexander "Sasha" Romanov out in a field abandon. If you read Twice Tempted you would remember him as the cousin of Christian Romanov and they used to be very close. However, since Sasha was doing Vladimir's dirty work (Christian's evil father), they have grown apart. Well, Sasha is still doing Vladimir's dirty work, but this time it's affecting someone else.

Rosebud Poppy Holland (Rose for short) has no clue what happened to Sasha, but she helps him. Then he disappears from her life and three months later reappears. Hurt by his actions she tries to put up barricades to protect her. However, Sasha is there to find out her weakness and use them against her to gain access to the mysterious springs and take away her home. What an awful guy, right?

As Sasha gets to know Rose more, he notices things that start to bother his conscious. For example, how the people treat her like the town pariah and how her parents basically abandon her. I mean that is some pretty crappy stuff. Despite it all, Rose copes with all that she is dealt with.

Now here's the question will Sasha follow through with Vladimir's evil plan or will his conscious win this battle? Will he be able to capture Rose's fragile heart and be the hero she needs? Who knows? Well, I do, but I'm not telling.

OMG! AMAZING! This story was moving in so many ways. Third Time's a Charm had me laughing and crying. I mean Rose's family life had me crying. Seriously, water works, but I love how strong she tried to maintain herself. Sasha was Sasha. There are really no words to describe him other than dripping with sex appeal and cockiness, but you gotta love a hero like that. LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this book and I seriously can't wait for more stories from Holland Springs.

Well, that's all for now and I hope you get a chance to read this. Here's something you can look for if you get a chance to read this: Where is Sasha's piercings? I was surprised he had them in that location. Happy

Reading!

Pat says

Third Time's a Charm.....by Marquita Valentine

This novel was given to me by the author for an honest review.

Alexander "Sasha" Romanov is the man we love to hate! We met him in Twice Tempted, where he was instrumental in almost ruining Christian Romanov and Zoe Ambrose's happily ever after. Sasha thinks of himself as the "Executive Assistant to the destroyer of lives" and that particular destroyer is Vladimir Romanov, his uncle and Christians father.

Rose Holland is the owner of an apothecary shop, Carolina Dreams in Holland Springs , North Carolina. She sells "magical" skin and hair products, and is known for her love potions. She and her two sisters, Skye and Summer have the reputation of having mystical powers.

When Rose stumbles on a body in her neighbor's tobacco field, lying in a heap, with vultures circling, she rushes to the rescue; only to find out it is Sasha, who has already broken her heart once. She drives him to her home patches him up, and he's gone out of her life again, for good. Maybe!

What follows is a story of deceit, blackmail and pain, but the undercurrent of love cannot be denied. We learn the reason for Sasha's unexplained persistence in carrying out Vladimir's evil wishes. Rose's love for her sisters is put to the test, as she faces life on her own again. She desperately wants to trust Sasha, but how can she?

There are so many twists and turns in this story, I couldn't put it down! The epilogue put a great big smile on my face!

I recommend this wonderful story to people who believe a bad boy can become a caring, loving man, with the help of a woman who loves him, and maybe a little pinch of magic.

Liza says

I was given a copy of Third Time's a Charm by the author with a promise to give an honest review. This is the first book I've read from Marquita Valentine, but it won't be my last. I like her voice and loved so many of the characters in the series.

I loved Rose Holland from the moment she first appeared on the page. She is such a strong woman and is the backbone of her family. She is the one who has always taken care of her family's land and their heritage. She runs the apothecary shop in town that uses her family secret recipes for hair and skin products. She also is the one who always knows how to match couples up and send them to the Holland Springs when the time is right.

Sasha Romanov comes to town and turns her world upside down. He is being forced by his uncle Vlad to work with the local businessmen to steal Rose's land from her and her family. Sasha only is working for his uncle to keep his sick mother. Sasha of course didn't realize how hard it would be to keep his hands off of Rose...or her sweet baby girl Ivy. Sasha and Rose have the best chemistry together. They have some of the best making out scenes I've read in a long time. When they finally do make love, it was beautiful and filled with passion.

Of course, Rose and Sasha have many struggles before they can finally get a happily ever after. Sasha has to come clean with Rose about why he is really in town. Rose's sister Summer, who is really Ivy's mother comes back and takes Ivy away, and her little sister Skye leaves town to go away to school. Add in Sasha leaving town, and Rose is at a cross-roads in her life. Only after Ivy comes home does life start to seem normal again. The fact that Sasha is still gone from their lives is one thing that keeps Rose from being completely happy. With the help of Sasha's cousin, Rose is able to finally tell Sasha how she feels and he can finally show Rose how much he loves her too.

I have to say a couple of times, I really wanted to kick Sasha, but really thought Valentine did a great job with the redemption of Sasha and showing the strength of Rose. While this book was the second in the series, I feel like it stands alone well.

Selena Robins says

This was my first book by Marquita Valentine and I won this book in a contest, and I'm glad I did as it introduced me to a new writer, whose voice I enjoyed.

Wonderful book to curl up with on a cold rainy day. I connected with Rose right away as she was well drawn out, and Sasha is a romance hero which readers will fall in love with, although at times, the reader will want to shake him, but that's what is endearing, he's not perfect and he does redeem himself.

Sexual tension, very well done as was the love scene, passionate and loving. Their road to happy ever after is filled with a lot of conflict, which the author weaved very well throughout the story.

Charming, fun story with a splash of the paranormal that was not over the top, but fit extremely well into the story.

Well done, Marquita Valentine.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Madison's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 Stars

Third Time's a Charm is the second story in the Holland Springs Series and tells the story of Rosebud Holland and Sasha Romanov.

Many of you may remember Sasha from the previous story Twice Tempted, he almost ruined Christian and Zoe's romance by doing his uncle's bidding. Rosebud is also mentioned in passing in the previous story. It's mentioned that they have a little bit of a connection.

This story starts off with a bit of a bang – Rose finds Sasha lying badly beaten in a field. That's the result of Sasha being blackmailed by his uncle, we find out his new assignment is Rose. He's already broken her heart once, but she takes him home and patches him up, only to find him gone again.

Both of these two have family issues. Sasha dealing with his uncle. Rose is taking care of her sister's baby, she's got no relationship with her mother, her father is someone in the community (that we find out later in the book), she has no friends.

Being the holder of the last name Holland seems to carry a stigma with it. She makes potions, lotions, soaps, oils and directs people to the infamous Holland Spring. In the long run, she's helped almost everyone in town, while no one has helped her. Because of her ancestor's reputation and the belief that she knows everyone who will fall in love with each other, everyone assumes she's out to steal the single and not so single men in the community.

Sasha's uncle wants samples from the elusive original spring that no one has ever seen. He wants to send it off for testing and he wants it yesterday. He has such a hold over Sasha that he can't say no, even though his heart wants to have a relationship with Rose. In a very touching scene, the reader finds out exactly what his uncle holds over him and your heart really breaks for Sasha. He really has no way out.

Sasha is a very good manipulator and he struggles with it very badly. The author makes it believable as he moves from the roguish bad boy, to a man with a heart. The two of them learn to lean on each other as things in their lives keep happening that force them to be strong people in their families.

What I loved most about this story is that these two are very relatable. Rose has fears and stresses about having enough money to pay back a 10 year back tax problem that shows up conveniently with Sasha. She worries about putting food on the table and having clothes to wear.

If you love a great love story with a pinch of magic, this is the story for her. It doesn't matter if the magic is real or just the overworked imagination of people who want to believe. This story will make you believe that no matter what, if two people love each other, they can be together. It doesn't matter the outside factors that try to break them apart, they make you believe that anything can be overcome!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Mariann {at} Belle's Book Bag says

This is the second book that I have read from Marquita Valentine. She definitely knows how to open her stories with a bang!! Twice Tempted's opening line was "The first thing you need to do in Vegas is get laid." and Third Time's a Charm opens with the heroine discovering the hero's badly beaten body in a field along side the road!! Both are definitely attention grabbing!!! LOL I absolutely loved Twice Tempted and couldn't wait to read Sasha's book. Third Time's a Charm was a little sadder than I thought it was going to be, but it was still a great read.

I had a love~hate relationship with Sasha through out most of the book. He would have some really great

moments, especially with Ivy, and then he would ruin it. LOL In the end he definitely redeemed himself~loved the epilogue!!! I can't wait to see what Marquita has in store for the rest of the series. I am loving it so far. I'm totally routing for Sebastian to get his own book!!! ;) Third Time's a Charm is another winner for Marquita and a great addition to the series. 5 out of 5 rating.

***ARC graciously provided by Marquita Valentine~Thank you so much!!! It was absolutely my pleasure to read!!! :)

Andris Bear says

Sasha Romanov is my new favorite contemporary hero. He's handsome, intelligent and filthy rich. And he dresses to kill. Add in his witty charm and you can't help but root for him when he so clearly doesn't deserve it.

Lucky for sweet Rose, she's got a few tricks up her sleeve to tame him.

Marquita Valentine writes a charming small town love story that will leave you wanting more of Holland Springs.

Tracy says

I enjoyed the book but I really did not like Sasha. I think he was a day late and a dollar short. He only thought of himself and not people that he knew in his heart that he loved. I know he had issues but he was not the only one. He left Rose to pick up the pieces of her life.... she lost everything and he did nothing.... it took an absentee family member to put them back together.... Sasha said he was coming back to her but he didn't.... Rose had to be the one to make the move.... I just think he was a coward.... a sexy coward but still one. I did love the interactions with Ivy, she was a sweet heart. Rose was a strong character who was able to handle everything! She was able to take the bad and keep going when others would have just given up.

The story is full of all kind of emotions and I am glad I read it but I much prefer a more Alpha Male that takes care of things for his women. Just my thoughts.....

The_Book_Queen says

Love Sasha and Rose's story--another perfect read from Marquita, my new favorite author! I laughed, I cried, I damn near panted and blushed at times! Sexy, romantic and all over magical...you decide whether it's "real" magic or not, the feeling still remains!

I cannot wait for Sebastian's book; this series has become an addiction for me, and one that I do not wish to be cured of.

Gwen says

I loved Sasha and Rose's story and couldn't put it down. I stayed up till 3:30 in the morning to finish reading it. Another great read from Ms Valentine and can't wait till the next book comes out. She has become one of my favorite authors.

Meredith says

Originally published on The Librarian Next Door:

Rose Holland may have lived in Holland Springs her whole life – and be a member of the family that gave the town its name – but she's never really felt as if she belonged. The Holland women dispense matchmaking advice and their “magical” beauty products, but they're also accused of being home-wreckers. Rose has never fit in the last category and she's most happy with her life. Then Alexander “Sasha” Romanov walks into town. Sasha is dangerously sexy and Rose is just in danger – of losing her head, losing her heart and losing her family's home and land as part of a scheme by Sasha's vindictive uncle to get his hands on the Holland Springs. Sasha's an unwilling participant in his uncle's plot, but he's determined to make things right, before he loses his heart to Rose as well.

Third Time's a Charm is the second full-length novel in Marquita Valentine's *Holland Springs* series. I read the first book, *Twice Tempted*, earlier this summer and while it was a fun summer beach book, I didn't feel the need to write a review. So imagine my surprise when I started reading *Third Time's a Charm* and was caught off-guard by how much more intense and well-developed this novel was. I certainly don't want to diminish *Twice Tempted* in any way, but this second book is the series is much stronger than the first. *Third Time's a Charm* clearly shows Valentine's growth as an author. The characters are more roundly drawn and Rose and Sasha's story is much more compelling, heartbreakingly hopeful. Plus, there's just enough of a touch of fantasy and magic to keep things interesting.

One of the things I liked most about *Third Time's a Charm* is Valentine's decision to make things difficult for Rose and Sasha. Neither has an easy or enviable life before they meet each other, then they're both tested repeatedly once they're thrown together by circumstance. At first glance, it would be easy to dismiss both (especially Sasha) as flat and one-dimensional, but Valentine surprises readers. I wanted to hate Sasha for his scheming and obvious lies, for the way he repeatedly let Rose down again and again. But I couldn't. Valentine makes you understand the impossible situation he's in and shows how he tries to subvert his uncle in subtle ways. He's not perfect, but he's not evil either.

Meanwhile, I liked that Rose never wallowed. Though treated poorly by the town, her ex-boyfriend and even her father, she still manages to maintain her dignity. Even faced with constant scorn, she still keeps helping people. She's not a saint (after all, no one likes a Mary Sue), but she simply keeps trying to make things better, even when blocked by seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Her sense of inner strength is admirable.

So, of course, Sasha and Rose fall in love – how could they not? While the chemistry between them is intense and heart-racing (Valentine really knows how to prolong the anticipation and tease readers with little

glances and subtle touches), Rose and Sasha's relationship extends beyond the physical. Thanks to Rose's influence, Sasha is propelled to break free from his uncle, while Rose learns to let go a little and not let every little snide comment or remark get her down. At the end of the day, they're better together.

Third Time's a Charm is Marquita Valentine's second novel and it clearly demonstrates her growing skill as an author. With more books to come in the Holland Springs series, I can't wait to see what she comes up with next.

Rebecca says

I think I hit the jackpot with Ms. Valentine's books - this is the second book of hers that I won on a blog! It's just as cute as the first book in the series, and I definitely recommend it to anyone who likes contemporary romance. For some reason the formatting (size of the font, specifically) seems a bit off on the Kindle, but that's easily fixed. I loved Sasha in the first book and his story did not disappoint. I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Lindsay says

I hate it when real life intrudes into my reading time. Unfortunately, that happened with this book and it took me longer than it should have to read it. It actually became a great escape for me.

I wasn't sure about this book before I started it. I wasn't really interested in Rose Holland's story (especially since she only had a page introduction in *Twice Tempted*); and after learning what Sasha did to Christian in the previous book...I wasn't keen to read about him either. However, a friend of mine talked me into reading this, in a round-about-way and I didn't regret it for a second.

I love the magical Poppy Holland background and the abilities (recipes) that Rose had. She was so much fun to read. Sasha was a surprise too. The author finally revealed the reason Sasha did Vlad's dirty work (it's a doozy!) and I was left with the angst of how he was going to get his HEA with the explosive secrets and double dealing he was involved in.

I was pleased with the end of the book. I'm glad it was wrapped up the way it was.

I'm definitely a fan of the series and I can't wait to read Sebastian's story and I would love to read Skye's story.
