



## It's In His Smile

*Shelly Alexander*

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## **It's In His Smile** Shelly Alexander

Miranda Cruz isn't just the best darned waitress in town anymore; she's Red River's newest innkeeper. But first, she has to find the contractor who's disappeared with her life savings so she can start renovations. Not so easy for a woman who never depends on anyone, especially a man. And when a gorgeous old flame shows up, the fire between them is reignited and threatens to send her dreams up in smoke.

Acclaimed environmental architect Talmadge Oaks returns home to Red River on family business. He plans to get in and get out quickly because a professional catastrophe is waiting back in Washington. When an unforeseen snag keeps him in Red River longer than expected, he finds himself entangled in the renovations of his late grandmother's Victorian inn. Handy with a hammer, he offers to help the beautiful new owner, but his motives aren't completely selfless. Will his secret demolish everything they are building? Or can their undeniable passion keep them together?

## **It's In His Smile Details**

Date : Published June 14th 2016 by Montlake Romance

ISBN :

Author : Shelly Alexander

Format : Kindle Edition 292 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review It's In His Smile for online ebook

### A Book Lover's Emporium Book Blog says

This is my first Shelly Alexander book but won't be my last! What a read, it was filled full of love romance and fun and I totally loved it. The storyline wasn't too drama ridden, so if you're in the mood for a sweet sexy story then this is the book for you. The characters were funny and easy going, they draw you in and you can relate to them easily.

The story is set in a small town set with all the usual small town traits, everyone knows your business and gossip, gossip and more gossip!! Miranda is Red Rivers new innkeeper after the owner passes away, she wants to renovate but money is tight. Miranda's mother has a bad reputation around the town so she wants to do right in the community. Talmadge is back after leaving Red Rivers to make his own way in the world he's successful, rich and sexy. When a family death calls him back he plans to stay there for as little time as he can and get back to business in Washington but plans never go the way they are supposed to and Talmadge finds himself stuck in Red River helping Miranda renovate and repair the inn that was owned by yes...his grandmother!! Miranda and Talmadge have history, he broke her heart seven years ago when he left but he's never forgotten her, the flames of desire are still there between them but Talmadge has a dilemma; stay and fulfill the conditions his grandmother stated in her will or go back to a make or break situation concerning his business in Washington. Miranda and Talmadge find it hard to keep their hands off one another but can love give them a second chance this time round or will outside her insecurities and small town gossip drive Talmadge away again?

I really enjoyed this book sweet gentle and nothing too heavy, I'll certainly be checking out this authors previous books.

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### T.M. Payne says

Book: It's In His Smile (Red River Valley #3)

Author: Shelly Alexander

Publication Date: 6/14/2016

Reviewed by: Tammy Payne- Book Nook Nuts

My Rating: 5 Stars

### REVIEW

\*May contain spoilers \*

Another fantastic romance story from Author Shelly Alexander. I enjoyed this one. We have a couple who have known each other since they were kids. Miranda stayed in town and has endured a life of crap since her mother was the towns' trollop more or less. Talmadge never really stopped thinking of Miranda but life took him on a different course. Now he is back after the death of a family member and things place him and Miranda closer than ever.

Will things go good for this couple?

Will the will tear them apart?

Again, I enjoyed this well written romance.

I was gifted a copy of this book for my honest review.  
Shelly Alexander

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### **DJ Sakata says**

Favorite Quotes:

Needing help and being needy are two very different things, Miranda.

And speak of the she-devil, here she came, marching toward the announcer's stand with a sour look on her face. Her cross bounced more than usual today... Miranda was pretty sure the cross was a disguise to distract from her forked tail.

'Maybe gussy yourself up. Wear something sexy to cheer him up. Used to work for my Henry until...' Francine blushed through the layers of wrinkles. 'Well, Henry died with nothing but his boots and a smile on. He might've lived a few more years if I hadn't ordered that new outfit from Frederick's.'

When are you gonna find a man? You're too pretty to sit around this town growing old alone. What's wrong with you? You got a third nipple or something?

My Review:

Shelly Alexander has perfected just the right balance of humor and angst with *It's In His Smile*, a talent she seems to have mastered and honed rather quickly. Color me impressed! I have reveled in immersing myself in the first three Red River Valley series - and I am hoping these are just the first three of many more to come. I have savored Ms. Alexander's humor, quirky characters, riotously amusing senior citizens, sweet couples, frisky dog stories, and steamy sensual love scenes. The plots have all been interesting and relevant, and the writing has been unfailingly entertaining and engaging. Miranda and Talmadge's story is a sweet and observant second chance romance. He was her "first" everything but over seven years later, she has "rusty girl parts." She hasn't dated since his departure and has been intent on staying under the radar, as her mother was always the focus of sordid gossip due to her history of irresponsibility and poor choices in men. As if small town living wasn't stifling enough, her discomfort was significantly compounded when a mysterious scandal blog, *The Red River Rag*, seemed intent on dogging Miranda and Talmadge's every step and chronicled their fledgling relationship with frequent updates. Oh, life in a small town! While I certainly don't miss the inbred and small minded community I was unfortunately reared in, Red River Valley sounds far more compelling. I am already looking forward to a return trip and hope Ms. Alexander is feverishly banging away on her next manuscript.

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### **IrishdaisylivesRomance says**

This was my first read from Shelly Alexander and I was more than happy to find a new Author!!! I really enjoyed this book and would recommend to friends. Miranda has lived in Red River Valley all her life but

due to her mother's bad reputation, Miranda has always been the good girl - kept her head down, did her work, never drank and never dated anyone. Talmadge also a native of Red River Valley couldn't wait to get out of the place and rarely visited due to his own demons, but is now back because his grandmother has died. There is a little history from these two, something happened over 7yrs ago that neither can forget, and now there is still plenty of chemistry and electricity between them that makes for a very good read. This was a sweet sexy funny read that had me laughing at the antics that went on in Red River Valley, very enjoyable!!!

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### **Bette Hansen says**

A wonderful small town sweet romance that is sure to leave you with a smile! Miranda Cruz is Red River's newest innkeeper. All she needs to do is get the old place renovated and she's in business. Too bad she can't seem to find the contractor she hired to do the job! Adding insult to injury her old heartthrob Talmadge is back in town. Talmadge Oaks is back in Red River to settle his grandmother's estate then he needs to get back to Seattle to take care of the business disaster waiting for him. His grandmother's will has a few surprises for him though. It seems the old woman had a few secrets of her own and perhaps she's playing matchmaker from the grave!

Definitely a fun read and a book I highly recommend.

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### **Stacey is Sassy says**

#### **His smile was good, but taking his shirt off was better...**

What attracts you to your mate? When I met my hubby it was his legs that caught my attention. He has really great muscly legs. In *It's in his smile*, Miranda is definitely attracted to Talmadge's smile...and his eyes...and his hair...and his body... In the end, though, what put her over the edge and sent her straight into pheromones overload was when he took off his shirt. All those muscles, under firm skin...and the muscles...and the skin...and the muscles. Well, you get the drift. Miranda was even warned by the mommy mafia, that if he ever took his shirt off in front of her, she'd be a goner. *No, no* she said. *I'm stronger than that*, she said. Hahahahaha!! She should have listened...

We meet Miranda at a very sad time in her life. Her mentor Bee has just passed. Miranda had just bought Bee's old and in disrepair B & B to do up and bring back to life. She was hoping that Bee would be around to guide the journey and set up her business. Currently, she has no mentor, her refurbishment is way behind schedule and her contractor is MiA with the funds Miranda had set aside for roofing supplies. Her mother is on to her next boyfriend and her younger brother, Jamie, who she practically raised, wants to get a job and become independent at the age of 20...THE HORROR!! All of these things compound to make Miranda's life a little crazy, but the biggest headache of all turns up at Bee's funeral. Miranda's old crush, the first and only man she's been intimate with, Talmadge, has come back for his beloved Grandmother's funeral. This man makes her knees weak, mouth dry and brain turn to mush. She must avoid him at all costs.

Talmadge is back in his old hometown. He doesn't plan to be here long because he has way more important things on his plate. His high pressure and fame-worthy career as a green architect need him back in

Washington. A very important job has come to a standstill because of a catastrophe that happened on-sight and only he can save the day. Talmadge is a VERY important man. Unfortunately, with his return to Red River his feelings of guilt and sadness return. This is the town where his parents died and now his beloved grandparents are gone too. A very beautiful woman from his past is making it a point to remind him that he abandoned his grandmother in these last few years and that SHE was there when he wasn't. That very beautiful woman has a point but he makes sure to point out that his job kept him too busy. He also tried to justify himself by explaining that his grandmother understood and was proud of his accomplishments.

To be honest, I wasn't a huge fan of Mr Highfalutin, I'm so special, Talmadge Oaks. With time, my opinion improved and once I got to hear his story, I couldn't help but like him.

Bee was one sneaky old lady. She had plans to have her grandson and Miranda together. Her way of doing this is to have her big, strong and capable grandson help Miranda with the renovations for the B & B. At first, both Talmadge and Miranda butt heads. Soon Miranda realises she needs Talmadge's help if she is to succeed, and Talmadge needs to get the job done if he wants to get back to his career. In the end, their biggest battle is keeping their hands off each other.

I really enjoyed this sweet tale. Both Miranda and Talmadge were lovable but definitely not perfect. Miranda is stubborn and too worried about what the townspeople think of her. Talmadge just has his priorities wrong. Yes, his career has made him famous, but it definitely has not made him happy. Returning home and seeing Miranda again, he realises what he's been missing in his life.

There are some steamy scenes towards the end and I was definitely able to see the connection between Miranda and Talmadge. The angst may have been a touch overblown. I have never lived in a small town, but after reading a few books with small towns, I'm not sure I'd want to. Some of the old biddies and their narrow-minded views would drive me insane. The way that everyone knows about everybody's business was another thing that would make me pull my hair out.

Will I read more from this author? Definitely. *Shelly Alexander* writes sweet stories that are romantic, sexy, and humorous.

To buy *It's in his smile* from Amazon - <http://amzn.to/1WEnwBX>

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**I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -**

**Dianne says**

With a title like **It's In His Smile**, do you really think author Shelly Alexander would give us anything but a fun, feel good romance? Small town thinking, small town gossip and small town cliques, made Miranda the woman she is today, strong, independent and out to prove everyone that she can be more than just a waitress. Meet Red River's newest innkeeper, as she struggles to make a dream come true on a shoestring that just

seems to keep on breaking while the knots keep making it shorter and shorter. Then, HE showed up and life just got even more frenzied for Miranda.

Talmadge Oaks is famous, wealthy, gorgeous and the only man who can make Miranda's heart stutter. He also broke it years before, when she offered him everything and then he walked away. In the middle of a project that could make him or break him, he must come back to Red River after years away. Now that he's back, his late grandmother's will has him in a bind. Stay, fulfill the stipulations of her will or leave and try to do damage control on his project. The deciding factor was Miranda, because that brief time they shared has forever marked his heart.

Offering to help with her new inn repairs is more than just a chance to be around her, but it's a secret he is determined to keep as the flames of romance kindle between them. Is this Fate playing its trump card for love or is one savvy lady calling the shots from the grave?

Can you say sweet romance with heat? Can you say two goners for love? Shelly Alexander has "nailed" the perfect romantic tale without getting too heavy, too angsty or two sugar-coated! Miranda has her own special baggage and is unaware of the inner strength she possesses. Tal has forgotten what it's like to just be himself, to get back to his roots and follow his heart. Together, the fur flies as their banter and the quirky little things that can happen in the game of love do, at the most inopportune times! A delightful read to take to the beach, or to read in your favorite chair! Be prepared to smile more than once as these to "build" a future together!

I received an ARC edition from Montlake Romance in exchange for my honest review.

Series: Red River Valley - Book 3

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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### **Samantha says**

It's In His Smile was such a sweet romance. The kind that leaves you a little misty eyed at the end because it was just so sweet and you're just so happy and you loved it so much. Miranda and Talmadge and the romance that develops between them was everything I wanted and needed it to be and so much more. It was a rocky road leading to their HEA thanks to their pasts and the gossips in Red River, but I enjoyed every second of it. Shelly's writing completely sucked me into the story and I couldn't get enough of these characters and the happenings of this town. Overall, this book was absolutely wonderful and I loved it so much. This is only the first book I have read by this author, but I can't wait to read some more books by her.

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### **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

Third in the Red River Valley series, the author once again visits this small town in New Mexico; I started the series here and had no problem following along with the characters. The majority of the story had a women's fiction and sweet small town contemporary feel and then the last thirty percent or so was filled with Miranda and Talmadge getting down and dirty; it felt a little jammed packed in. Our heroine and hero were both good people but also had enough rough edges to make them feel more real but also may rub some the wrong way. Miranda could be overly mule headed towards help that felt exaggerated to show "she don't need no man!" and Talmadge had a tendency to steam roll that made me side-eye how he was treating Miranda's thoughts and feelings.

Usually found in historicals, the main plot mechanism to keep our couple together was a secret will stipulation that had Talmadge having to stay in Red River to inherit his money; it's a bit harder of a pill to swallow in contemporaries. Miranda and Talmadge could have a little doth protest too much over their attraction for one another and a bit of dramatic feelings of betrayal towards the ending but they also had enough facets to feel like I was reading about real people. *It's In His Smile* has enough shenanigans, personalities, and steam to satisfy your small town contemporary cravings.

Read the full review at: [Reading Between the Wines book club](#)

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### **Sandra Shipman ~ Two Book Pushers says**

\*\*\*4.5 Stars\*\*\*

*It's in His Smile* is the third book in the Red River Valley Series but can be read as a standalone. That's exactly how I read it, this is the first book by Shelly Alexander and I know that it won't be my last. I found it to be a refreshing read. Now, lets get to Talmadge and Miranda's small town romance....

Miranda's life has changed over the last few months. She was the new innkeeper and soon-to-be owner of a Victorian Inn that needed more than a few repairs before its re-opening. And it didn't help that the contractor that she hired was MIA with her money. But, at this moment she was grieving for the woman that was like her second mom, the last owner of the Inn and the Grandmother of her lifelong crush, Talmadge. The only man that she gave her body to seven years ago and has been avoiding ever since. Which wasn't too hard since he lived in a different state and didn't visit his small hometown often. But now, she couldn't avoid him. He was here. Grieving as well as his Grandmother's funeral. He should be gone in a few short days but not everything goes as planned...

Talmadge still remembered that night and he also remembered that Miranda said it was a mistake. A drunken mistake. And now, here she is was looking more beautiful than ever. He knew he shouldn't be thinking about her because he had more pressing issues at home. He was a famous Green architect that screwed up. He had to get back to his latest project and hopefully recover what he had lost. He just didn't know how yet. Maybe over the next few days he would figure out a plan. That was the plan until he went to his Grandmother's will reading. It looks like he will be here for a lot longer than he planned for and it will be spent with the one woman he couldn't get off his mind.

Talmadge and Miranda have to work together to get the Inn up to code and opened. It's definitely not an easy task when both of them are used to be in charge. And it makes it even harder when they want each other so badly that it's hard for them to be in the same room without the smirks and knowing eyes. Miranda doesn't want to be hurt. She doesn't want to depend on a man for help. She is an independent woman that wants to prove to her town that she is ready to be a professional business owner. Not the town hooch like her mother.

The local blog gossip rag isn't helping at all with that since they seem to be everywhere she and Talmadge are. Camera ready. Gossip flowing.

They might want to get down and dirty but are they willing to take the risk? Will Miranda become the business owner she has always wanted to be? And who is in charge of Red River Rag? And will Lloyd ever get his man card? The sexiness. The intrigue. The tool belts.

I loved this story. It was sweet, funny, and refreshing. I thought the characters were so fun, and their banter was on point. The story flowed perfectly and playfully.

Quotes:

That had gotten him neutered once before. His balls were probably still mounted on Miranda's wall like a trophy she'd taken down on safari.

"I like it fast and loud, too, but not alone." His tone was as smart-ass as his smile.

"Their six-pack abs are a weapon, and they know how to use them to wear us down."

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♥Sana♥ says

**Shelly Alexander Where have you been hiding these amazing books from me?!!!!**

When a book sucks me in from the first chapter, I know that it would be a real success.

It's In His Smile is an amazing book full of love and romance that it fills your heart with warmth.

The story is about Talmadge Oaks, a successful environmental architect and Miranda Cruz, the new owner of his grandmother's Inn.

After loosing his parents in a car accident and then his beloved grandfather, Talmadge decided to leave his grandmother Bea and Red River behind and head to New York to start his successful empire.

With Bea's death Talmadge had to come back to Red River, attend the funeral, see his grandmother's will then go back to the mess he left behind.

With a broken arm and a project that would either make or break his reputation as a well-known architect, the last thing Talmadge needed was Miranda.

Or may be she was all he needed...

Miranda Cruz spent so many years waitring to save money and make her dreams come true. With her mother's bad reputation behind, she had to fight to earn evryone's respect.

Stuck in the Inn with Talmadge for the renovations was not a good option.

What they shared seven years ago was more than enough.

Ok! It wasn't really enough, especillay when Talmadge was ready to start where they left and was willing to show Miranda how beautiful it feels when they are together.

This was my first book to Shelly Alexander but I'm going back to read the whole series because I really loved the stroy, the style and the way the characters are built.

Arc kindly provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

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### **Kathy Osborn says**

This was my first book that I have read from Shelly Alexander and it will not be the last. She has a wonderful style of writing that takes you into a small town and you get to know each character as your friends.

Miranda, headstrong independent woman is trying to open an inn, but her mentor has passed on and so she is a little lost how to accomplish it all.

However, Talmadge the grandson of the mentor (Bea) is home from the funeral. Talmadge and Miranda are no strangers as their paths have crossed before. Talmadge is an architect who has problems with his latest project as an Indian burial site was found.

Can the past be rekindled to start a new relationship or does Miranda put up roadblocks to stop it. Has Bea purposely set Talmadge up to keep him in town?

This is a sweet romance with some humor as the town gossip rag gets involved in their relationship.

If you would love a sweet read, I highly recommend this book

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### **Tami says**

This review is based on an ARC provided by the author and /or publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest opinion.

4.5

Cher always told us in 'The Mermaids' that 'It's In His Kiss', but it's whatever lol. This story was flippin adorable. A stretch on the reasoning to keep him in town etc, but you tend to forgive that cause its so cute. Gotta love small towns and hussies for mothers....NOT!

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### **Kellie Herrick says**

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

I was a little bummed I had missed the first two books in this series and will go back to read them soon as I truly enjoyed not just this book but the town around this book and I hope there will be another book to follow this one.

Talmage and Miranda grew up in the same town. He noticed her but always kept his distance because she was quite a bit younger than him. They came together 7 years ago for their friend's wedding for a one night stand that changed her and he was never able to forget. Now he is back to say goodbye to the grandmother that raised him and while trying to collect his inheritance he ends up truly fulfilling his grandmother's last wish.

The characters in this book come to life with the author's words. And the town is truly amazing with colorful supporting characters and a sense of history with old town charm.

I highly recommend this read.

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### **Carolyn's says**

Love this series and this book was a success! Miranda and Talmadge were sexy sweet together.

After battling years from the terrible reputation of her mother, Miranda Cruz protects herself by trying to be a reputable part of the community but in doing so she has closed herself off in many ways by being afraid to get too close to others. Once upon a time, she opened herself up to Talmadge but a misunderstanding quickly made her think she should stick to staying alone taking care of her brother, her friend Bea and becoming a successful business owner.

Talmadge is a successful architect who has the attention of the rich socialites. But when trouble arises on both the work front and dating front, Talmadge finds you can go home again. When his grandmother Bea passes away Talmadge heads home to take care of things and despite his troubles at work, he is still a hometown hero.

When past desires can't be forgotten, Miranda and Talmadge find it hard to stay away from each other. Problem is, the new town gossip rag tells everything almost in real time. What ensues is the hilarious people in Red River wanting Miranda and Talmadge to be a couple when they both don't think it's possible.

I love this town and its cast of characters. As always, they come together and unite when needed. Hoping there is another in this series!

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