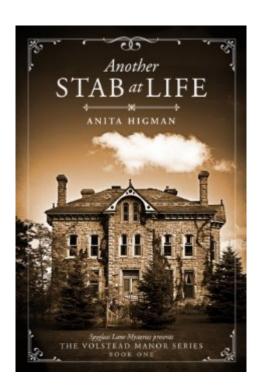
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Another Stab At Life (Christian Cozy Mystery) (The Volstead Manor Series Book 1)





Synopsis

UPDATED AND REVISEDShe has nowhere to go, except the dilapidated mansion she's just inherited from her Granny Minna. Unfortunately, Bailey discovers the house has a history as shadowy as its hidden passages and finds the neighborhood overflowing with some rather quirky folks. Bailey suddenly feels like she's trapped inside the pages of a gothic novel - but with a comedic twist. In order to honor her grandmother's wishes and stay at Volstead Manor Bailey must unravel a string of mysteries and secrets, which all seem determined to stay happily ever buried.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bailey has lost basically everything except the creepy old house her Granny willed to her; moving in means dealing with secret passages, creepy happenings, and an attraction to neighbor Max.(Though reviews are inherently subjective, I prefer to provide some organization to my opinions through the use of a personal rubric. The following notes may contain spoilers.)Plot and Setting: 4 -- Plot has unique elements and no major holes, but a few shaky bits and/or a slight lack of focus.

Basically, heaps and heaps of melodrama pile onto a decent story about an old house with secrets and a woman finding she doesn't have to do life alone. And then all the drama ends rather abruptly. Plot points in sub-plots are dropped or not resolved. The whole thing with Sam and Annie is weird, confusing, and completely unresolved. Setting is clear, believable, and consistent. Characters: 3 -- Main characters are mostly relatable, realistic, interesting, and/or dynamic. There's a lot going on with Bailey, from the wounds of her past which have left her closed off from people to her active imagination and fierce independence. There are elements of her that I can relate to and/or appreciate, but I somehow still didn't fully connect with her. I think character development got a bit lost in the drama. Minor characters and villains are almost exclusively stereotyped or simplified. Relationships between characters are not especially well developed, but what is there is generally good. Elements of interest in some characters and relationships, but most minor characters have just one main attribute. Mechanics and Writing: 4 -- Few typos or word errors (pours instead of pores, they're instead of there are). Intelligent use of POV (all 1st person Bailey).

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