



# Death at a Fixer-Upper

*Sarah T. Hobart*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Death at a Fixer-Upper

*Sarah T. Hobart*

**Death at a Fixer-Upper** Sarah T. Hobart

**In Sarah T. Hobart's wickedly funny and fast-paced Home Sweet Home mystery series, small-town real estate agent Sam Turner discovers it's bad for business when her clients keep dropping dead.**

Newly armed with her real estate license, Sam Turner loves Arlinda, her quirky seaside hometown in Northern California. But life by the beach isn't exactly a breeze: She and her teenage son, Max, are being evicted from their apartment, her long absent ex-husband unexpectedly resurfaces, and her possibly romantic relationship with sexy Chief of Police Bernie Aguilar is, well . . . complicated. All Sam wants is a quick and easy sale. What she gets instead is a killer headache—or three.

Sam's trying to drum up interest in 13 Aster Lane, a rambling Victorian fixer-upper that's more than a little neglected—and possibly haunted—so when a trio of offers arrive out of the blue, she can't help thinking it's too good to be true. But after a new client drops dead on the property, she fears she's lost more than a commission. Before Sam's out of house and home, she must unmask a killer targeting her clients, or the only property she'll be moving will be plots—at the local cemetery.

## Death at a Fixer-Upper Details

Date : Published May 17th 2016 by Alibi (first published April 12th 2016)

ISBN : 9780399177842

Author : Sarah T. Hobart

Format : ebook 267 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

 [Download Death at a Fixer-Upper ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Death at a Fixer-Upper ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Death at a Fixer-Upper Sarah T. Hobart**

---

## From Reader Review *Death at a Fixer-Upper* for online ebook

### Ruby says

Sam's plate just keeps piling up. Her son and she are being evicted, her long lost husband has shown back up, her latest real estate venture is not going well, and to top all that off, her relationship with her main squeeze is... interesting. What's a girl to do? Apparently find a dead body in the same venture she's trying so hard to unload.

*Death at a Fixer-Upper* is all the fun of a great cozy with the fun and zeal of a humorous find. I loved Sam. Her realistic way of dealing with things is so real and amusing. You actually feel sorry for her and cheer her on through all that is thrown at her. A wonderful story with a complicated ending sure to make you say... huh!

---

### Sandy Harris says

With little suspense and a mystery that wrapped up in a rushed page or two, my interest in *DEATH AT A FIXER-UPPER* quickly flat lined and nothing could resuscitate it. While the story started out promising, the main character Sam seemed more interested in cracking one liners than cracking the mystery. A little bit of humor is okay but isn't this supposed to be a murder mystery? (My thanks to Random House for providing me with an advance reader copy and for the opportunity to share my opinion...)

---

### Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

This was one of those books where I'm still trying to figure out what I think and how I feel about it. I finished it last night and I'll admit that it isn't sticking with me. This is not a good sign.

The story certainly had possibilities. Single-mother Sam Turner is a fledgling real estate agent in what sounds like a down market, so the story felt a bit dated, as though it was set in the recession. The housing market has picked up the last couple of years, and it feels like we are now in a sellers' market, so Sam's lack of success didn't feel current, especially given the description of Arlinda as a quirky if desirable place to live.

The house she is trying to sell is equally quirky, not to mention downright creepy. Did the address have to be 13 Aster Lane? Couldn't it have been 15? Or 12? As events kept spiraling into the weird, it seemed as if the address was either intended as a portent or was just too much over the top. And in spite of the opening of the story, there is not a paranormal element in it.

This is also a small town with a lot of interesting (again, read that as quirky) characters, and it felt as if we met ALL of them.

The word "quirky" comes up a lot in descriptions of and reviews of this book. You would think that there

would be some relatively normal, meaning non-quirky, people in this town. But that doesn't seem to be the case.

It also seems as if Sam is just one of those people to whom bad things happen, not always with any rhyme or reason. Her neighbors spy on her, her landlord hates her, the appraiser for her upcoming house purchase rules against her, and most of her colleagues in the real estate business are just plain nasty pieces of work.

In a twist, her boss is actually a nice guy. But everyone else she has to deal with regarding the sale of 13 Aster Lane is just nasty. She has rivals both at her own agency and at the listing agency, and both women are just unreasonably bitchy.

The mystery in this book surrounds that estate at 13 Aster Lane. For reasons that Sam doesn't figure out until the very end, all sorts of strange and bizarre people are interested in the broken-down mansion, sight unseen. And Sam keeps tripping over the dead bodies of all of those potential purchasers.

It all seems very bizarrely coincidental, until a figure out of her own wacky past turns up out of the seeming blue. And then she discovers that she's been played all along.

Escape Rating C-: I never warmed up to Sam. In the story, it always seems like she's in way over her head, which can make things interesting. However, she takes that "over her head" feeling and spends a lot of time feeling sorry for herself, and/or letting other people walk all over her.

Ironically, the deed that most of her fellow real estate agents, those of the cutthroat variety, would most laugh at her for is the one that reaps her the biggest reward at the end.

But the world of real estate that Sam is attempting to inhabit is not a good place, not for her, not for anyone. And she's mostly unsuccessful in a realm where you have to support yourself on commissions and not salary. She's not managing and not rethinking. And letting herself be run over by bitches on wheels. In one case, almost literally.

This was also a story where there were two sets of villains, each more unlikely than the other, and both equally out of left field. While the reader always suspects that there is something hinky about all of the sudden offers on the very dilapidated property, and that none of the prospective buyers are remotely on the up and up, the degree to which the solution comes out of nowhere was a bit breathtaking.

And the other piece of villainy was completely out of the blue.

I received this book from NetGalley via Random House Chatterbox for an honest review. Which is turning out to be a review that says I honestly didn't like this book very much. While I loved the first book I received through this program, *The Skeleton Garden* by Marty Wingate, that was a book in a series I had previously read and enjoyed. The second book, *Mug Shot* by Caroline Fardig, was okay but not as good as the Wingate. This one continues the downward trend, and I'm rethinking my entire participation in the Chatterbox.

Reviewer's Note: In the process of prepping this post I discovered that the author has published at least two previous books in this series under another name. That explains why it seems like we're meeting Sam in the middle of her mess rather than being introduced to her. But I am even less thrilled that this is the third book in a series and that the marketing makes it seem like the first book. Your mileage may vary.

---

## **Kristine (A Cozy Booknook) says**

This is a delightful new series by Sarah T. Hobart. The book is fast paced, often funny, suspenseful and intriguing. There are plenty of interesting and quirkily characters that drive this story and allow for plenty of suspects to keep the reader guessing who the culprit is.

Things are looking a little grim for single-mom, Sam Turner, and her son Max. They're being evicted from their apartment and there's a possibility Sam won't close on the house she hopes to own. AS though that isn't enough, Sam's ex=husband suddenly shows up after being gone for fourteen years and her relationship with her former brother-in-law, Police Chief Bernie Aguilar is complicated.

Being a fairly new real estate agent, Sam needs to work overtime trying to drum up interest for an estate in terrible disrepair. The good news for Sam is she has three interested buyers, the bad news is one of her clients dies on the property. Strange things seem to be happening as Sam tries to piece everything together.

I really enjoyed the story and didn't want to put it down. Arlinda, sounds like a fun and quirky town to live. The mystery is well plotted and paced with plenty of suspects that kept me guessing. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

I received a copy of this manuscript from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

---

## **Anita says**

ARC provided by the Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Funky with a sarcastic humor and a real flair for the people and story, Sarah Hobart's first Home Sweet Home Mystery is a real interesting cozy mystery. I've got to say that I didn't love it when the baddie is surrounded with a lot of other likely suspects. This is a good start to the series. Sam is a very layered character and I look forward to future books.

Sam Turner is not a people person, she has no tolerance for the chit-chat and meaningless social discourse, but once she makes a connection with someone, she is a loyal and helpful friend. That may seem strange for a newly minted Real Estate Agent for Home Sweet Home Realty, after all they live by interacting with a lot of people, but Sam seems to do just fine. When the Huntington Estate is put on the market, Sam has three different people call and want to place offers. She was suspect as to their true motives, but with escrow closing on her own home, she writes their offers just the same. Now they are dying and Sam is in the middle, with no clue as to why this is happening.

Sam is a single mother of 14 year old Max. Her ex, Wayne, went out for pizza and didn't come back. She is good friends with her sister's ex, sexy Chief of Police Bernie Aguilar, and is contemplating a possibly romantic relationship with him. The old trust issue rears its' head here and there are lots of issues to be resolved. Rating: 3 1/2 stars.

---

## **Carol says**

Home Sweet Home realty has a new hire, Samantha “ Sam “ Turner. Sam lives in Arlinda, California. She is trying to sell old Victorian fixer-upper. The house is in terrible disrepair, spooky and questionably haunted.

In one day, Sam receives three requests to see the house.

One man is a developer, two is a ghost hunting woman and the third is a man fixer upper who wants to restore the house.

Sam is excited ad she needs the commission to help purchase her own new house. She and her son, Max are living in a rented apartment and received an eviction notice because of having a cat named Harley. Her husband up and disappeared years ago so Sam has had to raise her son on her own.

Could things get more complicated in her life?

How about finding a body....A DEAD BODY.

As the story progress, she finds more than one.

The story is fast moving with vivid descriptions of the area, the fixer-upper, the town’s annual wild and wacky vehicle race.

All the characters are well-defined, wacky and quirky.

Besides Sam and Max, her ex-husband, the persons involve in the parade, the woman and child at the old house with Oliver the Dog, her sister ex-husband who is chief if police and more colorful characters adding to the mystery.

Good suspense, engaging plot, chills with unexpected twists makes this a good book to read.

Thank you to Alibi via Net Gallery for this eBook. My opinion is my own.

---

## **Sheryl says**

This is the start of new cozy series, that is set in a seaside little village of Arlinda which is in Northern California. This happens to be the hometown of Sam Turner who has her newly minted Real Estate license and is ready to take the market by storm. Sam also has a teenage son, Max who she has raised on her own since her deadbeat ex -husband walked out on her before her son was even born. Well, he happens to turn up in Arlinda wanting to meet his son which is not what Sam needs or wants at this time since she is up to neck in trouble.

She is trying to sell an old Victorian that is pretty run down and needs lots of TLC before it’s even livable. This house has a lot of history behind it and some even think it’s haunted. It seems that since the listing went live, poor Sam is swamped with offers and demands regarding this rundown piece of property. She’s running around like a crazy trying to get the potential buyers all the information they need even though they are dropping like flies. All the while she’s dodging her ex-husband because she sure doesn’t want him to end up

letting her son down as he did her.

The ending totally took me by surprise and you can't help but love a mystery does that to you.

There is a lot of potential for this series, Sam is a very likable character, plus there may be a complicated love interest in her horizon. She's moving into a new place in town that she can finally call her own. Plus, the colorful residents of Arlinda are entertaining as well. I just saw that Ms. Hobart has the next installment in this series to be released in November, "A Killer Location" I look forward to reading that one as well. If you like contemporary cozies as much as I do, you'll not want to miss this one.

I would like to thank Alibi Publishing and Netgalley for providing me with an e-galley to read and give my honest opinion.

---

### **Barb says**

Sam Turner is a real estate agent in Arlinda, California, and is showing a property with a spooky old mansion in terrible disrepair. It seems as if there's tons of interest in the old place, though, for many different reasons. A developer, a ghost hunter, and a man who wants to repair it to its former glory all clamor for the winning bid. Unfortunately, one of them ends up dead, apparently killed by a falling gargoyle. Then another bidder is found dead, poisoned. In the meantime, Sam is trying to close on a new house (having been evicted for owning a cat,) rooting for her son in a bizarre race Arlinda holds each year, and attempting to further a romantic relationship with a handsome detective who just happens to be her sister's ex. And her former husband just happens to show up. Let the chaos begin!

Ms. Hobart uses highly descriptive prose, almost to a fault, but she certainly paints vivid pictures, and her dialogues are snappy, quirky and fast paced. Her characters (of which there are almost confusingly many) are complex, and the plot of this delightful tale is fresh and unique. And I have to admit that I was totally stumped about whodunit until the big reveal.

I received a free e-copy of this book from the publisher through Net Galley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

---

### **Betty says**

The first book in a new cozy series and a new author for me. Sam Turner is learning about real estate sales. The house on the market is a prime piece of property. The house has been allowed to deteriorate and all flora has been allowing to grow rampant. She receives three offers for the property each purchaser has a different project in mind. There is the developer, a ghost hunter, and restorer who all want the property. She must move soon as she is being evicted from her apartment. Her ex-husband shows up and wants to meet their son. Sam needs to receive her commission on one of the properties in order to close on the house she is buying. Her ex-husband shows up and wants to meet his son. The body of one of the purchasers is found the property. Sam's boyfriend is the sheriff and won't give her any information about the death.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Alibi through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions are my own

---

## **Melanie says**

Typically, I enjoy books where I feel like the character is "alive," where the author makes them feel so real that they could be next to me. This just didn't happen in this book. I felt no connection with the main character. That being said, I'm not really a mystery person. I do enjoy a mystery/thriller/suspense book, but this way more chic lit with a weird mystery thrown in. It just seemed very far fetched. I mean, if you see a dead body, wouldn't you freak out? The main character didn't. That bothered me. However, I'm not disappointed I read it at all, it just wasn't my cup of tea.

---

## **Verity W says**

\*\*\*\*Copy from NetGalley in return for an honest review\*\*\*\*

So I have mixed feelings about this - on the one hand the mystery is interesting and the characters are engaging for the most part. On the other hand I had to go and check a few times that this really was the first in the series because I felt that I was missing a few things about Sam's backstory. Although some of these later became clear(er) I did spend a fair amount of time being a little bit confused. There's seems to be a complicated love triangle on the way that I'm not sure will ever be satisfactorily resolvable for some readers and there are a few other strands hanging over for a sequel too.

I think Sam is meant to be a quirky and independent woman, but she skirts the Too Stupid to Live trope at a few moments - dashing into danger even while she's thinking "this might be dangerous" leaving me rolling my eyes. She also has a short temper, which feels inadequately explained and attempts to use it as a humourous plot moment (I think that's what the aim was) actually came across to me as her being randomly violent with little provocation. And as a Brit, our real estate system works very differently, so I was a little lost at times with some of the house selling sections.

I've realised that this is really long and reads like I don't like it at all - but I did finish it and I think there is potential for a good series in there - hence why I have so much to say about it - it just needs a few of the kinks to be worked out and the author to flesh out her characters' actions and motivations out a bit more.

---

## **JoAn says**

Death at a Fixer-Upper by Sarah Hobart was an enjoyable cozy mystery. The characters were well drawn; and the small town of Arlinda sounds like it would be an interesting beach town to visit.

I liked Sam and she impressed me with her relationship with her son, Max, and how independent she has become being a single parent. I also appreciated her concern and soft heart toward strangers. I didn't really see Bernie as a love interest but he really didn't have much page time so I never felt like I got to know him very well.

A well paced plot and enough red herrings that did keep me guessing until the reveal provided me with an enjoyable read.



I received an ARC from Alibi via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

---

### **Victoria Brinius says**

This is a really fun cozy. I laughed, kept guessing who the killer was and had fun counting the bodies as they piled up!. Did I mention there were ghosts and an ex husband? From over a decade ago? i am giving this book a 4/5. I was given a copy to review from chatterbox by house party, however all opinions are my own.

---

### **Penny Marks says**

Death at a Fixer-Upper was a fun, fast paced adventure. It is full of humor, mystery, and intrigue. I couldn't stop reading it was so much fun. I love Sarah's character Sam Turne. She is a strong woman trying to pull her life together.

Sam lives in the small seaside town of Arlinda in Northern California. She along with her teenage son, Max are going through a rough patch. They are being evicted from their apartment which is a struggle but then her ex husband, who she hasn't seen in years shows up? WHY??? And to top everything off she is in a possible relationship with the hot Chief of Police, Bernie Aguilar. I'm sure you are asking yourself why that would be a problem, well let's just say it would be very complicated with some of her family.

On the bright side she is trying to get things life back on track now that she has her real estate license. She is brand spankin new and looking to get some business her way. She is trying to get some interest in 13 Aster Lane which by the way should probably be torn down and is possible haunted. But she will leave that out of the flyer. She is shocked and excited when not one but three people are interested in the property. But poor Sam can't seem to catch a break when one of her clients dies on the property out of the blue? What is going on??? She has to find out before she or her other two clients start to drop like flies.

I recieved this book from NetGalley for an honest review.

---

### **Susan Johnson says**

This is a delightful entry into the cozy mystery genre. Sam Turner is a single mother who has selling real estate for all of five months when a great, tumbling down estate comes on the market in her small town in N. Calif. The author is from Eureka and the fictional town of Arlinda really resembles that.

Out of the blue, Sam gets three separate clients who want to make an offer on the house. Sam is ecstatic until the clients start dying. And, of course, the house is full of ghosts. To top it off, her ex-husband turns up after a 14 year absence.

This was just so much fun to read. The author has a great sense of humor so I was laughing the whole time. Being familiar with Eureka, I enjoyed the sense of place and know that Sam's ancient VW camper fits in perfectly there.

There is a nice supporting cast and I love her teen-age son. I would highly recommend this for those who like cozy mysteries.

Thank you Net Galley and Penguin Random House for the opportunity to review this.

