



Cloaked in Malice

Annette Blair

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There's nothing Maddie loves more than fabulous vintage clothes, but the visions she gets while touching them are starting to wear her down. Even so, when a beautifully dressed girl comes to Vintage Magic in search of her past, Maddie isn't about to turn her away, especially since she bears a striking resemblance to her good friend Dolly Sweet.

When Maddie touches Paisley Skye's exquisitely crafted child's cloak, the vision she receives is of the ugliest sort: a decades-old case of kidnapping and murder. To give herself more time to investigate, Maddie enlists the help of her FBI Agent boyfriend Nick and takes Paisley into her own home. But when Dolly suddenly skips town, Maddie realizes that uncovering the folds of Paisley's past will reveal more than one vintage crime...

Cloaked in Malice Details

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Author : Annette Blair

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From Reader Review Cloaked in Malice for online ebook

Darlene Ferland says

A visit to Mystic Falls, Connecticut is always fun. This one was not as light-hearted but just as enjoyable. The drama centers around an innocent young lady, vintage clothing, Dolly who is 104 years old, Paris and a shooting. Life is disrupted again for Vintage Dress Shop owner Maddie Cutler when she encounters a child's winter coat. . . If you have followed this series you will love this new read. If you haven't begun to read the vintage clothing, please treat yourself to a series that will really add to your summer.

Heather L says

[-- although the Russian circus clown angle at the end was really stretching it (hide spoiler)]

CK says

good book kept my interest but in the end it feels like she pulled back from all the sinister plot drama building up and felt it was to dark to follow thru with.

Nora-adrienne says

Maddie and Nick, along with Dolly and the crew have reached new heights. We are now going to be drawn into finding the past life of the stranger that shows up at Maddie's store and finding who she is. The depth of the story and its characters head into directions that are definitely out of their comfort zones and they all perform with panache.

Doris says

I was intrigued by the premise of this book. There are so many books out there dealing with some type of paranormal activity or ability, so it was great to find one that dealt with the art of divination, or psychometry. It also had a good storyline – a mystery shrouded in time, centered on a piece of children's clothing presented by a mysterious young woman.

Unfortunately, that young woman, Paisley Skye, was not someone that I thought was a good person. True, she had a less than normal upbringing, but overall it did not sound too horrible. The main trouble with it was that everything was very isolated.

I simply did not like her, especially since she took advantage of the skills of our central character, Maddie, knowing the reaction Maddie would have to the touch of the clothing. I did wonder how she knew.

I liked Maddie though. Other than the fact that she apparently is able to just drag everyone in and get them to help run her shop, she seems pretty well put together. I liked that she is not used to being overlooked, but Paisley Skye's appearance (literal and figurative) eclipsed Maddie and made her invisible.

Paisley on the other hand seems to be a manipulator, a user of people. How did she learn this on an island where the only people she knew were "Mam" and "Pap", neither of whom she seemed to like?

A few other things: Paisley grew up without television, telephones, or computers, but knows more about them than she should. Yes, she watches television in her hotel, but since she only just left the island, she is way too comfortable with idioms peculiar to the television generations (including the phrase "get a room", which she uses when Maddie and Nick are kissing). Since she was isolated, and presumably so for the most part were Mam and Pap, her language ought to be a little outdated, her phrasing a little odd, and her people skills practically non-existent.

In addition – she buried her Mam and Pap and is okay with that. She should at the least have been unnerved by the whole experience, not blowing it away as if it was nothing.

If this is a series, I doubt if I will continue reading it. I did like Maddie, Nick and some of the other characters (especially Dolly and Dante!) but Paisley was too unbelievable, and there was too little sleuthing going on throughout the story – it all seemed to come together in the last few chapters. This could work well if woven in with various other clues along the way. (view spoiler)

Closer to 2.5 stars but upgraded because it does have its moments.

Jae says

When a lovely young woman comes to Maddie's shop, dressed in vintage and searching for clues to her past, Maddie is eager to help her. That help comes at a price, when Maddie inadvertently reads a child's cloak that woman has with her, giving Maddie a vision of murder and kidnapping. There's also the uncanny resemblance between the stranger, Paisley, and Maddie's elderly friend, Dolly Sweet. After Dolly goes AWOL, Maddie's boyfriend, FBI agent Nick, gets involved as well. Soon, they are exploring the small island where Paisley grew up and was a virtual prisoner until her caretakers passed, giving her the opportunity to flag down a boat and escape the island. An old photo is what led her to Mystick Falls and Maddie's shop, but now Maddie isn't sure she can trust Paisley. Is she the "little girl lost" she claims to be, or is she part of an organized crime family or an undercover operative? All of Maddie's visions seem to be of mayhem and murder, and Paisley is definitely at the heart of it all.

This story was quite a departure from earlier ones in the series, in that the crime/murder was decades old instead of recent. There was no body for Maddie to stumble across, and no friend or family member whose name needed to be cleared. The story was interesting, but it was sort of all over the place, and it was downright confusing at times. Maddie did a lot of reading in this one, which I liked, even though it took a lot out of her to do so.

Not my favorite in this series, even though the narrative zipped along. Giving this one a rating of 4 stars.

Angela says

I love me some Maddie Cutler. I liked this installment of the Vintage Magic series. It wasn't my favorite book in the series, but the story was exciting and kept me entertained, especially Maddie's inventive sewing terms she uses in place of curse words. The question of whether Paisley Skye is a friend or foe kept up the suspense. I think my main problem right now with the series is I really love Werner! Nick's alright, but Werner--he's the guy Maddie should really be with. Also, Eve is almost non-existent in this story--I really love her, too. I miss the other residents of Mystic Falls I've come to know. Hopefully the next book, Operation Petticoat will involve more of my favorite characters--and more Werner, too!

Susan says

Good book. I always enjoy the stories of Maddie and her visions and this one was no exception. Things had been pretty calm lately when a girl comes into the shop with a cloak she wants some information about. When Maddie touched that cloak though, she saw a scene of murder and kidnapping. This sets her off on her inevitable search for the truth. I love Maddie's persistence in trying to figure out how all the pieces fit together. I was glad to see that this time she included Nick in the process. They finally seem to be settling into a steadier relationship. I really liked the way they were able to work together to unravel the threads of Paisley's past. I also loved getting more of a look at the past lives of Dolly and the ghost Dante. There were some great moments of Annette Blair humor, including the timely appearance of Maddie's brother and Nick's partner Alex. The only character I could never quite make up my mind about was Paisley herself. She alternated too much between totally naive and then completely comfortable with the modern world. Overall, I can't wait for the next one.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

In this slightly different approach, our psychic sleuth, Madiera Cutler finds herself befriending a 'Missing Person.'

A customer comes to Maddie with a valise of children's clothing. The customer is vague but holds a startling resemblance to Mad's favorite Centenarian, Dolly Sweet.

The pace is quick in solving this mystery from page one until Dolly's 104th birthday at the ending.

There are murders, fortresses, kidnappings, spys, trips to France and more as Maddie and her beau, Nick try to solve this (now FBI case,) and expect her other friends, family and Detective Weiner to become involved as well.

I really enjoyed this novel. It kept the integrity of the series I have grown to love, while giving a completely different view of Maddie's abilities.

Next book is 'Operation Petticoat.' Now to wait...

Babs says

I just loved this book. I have to admit I have not read the others in this series. I happen to come across this book one day and loved the blurb and got it as a Christmas present. Once I got started I could not put this book down. Mad is a wonderful character and reading clothes is very unique. Dante being a resident ghost in her shop is a nice surprise.

Paisley escapes her home after her mam and pop pass away. She is very closed off from the real world no phones, computers etc. She comes to Mad for help as someone recommended her. Things start going wonky from the first visit. Dolly is a hoot of a character and she really shows in this book. I can't wait to see how she is in the others.

The relationship with Nick is funny in ways as you can see the green monster on his shoulder anytime Werner is around. Interesting to learn more about the relationship between them all. Speaking of which since I did start with book five I did not feel so out of touch with the characters as some other series.

I will be looking at more books from this author along with finishing up this series.

Digital And Vellum says

Annette did a good job taking your assumptions about where the characters and the plot were going and turning it on its head!

Cloaked in Malice follows our favorite vintage clothing psychic as she befriends a woman who doesn't even know her real name. Paisley Skye was raised on an island away from society, brainwashed after watching her parents get murdered, and finally escaped... Now who is she really?

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was light and engaging. It kept me on my toes until the very last few pages.

This is a book I happily own in my library :)

If you are looking for a cozy mystery give this one a try!

Sandie Laughner says

This series just keeps getting better!! :)

Betty says

Dolly's Lookalike

A stranger enters Maddie Culter's boutique and startled everyone as she looks like Dolly Street. When Maddie touches a piece she goes into a trance. This starts the new adventure takes Maddie to an island off the coast. There are several twists and turns as this cold case unravels. The ending will surprise you.

Kristen says

I absolutely love this fashion-based, mildly paranormal series, and this is one of my favourites of the series.

Madeira is a hilarious, over-the-top sleuth/heroine, and I adore her! She is smart, sassy, clever and funny, and her fashion fetish, which bleeds into nearly every page of these stories is an extra feature if you are a fashionista. There are quotes from designers, fashion expletives [sort of] and everything Mad thinks has a fashion twist to it. It's just plain fun.

The mystery in this one was also way over the top, and without giving spoilers, it has everything but the kitchen sink thrown in there, and the rag-tag bunch of investigators in Mad's life are just too funny in how they go about trying to figure out - in their adorably bumbling way - what the whipstitch is going on [I stole that one from Madeira]. The whole book is fun, light and super-sweet.

Highly recommend this series if you like a gentle murder mystery with a ghost or two, and some fashion-based shenanigans. So much fun!!

Lindsay says

A strange girl shows up at Maddie's shop one day who grew up on an island and has no idea who she is. And since she looks a bit like Maddie's friend Dolly, Mad decides to find out who this girl is. So she and her bf take the girl back to the secret island she grew up on to help uncover her past. The farm she lived on seemed a bit like something out of a horror movie, dead bodies and scary rooms and an electric fence. Thought it seemed odd that she grew up without any other people but her parents she seemed pretty comfortable about people. You'd think that after being a hermit your whole life, people would freak you out a bit. I found her kind of annoying. I still like the characters in the book so I'll keep reading the series. These books always make me want to start dressing better. I dont know much about fashion, so its jeans and Tshirts for me. lol.
