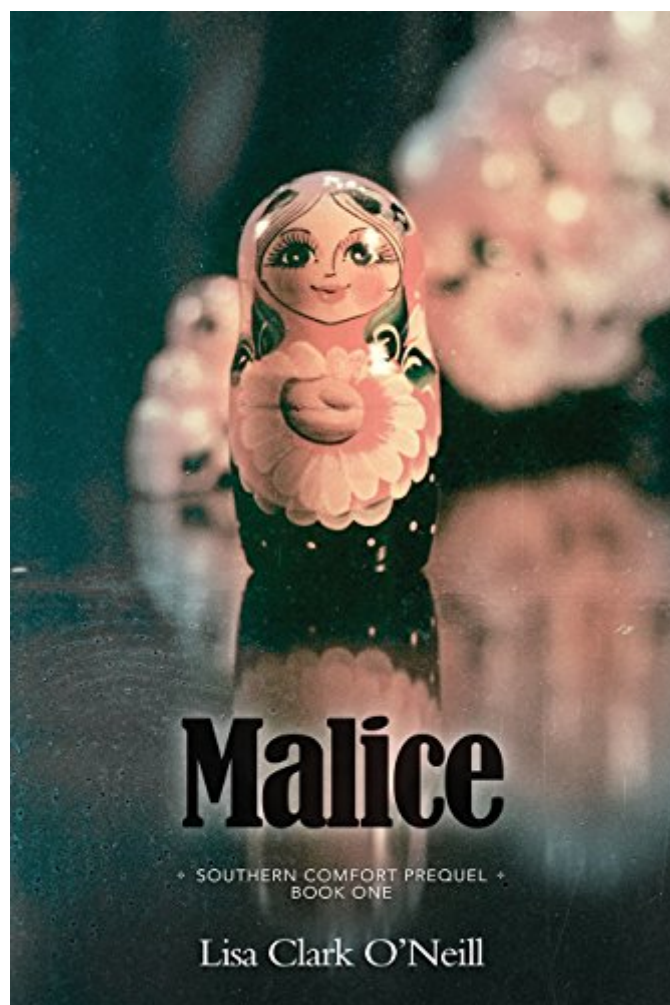


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# Malice (Southern Comfort Prequel Book 1)



## Synopsis

Selected as a Best Read of 2015. "Malice has mystery, suspense, complexity, romance, and THRILLS! It is a quick read because you will forget to put it down." ~ Katie, Kindles & Wine

The brutal execution of a Russian immigrant suspected of having ties to organized crime is only the beginning for Savannah FBI agent Jesse Wellington. A man known only as "The Ghost" begins wreaking havoc on the Hostess City, bringing murder and mayhem to its southern shores. When evidence turns up implicating Jillian Montgomery, the close friend of another agent, Jesse finds himself dangerously attracted to a woman at the heart of his investigation. Jillian Montgomery fears law enforcement "and with good reason. But when she finds herself being caught in a web of someone else's making, it's Jesse who she ends up turning to for help. Long-buried secrets from Jillian's past are coming back to haunt her in ways she could never have predicted. It's up to Jesse to help her exhume and exorcise them before it's too late.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Murder by Christmas decoration, abduction, disguises, drugs, sex trafficking, throw in a kick-ass heroine, a smokin' FBI agent, some hot and not-so-hot Russians and you've got yourself a winner!

Another great story by Lisa Clark O'Neill! This book has the right combination of "edge of your seat" suspense and hot romance to keep you glued to the pages. The Wellington brothers never disappoint and I was so excited to finally get Jesse and Jillian's story. I flew through it the first time and now I'll have to read it again so I can savor each and every page. Can't wait for Avarice!

I cannot forget the first time I read Lisa Clark O'Neill - I downloaded Serendipity on July 12, 2013 and read it in one sitting. From that date on, whenever one of Ms. Clark's books released, I immediately would obtain it and greedily read it, no matter what my schedule. As a longtime fan of romantic suspense books, I am always searching for new authors; well, Ms. Clark is one of THE best authors out there in this genre. Her books are consistently well-written, with engrossing plots, well-developed characters and just the perfect amount of witty banter and humor I need. And let's not forget the sizzling chemistry between our heroes and heroines! Having already read and re-read the Southern Comfort series, I was familiar (and madly in love) with the Wellington brothers. So when I discovered Jesse Wellington was getting his book as a series prequel, I was thrilled. We get acquainted with FBI Agent Jesse as he is deep undercover with his partner, going after the Russian mob. Enter Jillian Montgomery, a photographer who keeps a low profile, especially around law enforcement. Jillian previously came to the aid of a girlfriend who was in an abusive relationship with a Savannah police officer. Unfortunately, that deed by her resulted in Jillian being horribly assaulted by that officer and the subsequent backlash leaves her scarred. Before long, murder and mayhem ensue. Is Jillian in danger, or is she the one causing it? That is Jesse's quandary as he gets closer to Jillian - she has no idea that he is an FBI agent. Is he her protector or her persecutor? That is the question Jillian faces once she learns who Jesse is. As with the matryoshka dolls on the cover, as you delve layer by layer into the story, you will find yourself fascinated with what is beneath the surface. This is an excellent, excellent book, and I am stalking the internet eagerly awaiting the next release by Ms. Clark. I highly recommend this book!

I was very unsure going into this as it was a prequel - and I really dislike going backwards. And honestly for whatever reason I couldn't place Jesse and Jillian from prior books. However once I figured out who was who and where I was in the timeline I started the story and never looked back. I loved this just as much if not more than the others. If you are a fan of the author or of romantic suspense in general I highly recommend this book!

Another great novel by Lisa Clark O'Neill. The characters and story pull you in from page one. I

could not put it down until I devoured the entire book! I've read every book she has written and loved them all. Every time I finish one it becomes my new favorite. I can not wait for her next novel "Avarice" to be released.

I really love a great series I can get caught up in. This series is certainly one of those. Jillian is the focus of this story. She is a photographer who keeps to herself but things herself the focus of a murder investigation. Jesse is an undercover FBI agent working on the case but pretending to be a concerned new friend. The more Jesse investigates, the more he realizes that not only does danger surround Jillian, but also evidence of her guilt. She had had traumatic experiences with the local police in the past, but is this a case of revenge or something much bigger. The suspicion is that she is not the one in danger but the one causing the danger. Jesse had to choose between keeping Jillian safe and doing his job. Unfortunately, once he reveals his duplicity to Jillian, she may never trust him to protect her again. The story had plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader guessing until the end. The suspense was consistent throughout the story, and the action picked up quickly. It was a great addition to a great series.

FBI Agent Justin Wellington was on an undercover assignment that went horribly wrong when the subject they had under surveillance turned up brutally murdered. Complicating matters is Jillian Montgomery, a potential suspect who is connected to his partner and seems to have a startling physical connection to him. I love this series and was happy to get Justin and Jillian's story! Everything about it was creepy and sinister, keeping me on edge and unable to stop reading until I finished. Anytime Russian mobsters are involved you know it's going to be suspenseful. Justin, however, almost stepped into anti-hero status but was able to stay inside the lines in the end. I really liked Jillian who was willing to face her fears in the midst of her PTSD experience that just kept resurfacing. She also made Justin step up his game. The ending was exciting as O'Neill isn't always kind to her main characters. Loved this novella and can't wait for the next ones. This ranks as one of my most favorite series and O'Neill is an auto-buy.

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