

WHITE SAND BLUES

ADVANCE READING COPY



VICKI DELANY

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Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Delany, Vicki, 1951-, author
White sand blues / Vicki Delany.
(Rapid reads)

Issued also in electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-4598-1535-3 (pbk.).—ISBN 978-1-4598-1536-0 (pdf).—
ISBN 978-1-4598-1537-7 (epub)

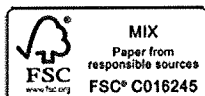
I. Title. II. Series: Rapid reads

PS8557.E4239W44 2017 C813'.6 C2017-900860-9 C2017-900861-7

First published in the United States, 2017

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017932516

Summary: Paramedic Ashley Grant finds herself in the middle of a murder investigation while in the Victoria and Albert Islands in this work of crime fiction. (RL 3.0)



Orca Book Publishers is dedicated to preserving the environment and has printed this book on Forest Stewardship Council® certified paper.

Orca Book Publishers gratefully acknowledges the support for its publishing programs provided by the following agencies: the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Book Publishing Tax Credit.

Design by Jenn Playford
Cover photography by iStock.com

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
www.orcabook.com

Printed and bound in Canada.

20 19 18 17 • 4 3 2 1

ONE

“YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?”

“Start work. Now. We have to get him. No one else is going to.” Simon bent over. He began unlacing his boots.

He was wearing black steel-toed work boots. I had on sandals with two-inch heels and thin straps. This was the first time I’d worn them. They’d set me back two hundred bucks I could ill afford. I glanced around. I hoped to see someone, anyone, ready to help.

Curious faces stared back at me. Some of the faces were black or brown.

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Most were shiny white. More than a few were a hideous shade of pink. Only Simon and I and the hotel staff were wearing street clothes. Everyone else wore some sort of beach attire. One guy held a sweating glass full of slices of tropical fruit and a colorful umbrella. Cameras and cell phones were lifted. If anyone told me to smile, I'd smack them.

I looked out to sea. I hoped to see a rescue boat heading to my, well, rescue.

No such luck. The water, at least, was calm.

"Ashley," Simon said. I couldn't see his eyes behind his sunglasses, but his jaw was tense. "This is the job. Can you do it or not? If not, there's a flight to Miami leaving at six. I can tell Gord you changed your mind."

That sounded tempting, but I took a deep breath. "Let's do it." I hoped I sounded like a firefighter I'd once heard as he led his

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men into a burning building. They rescued two children and a cat that day.

My plane had landed on Grand Victoria Island less than an hour earlier. I'd been surprised to see that my new boss had sent an ambulance to meet me. I'd been even more surprised when a call came over the radio and the driver said we were to answer it.

I kicked off my sandals.

I couldn't do much about the sundress. It also had set me back a pretty penny. I'd wanted to start my new life looking like a million bucks. Confident, in control. Dressed for success.

No one had suggested I'd be better in a uniform or hospital scrubs.

Simon didn't look back to see if I followed. He waded into the surf.

I prefer to stay out of the water whenever possible. When I took this job I forgot