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Ross Gresham

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Ross Gresham : White Shark (Jim Hawkins Mystery) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White Shark (Jim Hawkins Mystery):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An island vacation you will never forgetBy Marc A. CardulloWhite Shark's story builds like the tide coming in, slowly creeping up the beach to engulf the shore. Before you know it, you're neck deep in the plot of dirty secrets in this dark, underbelly of a seaside resort. Our protagonist is a

complicated man who seems to bring out the worst in everyone, just by his physical presence. His internal compass points unerringly towards what's right, and he's unstoppable in his investigations as the town's traffic cop. Any further and I'll give away too much - read *White Shark* for yourself!

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Debut thriller introduces Jim Hawkins, more than your average summer rent-a-cop

By Customer

Ross Gresham's *White Shark* is a treat. This darkly comic thriller takes place on the fictional tourist centered island of Nausset off the coast of Massachusetts. Neither of the famous islands in the same location is likely to claim it as theirs, as Gresham scrutinizes the inhabitants - the locals, visitors and summer residents alike - and skewers them all for a fiery summer barbeque. He spares only the poorly paid international workers who undertake the thankless jobs behind the scenes that keep the island humming. Both men and women will be captivated by Jim Hawkins, the rent-a-cop "parking warden" who won't turn a blind eye to the not-so-charming activities on this charming island. Men will admire his swashbuckling enterprises and women are going to love his sexy weirdness as he figures out what is really going on. Five stars for this debut thriller.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Don't Mess With Him!!!

By Ed Farren

Disclosure: I received this book free via a drawing by the "Stop You're Killing Me" website. An unusual literary venture. Imagine Carl Hiaasen moving north from Florida to Nantucket to write a novel in collaboration with Stephen King. Developers - including the Town Clerk, a restaurant and bar owner and an-ex-Senator - planning to despoil a wildlife refuge to put up condos and build a golf course and skimming over \$8 million from a Preservation Fund funded from a 1/2% Sales Tax. But then there is the white slavery of East European girls, and the sadistic torture, rape and murder of some of them. Several other murders occur, including one of the developers, when Jim takes a hand and their response is to bring in a kill team to take care of him. Some good moments, especially approaching the end, but the swing back and forth from humor to horror was off-putting.

Jim Hawkins is a summer Traffic Warden - read *Rent-a-Cop* - on fictional Nausset Island, MA. He's there to follow his soon to be ex-girlfriend. He admits to being disliked on sight by a substantial segment of the populace. Jim is ex-Special Forces and his story slowly unfolds via phone call from his ex-NCO. Although there are sharks in the story, the *White Shark* of the title, turns out to be Jim. As Sgt. Martinez explains when told by fixer Coburn that he has heard Special Forces took out the African prison Anomabu, "Special Forces? It was the *White Shark*...It was no mission, man...It was him. These maricons pissed him off. And then they were all dead." Although only a summer cop, Jim has ideas of what is right and proceed, through all obstacles, to do it.

Every summer, the vacation island of Nausset hires a temporary cop for the rush of tourists. This time they drew a wild card. Jim Hawkins, the "Parking Warden," stumbles upon the bizarre Viking suicide of a local property developer. The incident makes no ripple in the summer insanity of Nausset, the most fashionable beach property in the world. Fading aristocrats sit up all night at the windows of their wooden castles, while endless, drunken tourists stream by below. The ferries run day and night. Land prices creep higher--like the thermometer--and always the drinks are served by blank-faced foreigners counting the days on their work permits. One of these workers has disappeared. The local police know how the island works. They know who matters and who doesn't, and let it all pass with a wink and a free ice cream. But not Jim Hawkins. Hawkins may be the worst cop ever to put on a uniform, and he may not care about drunks or land deals, but after his tour in the Army, he is done letting people be hurt. There's a dead man on fire, a local beauty dead from what seems to be a vicious shark attack, and a Ukrainian girl who has come to the island to find her wild sister. *White Shark* is a darkly-funny thriller set in a corrupt vacation world where sometimes the only way to cut through the B.S. is to leave a ton of D.S. on the floor.

"Ross Gresham's debut is a knockout. Jim Hawkins is a guy you never want to mess with, but you'll want more of him, no doubt about it. *White Shark* is a page turner, a barn burner, a constantly moving thriller with good guys, bad guys, and really bad guys. It is constant motion, a dive into the shark pond during feeding time. An absolute winner."--Charlie Stella (*Eddie's World*, *Cheapskates*, Jimmy Bench Press...)"

Readers who treasure the voice of Jim Thompson or Elmore Leonard have a new voice in Ross Gresham. A wry wit brings alive every facet of Nausset Island life as Jim Hawkins, the underachiever of novels noir, finds murder and corruption steaming just below the crab stew and celebrity that allows locals to bilk tourists of their lives as well as their wallets. A great read."--Darryl Wimberley (*The King of Colored Town*, *A Tinker's Damn*, *Pepperfish Keys*...)

About the Author

Ross Gresham teaches at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and is fiction editor for the journal *War, Literature, and the Arts*. Check out his author page.