

### ***Blood in the Water***

By Tiffany D. Jackson

HC: 9781338849912 • \$18.99

EB: 9781338849936 • \$18.99

Ages 9–12 • Grades 4–7

On sale 7/1/2025

# BLOOD IN THE WATER

BY TIFFANY D. JACKSON

## The Story

This summer, beware of sharks . . .

Brooklyn girl Kaylani McKinnon feels like a fish out of water. She's spending the summer with family friends in their huge house on Martha's Vineyard, and the vibe is definitely snooty. Still, there are beautiful beaches, lots of ice cream, and a town full of fascinating Black history. Plus a few kids her age who seem friendly.

Until the shocking death of a teenage boy. Was it a drowning? A shark attack? Or the unthinkable—murder?

Kaylani is determined to solve the mystery. But her investigation uncovers shattering secrets that could change her own life as she knows it . . . if she survives.

This thrilling middle-grade debut from *New York Times* bestselling author Tiffany D. Jackson is packed with heart-pounding twists and turns that will keep readers guessing until the end.

**“What could spoil a glamorous, fun-filled summer in Martha's Vineyard? Uh . . . maybe a murder? Waves of suspense more chilling than the threatening ocean. Don't miss this one!”**

—R.L. Stine, author of *Goosebumps*

## Reading Group Questions

1. Who was your favorite character and why?
2. What was the most memorable or surprising scene in the story and why?
3. Martha's Vineyard is a fascinating place, full of history. What is one thing you learned about the island while reading this story?
4. Kaylani and London are very different from each other—Kaylani is in no rush to grow up, while London longs to be a grown up. Which character do you relate to more? Why?

## About the Author

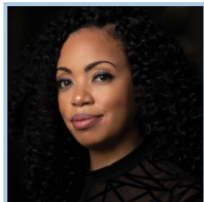


Photo ©

**Tiffany D. Jackson** is the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of several YA novels, including *White Smoke* and *The Weight of Blood*, as well as the picture book *Santa in the City*. *Blood in the Water* is her middle-grade debut. The Brooklyn native splits her time between her hometown and Atlanta, Georgia. Find Tiffany online at [writeinbk.com](http://writeinbk.com).

## Author Q&A

### What made you want to write this story?

Many of my YA books deal with heavy adult-like topics and during my tours/school visits, I started to notice how many young readers were picking up my books. I'd never tackled middle grade before and thought, *it's about time I wrote a story that spoke to them*. When the opportunity presented itself, I jumped at the chance to write a mystery set on one of my favorite places in the world, an island full of Black culture.

### Are there any people, experiences, or other stories that particularly influenced you as you were writing this book?

Of course my times traveling to Martha's Vineyard heavily influenced this story. Particularly, the food and beaches. I love lobster rolls and ice cream! But there's a specific bridge that's talked about in this story that I've jumped off a few times myself.

### Of all the supporting characters, who was your favorite to write—and why?

London! She's such a snotty girly-girl with diva behavior. I've never written a character like her before, so it was fun. We've all come across a London in our lifetime.

### What would you love for a reader to understand more after reading this book?

I ultimately would love for readers to learn more about Martha's Vineyard but to also remember that it's okay to be a kid and to have fun while they're in the midst of chasing their dreams.