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# Goldie Vance Vol. 1



## Synopsis

Move over Nancy, Harriet, & Veronica. There's a new sleuth on the block! Sixteen-year-old Marigold "Goldie" Vance lives at a Florida resort with her dad, who manages the place. Her mom, who divorced her dad years ago, works as a live mermaid at a club downtown. Goldie has an insatiable curiosity, which explains her dream to one day become the hotel's in-house detective. When Charles, the current detective, encounters a case he can't crack, he agrees to mentor Goldie in exchange for her help solving the mystery. Eisner Award-winning writer Hope Larson (*A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel*) and artist Brittney Williams (*Patsy Walker, A.K.A Hellcat!*) present the newest gal sleuth on the block with Goldie Vance, an exciting, whodunnit adventure.

## Book Information

Series: Goldie Vance (Book 1)

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Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Got as a gift for my granddaughter for xmas. She is VERY happy with it.

It was a cute, detective plot that was diverse which I loved. Definitely had me eating up the story, too bad I finished Vol. 1 so soon...

Squeeeeeeee! That is my reaction to all of this! Detectives, Russians who are up to no good, cute romance between Diane and Goldie, and much much more. Oh did I mention the sweet art? The book quickly jumps into what Goldie does best, being a detective, locating items, people, solving cases (I had quite a laugh at that little kid, the way he looked with utter boredom like he couldn't have given a poopoo about being saved or not). After that it is a whirlwind of mystery, slice of life, and my favourite part (yes, the mystery and detective stuff is great, but this one just took the cherry and the entire sundae with it) the obvious romance between Goldie and Diane. At first it seems to be only Goldie crushing hard on Diane, being sad about her going on a date with someone else, but then you also see that Diane is definitely feeling something for Goldie! Squeeeee! Goldie was a terrific, smart, fun gal who definitely didn't mind breaking some rules, or laws, to get to the bottom of a mystery. Even if that meant borrowing some cars, which is easy for her to do as she works as a valet at the hotel in which her dad also works. I loved how determined she was, even when things did go wrong she kept going. She just thought of a way to get out of it, even if it meant breaking a window and falling down. Wow! We also have a mean girl (plus she is rich, yes, fill in all the tropes), but thankfully (because really if she had a bigger role I probably wouldn't have enjoyed the book so much) she doesn't have a big role in this one. The mystery was a delight, I had fun seeing in what direction it would go now. Walter was also great fun and he makes a great detective. It was quite a surprise to see Goldie's mom, and also see her job (I wouldn't mind a job like that). We also have some other romance going on, this time between two secondary characters, but I was happy to see it happen. I know I was cheering for them to get together. Rob is such a sweet guy, he does everything for that girl. What I would have liked to see was a bit of background on why Goldie wants to be a detective, maybe some older cases. This feeling was quite strong in the beginning, but as the story started to unfold I just didn't mind it that much any more. Still, after reading it, I am curious about it and would love to see a book about it. The art is perfect for this book. I really love the style of it and the dynamic way the character show their emotions and much more. I would highly recommend this comic and I can't wait for Goldie to solve more mysteries.

I've always been a fan of Nancy Drew mysteries. From those early yellow hardback books I progressed to Harriet the Spy the novel, then the Veronica Mars television show. Girl detectives are, to put it simply, bad ass. Goldie is the latest in a long line of these and she heads a diverse cast of characters in a 50's era mystery full of car racers, surfers, and spies. Goldie was very enthusiastic in her pursuit of becoming involved in the work of in-house detective at the Crossed Palms Resort. When she gets involved in a simple stolen necklace case, things go from bad to worse as the case

escalates to include a kidnapping of a German scientist, Russian agents, and a mystery third party. Using her skills and a lot of luck, Goldie never lets up for a minute. While I commend Goldie for keeping at her goal, I also have to point out that a lot of what happened was relatively easy. She didn't have to work very hard to find clues or suss out the culprits, such as the person who stole the necklace in the original in-house mystery. She also has somewhat loose ideals in solving her mysteries, such as stealing a car for a drag race (in order to recover the necklace stolen for collateral) and again in order to pursue a suspect. The artwork was very lovely and vibrant. This was a very diverse cast. Goldie herself is biracial and is a gorgeous character. Her crush is a record store clerk that's adventurous with a neat short hairstyle and cool fashion sense. Many of the secondary characters, like Goldie's friends Rob and Cheryl as well as the members of the Crossed Palms staff and the nearby town, were black. I'd look into Brittney Williams's work again because she did a great job of conveying the 50's era, the beachfront property, even Goldie's mom's job as a mermaid was aesthetically pleasing. As for what I didn't like... There was something that I didn't realize upon my first reading of Goldie Vance. Upon reflection, in regards to certain characters, their backstories, and their paths in the book, that having figured it out now rubs me the wrong way. Ludwig is a German scientist that was meant to have come to work for NASA. A Russian agent is trying to kidnap him, but is foiled by Dr. Carthage, a third party who wants his help to get to Mars and start a new "government" where there is no government out in space. Post-WWII German scientists being recruited to work for US and Russian government positions in the space race, regardless of their affiliation with the Nazi party, was something very real that happen. Whether or not Ludwig was in fact a Nazi is not revealed, but odds are likely that historically he would have been because more than 1,600 scientists, engineers, and technicians were employed after the war. His getting away at the end of Goldie Vance without any repercussions, along with the stink of that project (Operation Paperclip) gave me an unsettled feeling after reading this book. Even if I were to ignore the unsettled feeling of Ludwig's past, I'm not sure I would continue reading this series personally. I wasn't thrilled with the action of it. I didn't feel any kind of tension because, as I mentioned previously, it felt like things fell into place much too easily for Goldie. It felt like the effort she was putting into her work was unnecessary and, while her friendships were nice, they weren't enough to support the whole work. I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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