

**FIRE**

*A Novel*

**SWORD**

**& SEA**

Questions  
Extras  
Goodies  
for Readers

Book Club Reader's Guide

**FIRE SWORD  
AND  
SEA**

VANESSA RILEY

VANESSARILEY.COM



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## **VANESSA HERE!!!**

**I'm Vanessa Riley, and I'm beyond excited to share a glimpse into my world with you through this Book Club Reader's Guide for "Fire Sword and Sea." As an author, I'm passionate about crafting stories that showcase the hidden histories of marginalized communities, celebrating strong sisterhoods, and vibrant multicultural communities.**

**While my background includes a doctorate in mechanical engineering from Stanford University and contributions to organizations like NASA and GM, my true passion lies in historical fiction, romance, and mystery. With over twenty-eight titles to my name and each one being a labor of love, I'm thrilled to welcome you to Fire Sword and Sea.**

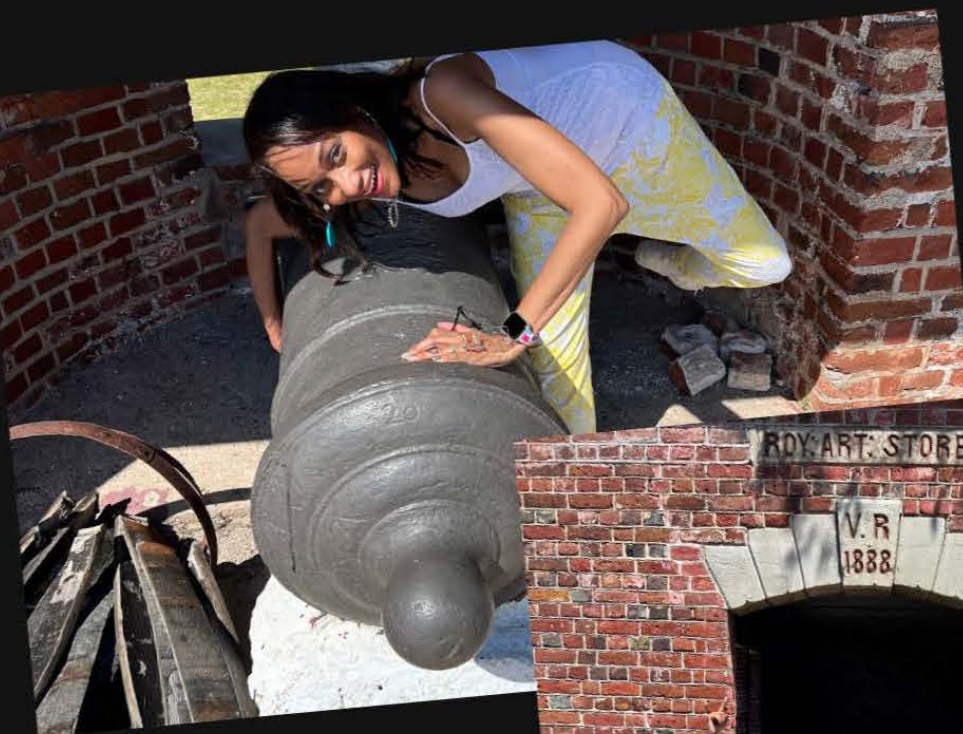
**Within these pages, you'll find discussion questions to spark meaningful conversations, Spotify playlists curated to enhance your reading experience, behind-the-scenes glimpses into the novel's creation, and some delightful recipes inspired by research or my Trinidadian and Southern roots.**

**I can't wait for you to immerse yourself in the story of a lady pirates, treasure, love, and the power of sisterhoods. Thank you for being a part of this journey.**

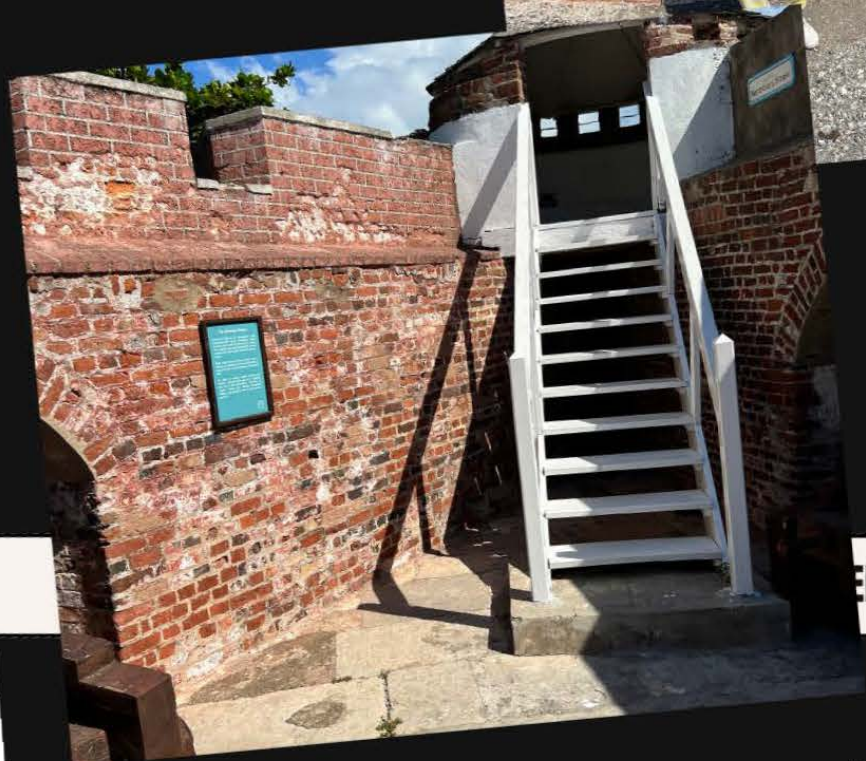
**Warm regards,  
Vanessa Riley**



BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE



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Vanessa Riley, historian and traveler, explored Fort Charles in Port Royal, Jamaica—once the bustling heart of 17th-century piracy and the legendary haunt of privateers and freebooters who ruled the Caribbean seas. Standing on the ramparts where cannons once faced the horizon, I imagined the voices of women like Jacquotte Delahaye, who defied empire and expectation to claim their own kind of freedom.

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In these weathered stones and sea-salted winds, I felt the pulse of history—the bravery, ambition, and peril of those who charted their own courses when the world sought to confine them. The echoes of Port Royal remind us that freedom, like the tide, is never still—it rises, it falls, and it always returns.

Do you have a favorite place you want to visit or have visited because of a book? Tweet, post on IG, or share however you like. Tag me if Italy is among your favorites. Find my social handles on the last page of the guide. Enjoy the places you visit in Books! 📖✨ #BookLovers

BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES BEH



# READING CHECKLIST

**Reader** ..... **Year** .....

[illegible]

# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Jacquotte Delahaye disguises herself as a man to navigate a male-dominated world. How does her gender identity shape her choices and relationships?
2. How do Jacquotte's relationships with Sarah, Bahati, Anne Dieu-Le-Veut, and Lizzôa influence her personal growth? What impact does each have on Jacquotte's life.
3. The book explores the tension between freedom and complicity in injustice. How does Jacquotte wrestle with the morality of piracy? What do you make of the tradeoffs she must make when dealing with the slave trade?
4. How is the concept of "freedom" portrayed in different ways through the lives of Jacquotte, Bahati, and Lizzôa? What about for Anne, Wulf, and Sarah?
5. How in the book lives the most authentic life? Why?
6. Revenge, justice, and liberation are recurring themes. Are Jacquotte's actions justified? Why or why not?
7. What did you think of Jacquotte's struggle with modernity?
8. If you could ask Jacquotte one question about her life at sea, what would it be?

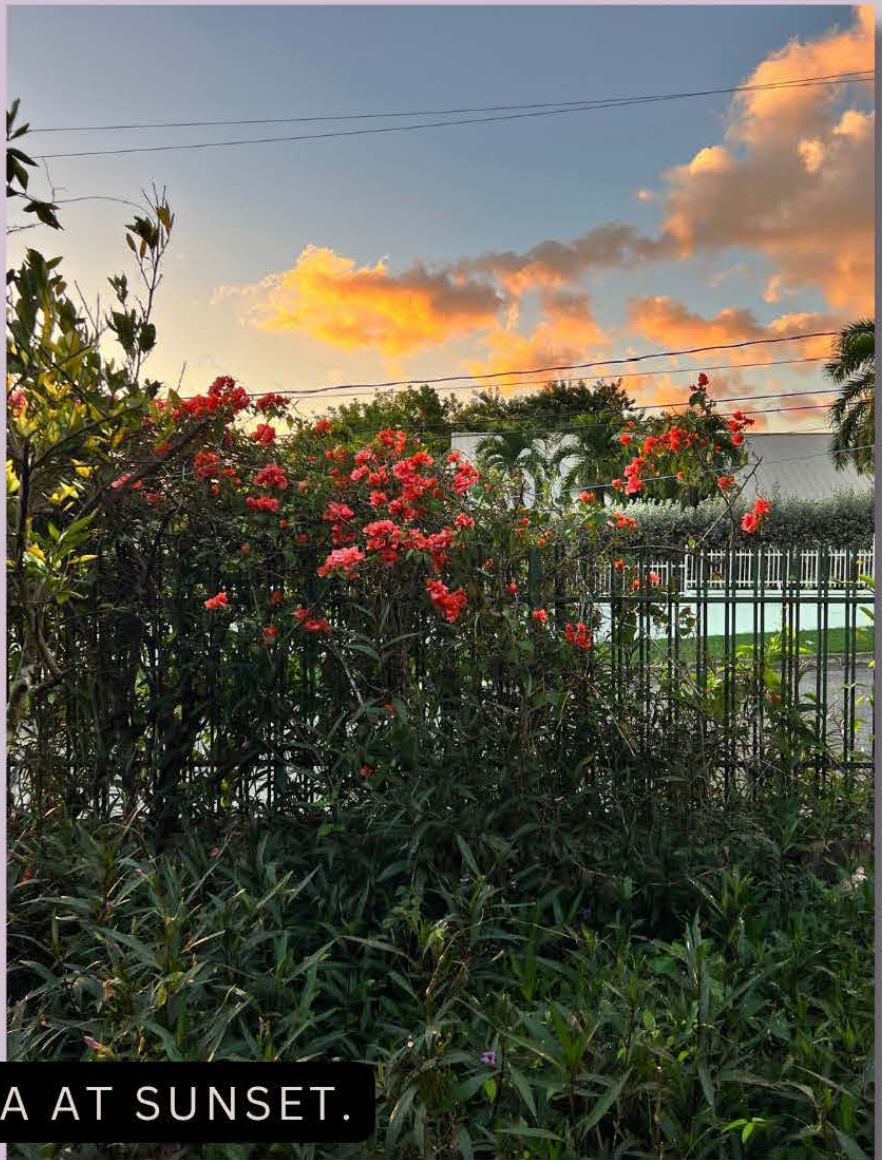


ART IN THE KINGSTON MUSEUM



# REFLECTIONS

1. What lessons about freedom, loyalty, and identity resonate today?
2. How did Jacquotte's story challenge or expand your view of history, gender, and race in the Caribbean?
3. If you could ask Jacquotte one question about her life or choices, what would it be?



KINGSTON JAMAICA AT SUNSET.

# ULTIMATE PIRATE DILEMMAS

- Pose one dilemma at a time.
- Each member votes on what they would do and explains their reasoning.
- Debate the ethics and consequences—there are no right answers.

1. Disguise or Die: You are a woman in 17th-century Tortuga with no options for freedom. Would you risk disguising yourself as a man to live freely at sea, knowing discovery could mean death?
2. Love vs. Duty: Your beloved returns after years at sea, but your crew and mission need your full attention. Do you pursue personal love or remain loyal to your cause?
3. Treasure or Justice: You find a hidden treasure that could fund the liberation of enslaved people but could also make you rich and powerful. Do you claim it for yourself, share it, or destroy it?
4. Loyalty vs. Morality: Your crew plans to profit from the slave trade. Do you stay and try to change them, leave, or take action to sabotage the plan—risking your life?
5. Sacrifice for Others: A close ally faces execution to save dozens of innocent people. Do you intervene and risk your own life, or prioritize the larger good?
6. Revenge or Restraint: Someone who wronged you and your family faces your grasp. Do you seek revenge, spare them for political advantage, or let the law decide?
7. Secret Identity: Revealing your true self could deepen a relationship but endanger your mission and crew. Do you disclose your secret or maintain your disguise?
8. Betrayal of Trust: An authority figure abuses their power for profit, harming those you care about. Do you expose them through legal channels, covert action, or take justice into your own hands?
9. Mentorship Risk: You have the chance to teach a younger, less experienced person the pirate life, but it could put them in danger. Do you mentor them, deny them, or let them learn through trial and risk?
10. The Ultimate Choice: To achieve liberation and justice, you must sacrifice your closest relationships and the life you've built. Do you follow the cause fully, partially, or refuse, accepting personal loss?



# MYTH OR FACT

Statement	Myth or Fact?	Notes
European colonial powers hired pirates (via letters of marque) in the Caribbean in the 1650s-1670s.	<b>Fact</b>	After England seized Jamaica in 1655, privateers became central to English strategy in the Caribbean.
The empire of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had no concern with piracy or sea-trade vulnerability in the late 1600s.	<b>Myth</b>	The Mughal Empire responded to pirate attacks at sea and held English traders responsible.
Pirates always buried treasure on remote islands with maps marked “X”.	<b>Myth</b>	This trope is largely fictional; actual pirate behaviour showed loot was
The Spanish navy formed the Armada de Barlovento in 1635 to protect its American territories from piracy and rivals	<b>Fact</b>	The Spanish crown created the Armada de Barlovento to safeguard overseas territories and trade.
All pirates in the Caribbean in the 17th century flew a skull-and-crossbones “Jolly Roger” flag.	<b>Myth</b>	Many pirates used flags or signals, but the skull-and-crossbones as a universal pirate standard came
Pirate crews sometimes included formerly enslaved African or mixed-race sailors.	<b>Fact</b>	Evidence shows that piracy intersected with the slave trade and sometimes offered a path to
The Caribbean was the only region where piracy was significant in the late 17th century.	<b>Myth</b>	Piracy was global: for example, raids on Mughal shipping show piracy active in the Indian Ocean too.
The richest pirate haul ever recorded was a ship from the Mughal Empire captured by Henry Every in 1695.	<b>Fact</b>	Every’s capture of the Mughal ship Ganj-i-Sawai is one of the largest known pirate hauls.
Women never took part in pirate or buccaneer crews in the 17th century Caribbean.	<b>Myth</b>	Though rare, women such as Anne Dieu-Le-Veut and legends like Jacquotte Delahaye suggest female



# MYTH OR FACT

Statement	Myth or Fact?	Notes
Pirates always lived in lawless chaos without internal rules.	<b>Myth</b>	Many pirate crews had written “Articles” or agreed rules for shares, behaviour, and leadership.
The racial and ethnic makeup of pirate crews was homogeneous European.	<b>Myth</b>	Pirate crews in 17th century Caribbean showed diverse backgrounds, including Africans, mixed-race, Indigenous, and Europeans.
The Spanish treasure fleets became less vulnerable after the mid-17th century because the Spanish controlled all sea regions.	<b>Myth</b>	While Spain had strong naval forces, their treasure fleets still faced significant attacks, and Spain’s control was contested.
The Mughal Empire relied heavily on long-distance overseas naval trade by the late 17th century.	<b>Myth</b>	The Mughal economy was more inland; long-distance maritime trade played a smaller role though protected by naval forces.
Buccaneers on islands like Tortuga in Hispaniola started as wild hunters of wild cattle before turning to piracy.	<b>Fact</b>	The term “buccaneer” originally referred to settlers smoking cattle meat (boucan), later turning to piracy.
Pirates in the Caribbean in the 17th century typically used one-man small boats and never large fleets.	<b>Myth</b>	Some buccaneer expeditions had many ships and hundreds of men (e.g., raids with dozens of vessels).

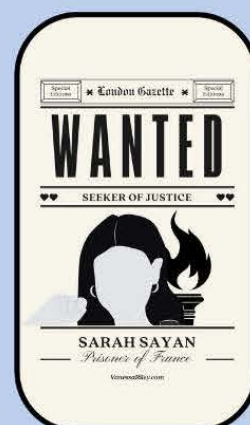
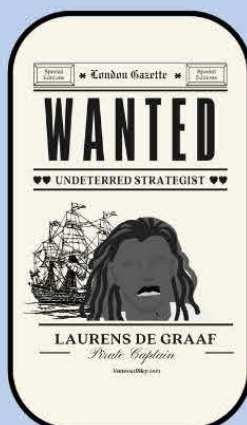
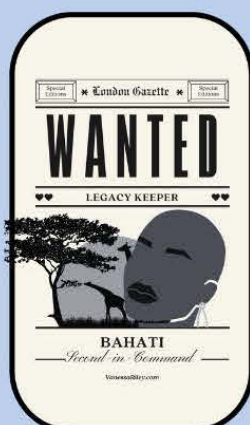
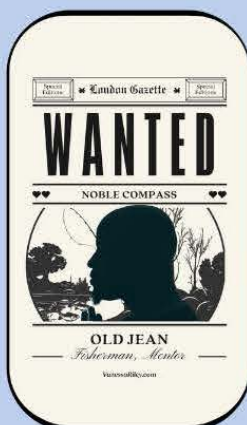
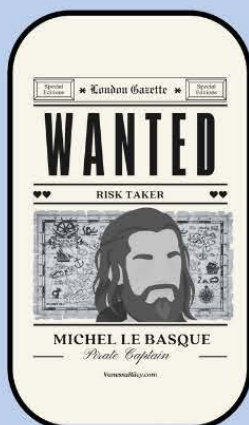


# MYTH OR FACT

Statement	Myth or Fact?	Notes
After the raid on the Mughal ship Ganj-i-Sawai, the Mughal Emperor closed English trade ports in India to punish the English.	Fact	The raid led to serious tensions and sanctions by the Mughal Emperor.
The British Crown reduced naval funding after 1712, helping push pirates into the Caribbean in the early 1700s.	Fact	After the War of the Spanish Succession the Royal Navy downsized, reducing jobs and pushing seafarers into piracy.
Pirates never operated with the support or tolerance of colonial governors.	Myth	Many colonial governors tolerated or even supported privateers/pirates as tools against rivals. Jamaicans and Jamaica
The idea of pirate “pirate republics” (self-governing pirate havens) like Nassau only appeared in the early 18th century, not the late 17th.	Fact	These havens became more prominent in the early 1700s; late 1600s Caribbean piracy was shifting but smaller scale.
Pirates of the 17th century never traveled beyond the Caribbean and Atlantic regions.	Myth	Many “pirate rounders” traveled from the Atlantic/Caribbean around Cape of Good Hope into the Indian Ocean.



# WHICH CREW MEMBER ARE YOU?



## YOU NEED A CREW TO SURVIVE THE JOURNEY

# WHICH CREW MEMBER ARE YOU?

<b>Jacquotte Delahaye – Master Survivalist</b>	You need someone who refuses to quit, who reminds you that strength and wit can rewrite destiny. Jacquotte endures every storm and rises sharper for it.
<b>Bahati – Legacy Keeper</b>	You need someone who remembers the truth and ensures your story isn't lost. Bahati carries history in her heart so the past can guide the future.
<b>Lizzôa Erville – Dream Igniter</b>	You need someone who sees what's possible when the world says it isn't. Lizzôa's faith in dreams breathes life into hope and courage.
<b>Dirkje Wulf – Steadfast Shield</b>	You need someone who stands between you and the storm. Dirkje's loyalty protects not just lives, but the bonds that make survival worth it.
<b>Celia Chilango – Fiery Grace</b>	You need someone who burns bright and teaches gratitude, even through struggle. Celia's spark reminds you to live with fierce joy.
<b>Old Jean – Noble Compass</b>	You need someone whose wisdom steadies you when the seas are rough. Old Jean's counsel helps you find true north when you're adrift.
<b>Sarah Sayan – Seeker of Justice</b>	You need someone who stands for truth no matter the cost. Sarah's courage reminds you that justice isn't a destination—it's a way of being.
<b>Michel Le Basque – Risk Taker</b>	You need someone bold enough to leap when others hesitate. Michel's daring spirit proves that fortune—and freedom—favor the brave.
<b>Anne Dieu-Le Veut – Fearless Heart</b>	You need someone who loves without fear and fights without hesitation. Anne's passion shows that courage and compassion are never opposites.
<b>Laurens De Graaf – Undeterred Strategist</b>	You need someone who sees ten moves ahead. Laurens's unbreakable resolve turns every loss into a plan for victory.



[illegible]

# Book Club Party or Meeting Themes:

Vanessa here with some fun party ideas for your book club or reading group to create a dynamic experience! Don't forget to take pictures and share them on social media. You can even tag me! It's a wonderful way to spread the joy of reading.

01

## **TORTUGA TAVERN**

- DECOR: WOODEN BARRELS, FISHING NETS, MAPS, AND LANTERNS.
- DRESS: BANDANAS, LOOSE PIRATE SHIRTS, VESTS, EYE PATCHES.
- ACTIVITY: A MINI "ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT" GAME WHERE MEMBERS VOTE ON CREW RULES.

02

## **BUCCANEERS' COVE (ADVENTURE AT SEA)**

- DECOR: BLUE CLOTH FOR THE OCEAN, MODEL SHIPS, TREASURE CHESTS.
- DRESS: SAILOR-STYLE OR CAPTAIN'S JACKETS.
- ACTIVITY: TREASURE HUNT USING RIDDLES INSPIRED BY THE BOOK. INCLUDE "TREASURE" LIKE CHOCOLATE GOLD COINS OR SMALL TRINKETS.





# Book Club Meeting Themes:

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03

## PIRATE COURT

- DECOR: MAP OF THE CARIBBEAN, FLAGS (JOLLY ROGER OR CUSTOM).
- DRESS: PIRATE HATS, SCARVES, AND COSTUME SWORDS (FOAM).
- ACTIVITY: MOCK TRIAL – MEMBERS DEBATE THE MORALITY OF JACQUOTTE'S CHOICE TO TURN AGAINST THE SLAVE TRADE.

04

## SHIPBOARD FEAST

- DECOR: NAUTICAL TABLE SETTINGS, SHELLS, LANTERNS.
- DRESS: CASUAL PIRATE GEAR.
- ACTIVITY: SINGING A SIMPLE CHANTY TOGETHER, "HEAVE AWAY MY JOHNNY" OR "THE MAID OF AMSTERDAM."



# Pirate Party Extras

Vanessa here with some fun party ideas for your book club or reading group to create a dynamic experience! Don't forget to take pictures and share them on social media. You can even tag me! It's a wonderful way to spread the joy of reading.

01

- **PHOTO BOOTH:** PIRATE BACKDROP WITH PROPS (SWORDS, TREASURE CHEST).



02

- **MINI AWARDS:** BEST COSTUME, BEST “CAPTAIN’S CHOICE,” MOST ENTHUSIASTIC SINGER.





# Pirate Party Food

Every party needs great food. Here are some authentic suggestion.

## SAVORY OPTIONS

- SALTED FISH OR GRILLED FISH WITH CARIBBEAN SPICES
- JERK CHICKEN OR PORK
- RICE AND PEAS (KIDNEY OR PIGEON PEAS)
- FRIED PLANTAINS / PLANTAIN CHIPS
- CORNBREAD OR CASSAVA FLATBREAD

## SWEET OPTIONS

- RUM CAKE OR RUM-SOAKED FRUIT CAKE
- COCONUT TARTS OR MACAROONS
- FRESH TROPICAL FRUITS (MANGO, PINEAPPLE, PAPAYA, GUAVA)
- HONEY OR SUGARCANE CANDIES
- DRINKS
- SPICED RUM PUNCH (ADULTS)
- GINGER BEER OR LIMEADE (NON-ALCOHOLIC)
- COFFEE OR CACAO

# “Caribbean Brittle” Recipe

Vanessa here. Did someone say candy? Try these!

**YIELDS:** ABOUT 12–16 PIECES

**PREP TIME:** ~10 MINUTES

**COOK TIME:** ~15–20 MINUTES

**COOLING/TIME TO SET:** ~30 MINUTES

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ CUPS (300 G) CANE SUGAR (UNREFINED OR LIGHTLY REFINED IF AVAILABLE)
- ½ CUP (120 ML) WATER
- 2 TBSP (30 G) MOLASSES OR DARK TREACLE (TO SIMULATE LESS-REFINED CANE SUGAR CARAMEL FLAVOUR)
- 1 CUP (140 G) RAW PEANUTS (OR IF YOU LIKE, CASHEWS, OR A MIX) — ROASTED LIGHTLY
- 1 TSP FINE SEA SALT (OR TO TASTE)
- ½ TSP GROUND CINNAMON (OPTIONAL — CARIBBEAN SPICE FLAVOUR)
- ¼ TSP GROUND NUTMEG (OPTIONAL)
- 1 TSP LIME (OR LEMON) JUICE
- 1 TSP BAKING SODA (TO AERATE THE BRITTLE SLIGHTLY)
- BUTTER/GHEE FOR PREPARING YOUR SLAB/PAN (OPTIONAL)





# “Caribbean Brittle” Recipe

Vanessa here with some fun party ideas for your book club or reading group to create a dynamic experience! Don't forget to take pictures and share them on social media. You can even tag me! It's a wonderful way to spread the joy of reading.



## EQUIPMENT:

- HEAVY-BOTTOMED SAUCEPAN
- CANDY THERMOMETER (OPTIONAL BUT HELPFUL)
- MARBLE SLAB OR BUTTERED BAKING SHEET/PARCHMENT PAPER
- SPATULA

## METHOD:

- PREPARE A BAKING SHEET OR SLAB BY LIGHTLY GREASING IT (BUTTER/GHEE) OR USING LIGHTLY OILED PARCHMENT. SET ASIDE.
- LIGHTLY ROAST THE PEANUTS (IF RAW) UNTIL FRAGRANT AND JUST BEGINNING TO BROWN; SET ASIDE.
- IN THE SAUCEPAN, COMBINE THE CANE SUGAR, WATER, AND MOLASSES/TREACLE. BRING SLOWLY TO A BOIL OVER MEDIUM HEAT, STIRRING GENTLY UNTIL SUGAR DISSOLVES.
- ONCE AT A ROLLING BOIL, DO NOT STIR CONSTANTLY, BUT MONITOR THE MIXTURE UNTIL IT REACHES A DEEP AMBER COLOUR (AIMING FOR THE “HARD CRACK” STAGE: ROUGHLY 300 °F / ~150 °C IF YOU HAVE A THERMOMETER). IF NO THERMOMETER, YOU CAN TEST A DROP IN COLD WATER—IF IT FORMS BRITTLE THREADS, YOU’RE THERE.



# “Caribbean Brittle” Recipe

- WHEN THE SUGAR HAS REACHED THE RIGHT COLOUR/STAGE, REMOVE FROM HEAT PROMPTLY. STIR IN THE PEANUTS, SEA SALT, CINNAMON & NUTMEG (IF USING), AND LIME JUICE. THEN IMMEDIATELY STIR IN THE BAKING SODA – THE MIXTURE WILL FOAM UP SLIGHTLY AND LIGHTEN IN COLOUR.
- QUICKLY POUR THE HOT MIXTURE ONTO YOUR PREPARED SLAB/SHEET AND SPREAD EVENLY TO ABOUT ¼-½ INCH THICK (6-12 MM). BE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE VERY HOT.
- LET IT COOL COMPLETELY (30 MINUTES OR SO) UNTIL FULLY BRITTLE. THEN BREAK INTO PIECES.
- STORE IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.





# “Caribbean Brittle” Recipe

## NOTES & HISTORICAL FLAVOUR-TOUCHES

USE OF CANE SUGAR OR MOLASSES/TREACLE IS HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE: IN THE CARIBBEAN SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION WAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN THE 17TH CENTURY, AND LESS REFINED SUGARS WOULD GIVE RICHER FLAVOUR.

SPICES LIKE CINNAMON, NUTMEG, LIME/LEMONGRASS TOUCH ARE OPTIONAL BUT ADD A REGIONAL FLAVOUR NOD.

THE PEANUTS OR NUTS: PEANUTS BECAME MORE COMMON LATER, BUT NUTS/SEEDS WOULD STILL WORK; YOU COULD USE CASHEWS/ALMONDS IF YOU PREFER.



**BAKING SODA:** NOT SURE IF 17TH-CENTURY COOKS USED IT EXACTLY IN THIS WAY, BUT IT HELPS PRODUCE THE CLASSIC ‘FOAM & LIGHT BRITTLE’ TEXTURE FAMILIAR TODAY. YOU **COULD OMIT FOR A SIMPLER VERSION.**

**COLOUR:** AIM FOR AMBER GOLDEN – NOT BURNT.

**SERVING:** BREAK INTO RUSTIC PIECES (“GOLD COINS” FOR YOUR PIRATE PARTY!)

YOU MIGHT CALL THEM “CANE SUGAR BRITTLE” OR “SEA-SALT PEANUT CANE BRITTLE” FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB HAND-OUT TO TIE INTO THE PIRATE THEME.

# 17th-Century Rum Punch (Modern-Friendly)



SERVES: 6-8

PREP: 10 MIN

CHILL: OPTIONAL

## INGREDIENTS (AUTHENTIC + MODERN TWEAKS):

- 1 CUP DARK OR AMBER RUM (HISTORICAL CARIBBEAN RUM WAS ROUGHER, BUT MODERN DARK RUM WORKS WELL)
- 1 CUP FRESH LIME JUICE (HISTORICALLY, SAILORS USED LIME FOR SCURVY PREVENTION)
- ½ CUP SUGAR CANE SYRUP OR SIMPLE SYRUP (HISTORICALLY, RAW CANE SUGAR DISSOLVED IN WATER)
- 3 CUPS WATER OR LIGHT COCONUT WATER (HISTORICALLY JUST WATER)
- 1-2 DASHES OF ANGOSTURA BITTERS (MODERN, OPTIONAL BUT ADDS DEPTH)
- NUTMEG, GRATED (OPTIONAL)
- FRUIT SLICES (LIME, ORANGE) FOR GARNISH
- SE A STANDARD DARK RUM)
- ½ CUP MILK OR COCONUT MILK
- 1 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT (MODERN TOUCH)
- OPTIONAL: ½ CUP CHOPPED DRIED TROPICAL FRUITS (PINEAPPLE, MANGO, PAPAYA) – HISTORICALLY, SOME FRUITS WERE CANDIED OR DRIED)



# 17th-Century Rum Punch

## INSTRUCTIONS:

- IN A LARGE PITCHER, COMBINE LIME JUICE, SUGAR SYRUP, AND WATER/COCONUT WATER. STIR UNTIL SUGAR DISSOLVES.
- ADD THE RUM AND BITTERS, STIR GENTLY.
- CHILL IN THE FRIDGE OR SERVE OVER ICE.
- GARNISH WITH LIME/ORANGE SLICES AND A SPRINKLE OF NUTMEG.

## NOTES ON HISTORICAL AUTHENTICITY:

- SAILORS IN THE 1600S OFTEN MIXED RUM WITH WATER, SUGAR, AND CITRUS TO MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE AND PREVENT SCURVY.
- MODERN TWEAKS: SIMPLE SYRUP REPLACES RAW SUGAR FOR EASE, AND BITTERS ENHANCE FLAVOR FOR TODAY'S TASTE BUDS.



# 17th-Century Rum Cake (Modern-Friendly)



YIELDS: 8-10 SERVINGS

PREP: 15 MIN

BAKE: 50-60 MIN

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 CUP UNSALTED BUTTER (OR SOLID COCONUT OIL FOR HISTORICAL FLAVOR)
- 1 CUP CANE SUGAR OR LIGHT BROWN SUGAR
- 4 LARGE EGGS
- 2 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
- 1 TSP BAKING POWDER
- ½ TSP SALT
- ½ CUP DARK RUM (HISTORICALLY OVERPROOF, MODERN ADJUSTMENT: USE A STANDARD DARK RUM)
- ½ CUP MILK OR COCONUT MILK
- 1 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT (MODERN TOUCH)
- OPTIONAL: ½ CUP CHOPPED DRIED TROPICAL FRUITS (PINEAPPLE, MANGO, PAPAYA) — HISTORICALLY, SOME FRUITS WERE CANDIED OR DRIED)



# 17th-Century Rum Cake (Modern-Friendly)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

- PREHEAT OVEN TO 350°F (175°C). GREASE A LOAF OR BUNDT PAN.
- CREAM BUTTER AND SUGAR UNTIL FLUFFY.
- BEAT IN EGGS, ONE AT A TIME.
- MIX FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, AND SALT SEPARATELY; GRADUALLY ADD TO BUTTER/EGG MIXTURE.
- STIR IN RUM, MILK, VANILLA, AND DRIED FRUITS.
- POUR BATTER INTO PAN AND BAKE 50-60 MIN, UNTIL A SKEWER COMES OUT CLEAN.
  
- LET COOL IN PAN 10 MIN, THEN REMOVE. OPTIONAL: BRUSH LIGHTLY WITH MORE RUM WHILE WARM FOR FLAVOR.
- NOTES ON HISTORICAL AUTHENTICITY:
  - 17TH-CENTURY CAKES USED SUGAR FROM LOCAL CANE, EGGS, BUTTER/OIL, AND SOMETIMES DRIED TROPICAL FRUITS.
  - RUM WAS USED AS FLAVORING AND PRESERVATION.
- **MODERN TWEAKS:** VANILLA AND MILK IMPROVE TASTE AND TEXTURE FOR TODAY'S EXPECTATIONS.

Please use some of these ideas or make your own. Everyone has a party in this history. And please tag and post. I love a good party!

# Moody Joyful Fun Healing PLAYLISTS

01

## THE SONG LIST FOR FIRE SWORD AND SEA

Spotify



02

## SISTERHOOD SONGS

<https://spoti.fi/3TEqRnb>



03

## RISE UP IN PRAISE

<https://spoti.fi/3zvvB7k>



Welcome to three specially curated song playlists just for you! Get ready to immerse yourself in a world of captivating songs and unforgettable emotions across these curated playlists!



# HOW TO HELP: TWEET OR POST

What if freedom demanded a disguise?

In 1600s, Jacquotte Delahaye became a pirate captain—choosing the sword instead of being a wife or wench.

#FireSwordAndSea #HistoricalFiction  
#PirateQueen

For women, a pirate ship was the only place where one could be free and feared.

#FireSwordAndSea #WomenInHistory  
#CaribbeanPirates

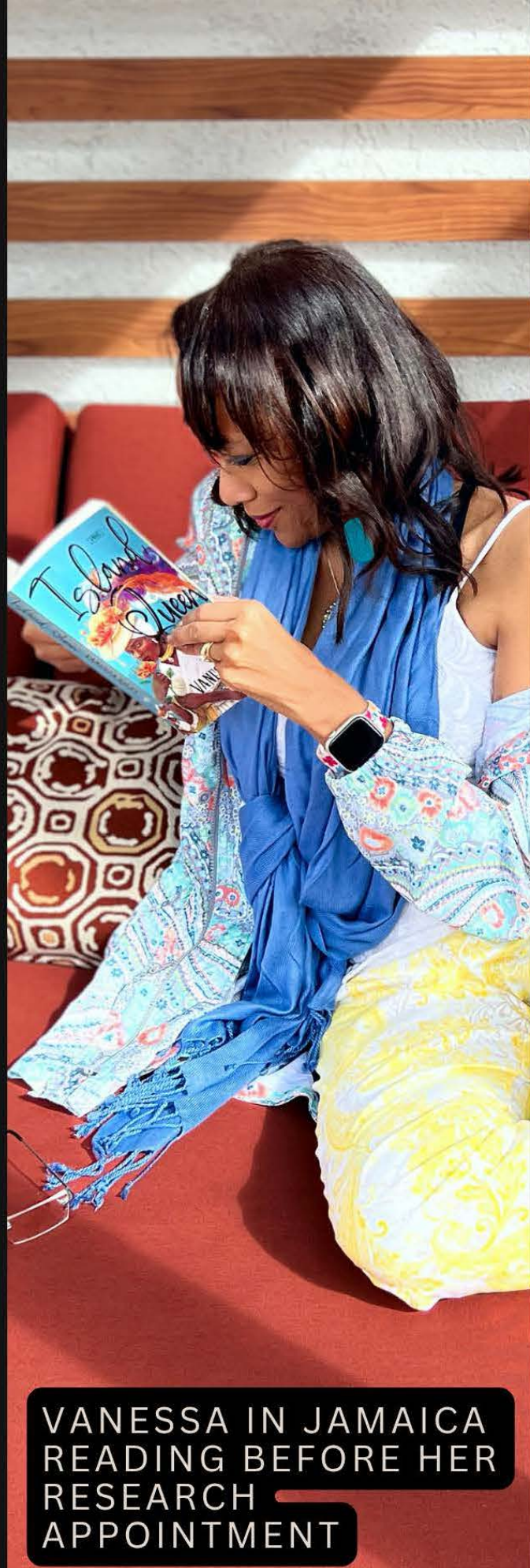
Betrayal wears many faces: a flag, a lover's smile, treasurer. Jacquotte fought against everyone to beat the sea.

#FireSwordAndSea #BookTwitter #PirateFiction

The sea remembers.

Every ship sunk, every oath broken, every woman who chose to obey quietly.

#FireSwordAndSea #VanessaRiley  
#HistoricalFiction



VANESSA IN JAMAICA  
READING BEFORE HER  
RESEARCH  
APPOINTMENT



# HOW TO HELP

Jacquotte Delahaye, a woman pirate captain,  
rallied her crew to victory.

#FireSwordAndSea #VanessaRiley #BookLovers

Before Anne Bonny. Before Mary Read.

There was Jacquotte Delahaye, the Black woman  
pirate of the Caribbean.

#FireSwordAndSea #ReadCaribbean

#PirateHistory

She wanted freedom.

The world wanted her to be a wench. She  
picked up her sword and became a legend.

#FireSwordAndSea #HistoricalFiction

#VanessaRiley

The ocean doesn't forgive. But it remembers the  
names of woman who command her: Jacquotte  
Delahaye.

#FireSwordAndSea #WomenInHistory #BookRecs

COLLECTOR CARDS FOR  
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Feel free to reach out and share your thoughts! You can send me questions directly or even request a book club Zoom with Vanessa if time permits at <https://vanessariley.com/contact.html>

A full list of Vanessa's books  
can be found

at <https://vanessariley.com/VRbooks.php>



# INFORMATION ON SICKLE CELL ANEMIA



## Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness: A Cause Worth Supporting

Sickle Cell Anemia is a genetic disorder that has deeply impacted my family and close friends. Much like Tay-Sachs, it's a recessive genetic disorder that predominantly affects Black communities globally. The statistics are staggering; the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association reports that 1 in 365 African American babies are born with the disease, and 1 in 12 carry the trait. These numbers highlight the urgent need for awareness and support.

Join me in honoring those battling Sickle Cell Anemia every day. Here are three organizations leading the charge in research and support:

1. American Sickle Cell Anemia Association
2. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital - Sickle Cell Disease Treatment
3. Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.

Let's come together to raise awareness and work towards eradicating this ancient disease.



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**CELEBRATE  
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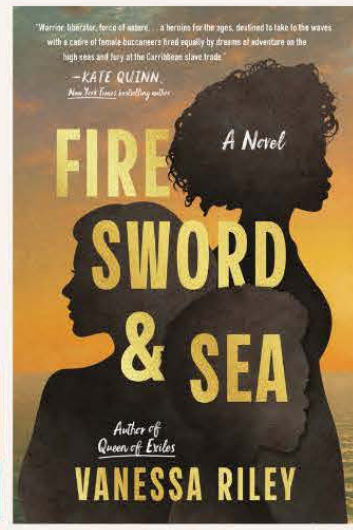
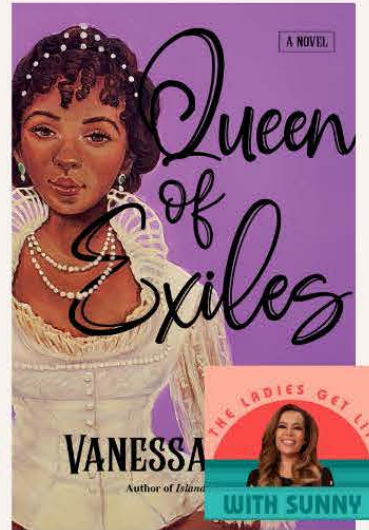
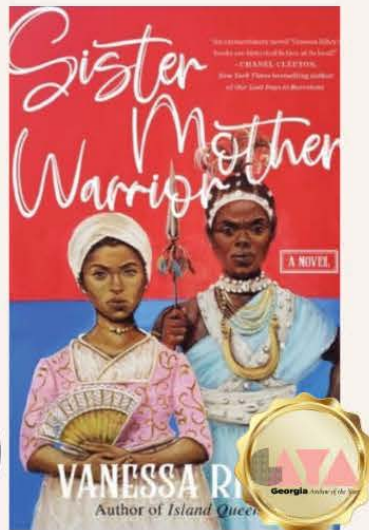
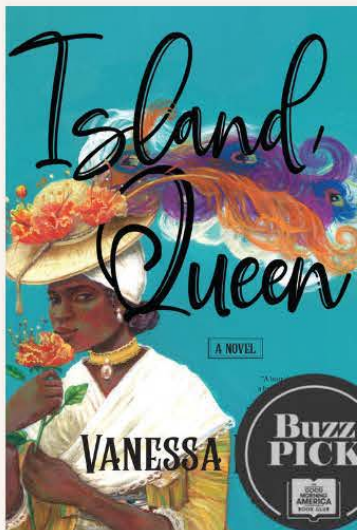
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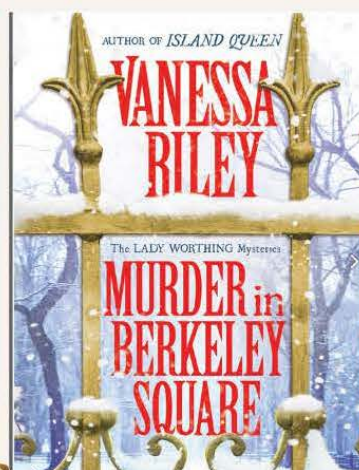
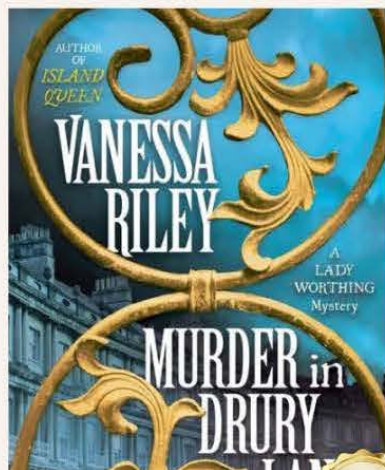
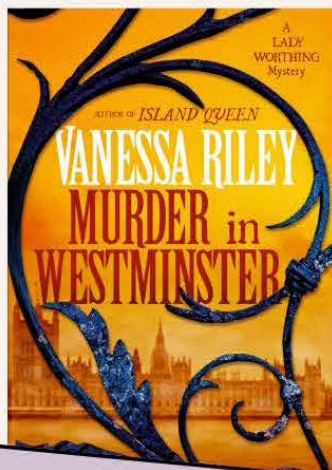
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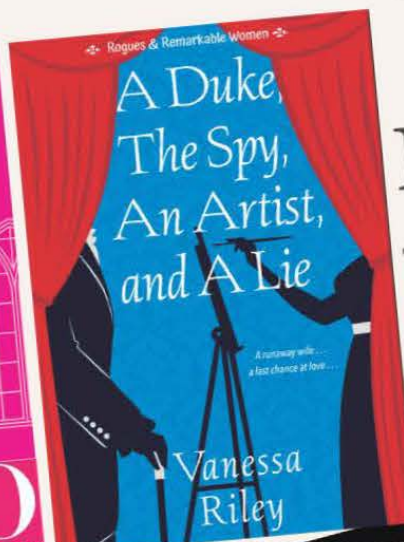
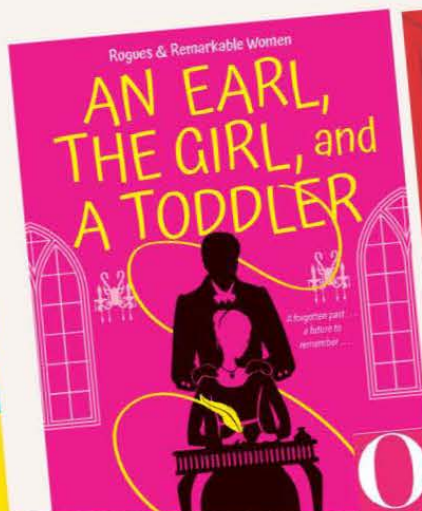
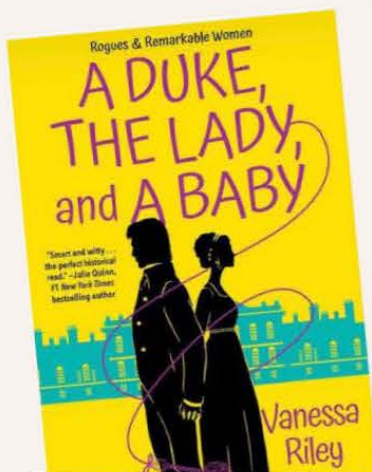
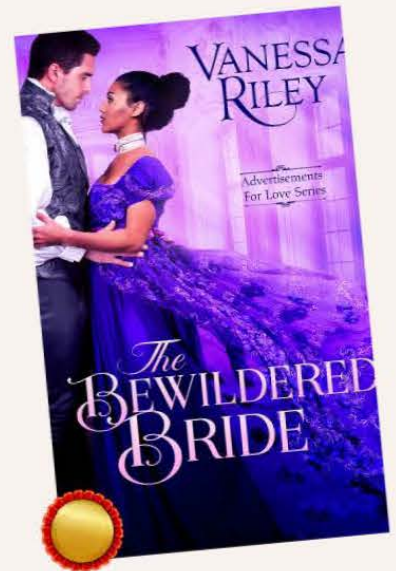
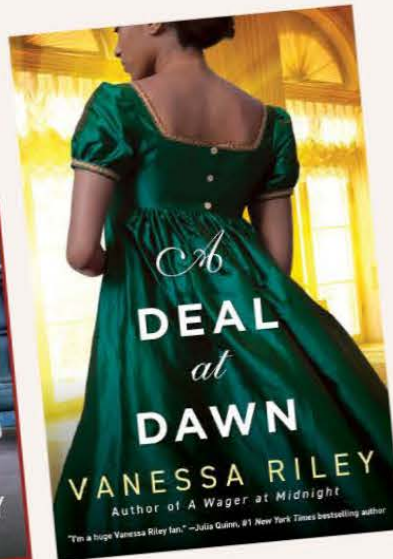
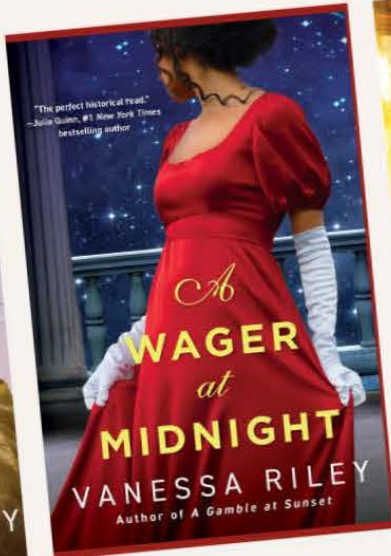
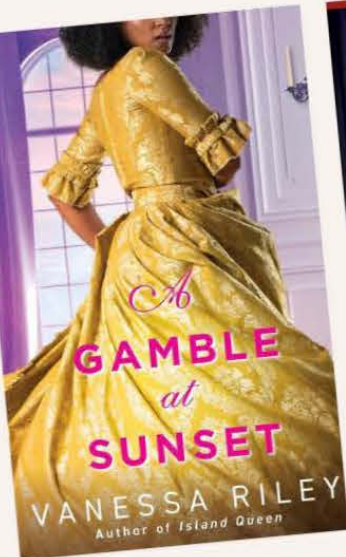
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