

VANESSA  
RILEY

The  
LADY  
WORTHING  
Mysteries

MURDER  
IN  
DRURY  
LANE

Questions  
Extras  
Goodies  
for Readers

*Book Club Reader's Guide*

**MURDER IN DRURY LANE**

VANESSA RILEY

# Table of CONTENTS

## 03 ABOUT VANESSA RILEY

Bit More About Vanessa's Life

## 04 BEHIND THE SCENES

A Little More about Vanessa, Pics, and Reading List Checklist

## 07 BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

A Lot of Questions to Aid Discussions

## 13 PLAYLISTS

Music Feeds The Soul

## 14 RECIPE FUN

Some Yummy Recipes. Bake for Fun.

## 18 HOW TO HELP

How to Keep Up with Vanessa, Spread the Word, Learn More About Her Passions







## **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 "Murder in Drury Lane." 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-five titles to my name and each one being a labor of love, I'm thrilled to welcome you to the captivating series "Lady Worthing Mysteries" and its second title, "Murder in Drury Lane ."

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.

I can't wait for you to immerse yourself in the story of Abigail, Florentina , Stapleton and the rest of the mystery solving fun. Thank you for being a part of this journey .

Warm regards,  
Vanessa Riley



## Worthing & Henderson's

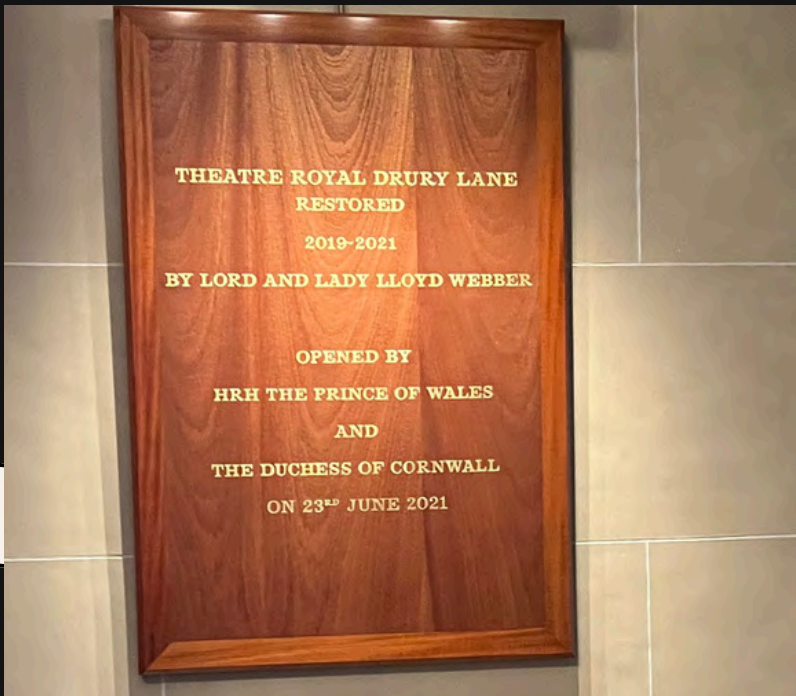
### Townhomes

[VANESSARILEY.COM](http://VANESSARILEY.COM)

[VANESSARILEY.COM](http://VANESSARILEY.COM)

SARILEY

Vanessa Riley, a historian and avid traveler, immersed herself in London to capture the essence of the Lady Worthing Mysteries. She traced the footsteps of historical figures like William Wilberforce and Mary Edwards, visiting their homes and the places where they made significant impacts. From exploring the corridors of power in London to strolling through the bustling streets of Regency-era London, Riley delved deep into the city's history. Her journey included visits to landmarks such as Westminster Abbey, where she contemplated the lives of those buried within its hallowed walls, and the quaint corners of Mayfair, where the elite of the time once held court. Riley's research journey also took her to the quiet lanes of Westminster, where she imagined characters from her novels finding solace amidst the city's turmoil.



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 London is one of your favorites. Find my social handles on the last page of the guide. #BookLovers



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



# Tunnels Beneath Drury Lane



# Famous Actor's Chair

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 London is one of your favorites. Find my social handles on the last page of the guide. #BookLovers

BEHI

SCENESE BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES

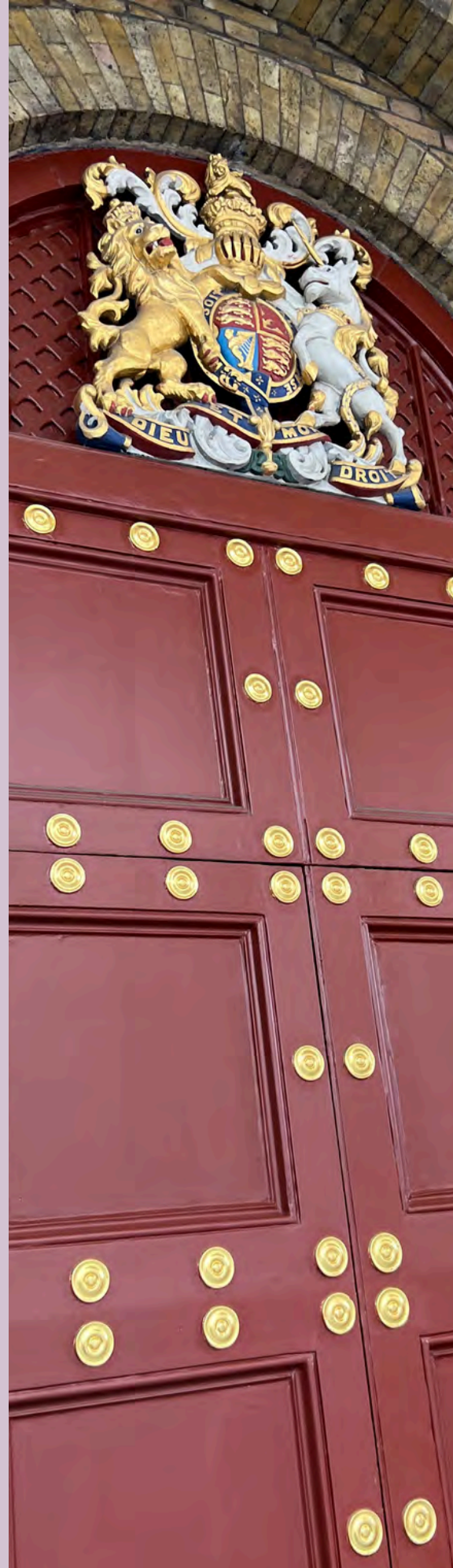




# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- **Character and Plot Development: Abigail and Henderson's Relationship:** How does Abigail's relationship with Stapleton Henderson evolve in these chapters? What are the main sources of tension between them, and how do these conflicts contribute to the overall plot?
- **Florentina Sewell's Role:** Discuss Florentina's contributions to the investigation. How does her character complement or contrast with Abigail's? What does their dynamic reveal about Abigail?
- **The Complexities of Abigail's Father:** Analyze the scene with Abigail and her father, Mr. Carrington. What do we learn about their relationship and Abigail's past? How does this encounter impact Abigail emotionally and influence her actions moving forward?
- **Hildebrand Percy's Death:** What significance does Hildebrand Percy's dramatic soliloquy and subsequent murder hold in the story? How does his death affect the other characters, particularly Abigail and Florentina?

Doors of Drury Lane Theater



# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- **Barbara Banyan's Character:** Explore the character of Barbara Banyan. What are your impressions of her based on her interactions with Abigail and Florentina? How does her relationship with Anthony Danielson and the other men in the theater complicate the mystery?
- **Themes of Betrayal and Trust:** How are themes of betrayal and trust explored through the various relationships in the story (e.g., Abigail and Henderson, Abigail and her father, Barbara Banyan, and the men at Drury Lane)?
- **Political Backdrop and Personal Motivations:** The political debate over the Slave Trade Restriction Bill is a significant backdrop to the story. How do the characters' motivations intersect with the larger political issues? How does this interplay enhance the narrative?
- **Visions and Forebodings:** Abigail experiences visions and forebodings about her own mortality. How do these elements of the supernatural affect the tone of the story? Do you think these visions are a psychological reflection of Abigail's fears, or do they have a deeper significance?
- **Investigative Techniques:** Discuss the different investigative techniques Abigail and her allies use. How effective are these methods in uncovering clues? Are there any moments where they miss or misinterpret vital information?
- **Suspects and Motives:** Based on the information revealed in these chapters, who do you think is the most likely suspect for the murders? What motives do different characters have, and how do these motives align or conflict with their public personas?



# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- **Tunnels and Secrets:** The discovery of the network of tunnels under Drury Lane is a pivotal moment. How does this discovery change the direction of the investigation? What do you think the tunnels symbolize in the context of the story?
- **Foreshadowing and Red Herrings:** Identify instances of foreshadowing and red herrings in these chapters. How do these literary elements contribute to the suspense and complexity of the mystery?
- **Dialogue and Characterization:** Analyze how Vanessa Riley uses dialogue to develop her characters. Are there specific lines or exchanges that stand out to you as particularly revealing?
- **Setting and Atmosphere:** How does the setting of Drury Lane contribute to the atmosphere of the story? In what ways does Riley use descriptive language to create a sense of place and mood?
- **Emotional Responses:** Which scenes or events in these chapters elicited the strongest emotional response from you? Why do you think these moments were so impactful?
- **Relating to Characters:** Are there any characters you particularly relate to or empathize with? How do their struggles and triumphs resonate with your own experiences?
- **Ethical Dilemma:** Discuss the ethical dilemma Abbie faces when Cuthers warns her about the consequences of speaking out. How does this tension between personal risk and moral duty shape her decisions?
- **Compromising for Success:** What are your thoughts on Cuthers' belief that compromising is necessary for political success? Do you think Abbie can achieve her goals without making similar compromises?
- **Character Dynamics:** What does Henderson's initial reluctance to let Abbie inside suggest about his character and their relationship?
- **Complexity of Relationships:** Discuss the dynamic between Abbie, Henderson, and Miss Mathews. How does Miss Mathews' presence and background add complexity to the story?
- **Theme of Sacrifice:** How does Henderson's question about Abbie's choices and losses contribute to the theme of personal sacrifice in the novel?

# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- How does Henderson's question about Abbie's choices and losses contribute to the theme of personal sacrifice in the novel?
- How does Miss Mathews' murder affect Abbie and Henderson differently? What does this reveal about their characters?
- How does Henderson's guilt over Miss Mathews' death impact his relationship with Abbie?
- What do you think of Henderson's late disclosure about Danielson and Miss Mathews' marriage? How does it affect Abbie's trust in him?
- Discuss the ethical dilemma Abbie faces in trying to catch the killers without jeopardizing important legislation. How does this conflict impact her decisions?
- How does the chaotic scene at Whitehall contribute to the climax of the novel? What do you think of the resolution involving Mr. Mathews? Is justice served?
- Does the resolution of the Slave Trade Limitation Bill absolve Abbie's struggles with her approach to solving the murder mystery?
- How does the letter from Abbie's husband and her reaction to it set the stage for possible future conflicts or developments?

**Feel free to use these questions to guide your book club discussions and delve deeper into the themes, characters, and storytelling elements of *Murder in Drury Lane* by Vanessa Riley.**





# Book Club Suggestion 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

DRESS LIKE DETECTIVES AT YOUR BOOK CLUB MEETING. GET PROPS LIKE MAGNIFYING GLASSES AND HATS. TAKE PICTURES IN THESE GARBS AND BAUBLES. POST TO SOCIAL MEDIA WITH THE HASHTAG #LADYWORTHING

02

HOST HIGH TEA. ENJOY RICH CHAMOMILE AND OTHER HERBAL TEAS. PLATE TEA CAKES AND FINGER SANDWICHES, WHILE DISCUSSING MURDER IN DRURY LANE.

03

HAVE A SPA DAY. BOOK A LOCAL SPA THAT SPECIALIZES IN HOT POOLS OR MINERAL SPRINGS. OR PAMPER YOUR ROYAL FEET WITH A PINK OR LILAC PEDICURE PARTY.

04

GET PICTURES OF LONDON MONUMENTS AND ALL THINGS WESTMINSTER. HAVE THEM IN YOUR LITERARY SALON. TAKE PICTURES WITH BOOK CLUB MEMBERS. THIS IS A TRAVEL NIGHT THEME.



# *Moody Joyful Fun Healing*

## **PLAYLISTS**

01

### **THE SONG LIST FOR MURDER IN DRURY LANE**

<https://spoti.fi/45WAnH2>



02

### **SISTERHOOD SONGS**

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



03

### **SONGS TO GET STRONGER**

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



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!

# RECIPE FUN

ABIGAIL HAD CURRANT SCONES AND CRANBERRY SCONES IN MURDER IN DRURY LANE. I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A GREAT CURRANT AND CRANBERRY SCONE.

These Scones should have a slightly crisp, golden-brown exterior with a tender and moist interior. The scones should be light and flaky, not dense or dry.

Currants and cranberries add a sweet and tart burst of flavor in every bite, complementing the rich, buttery taste of the scone itself.

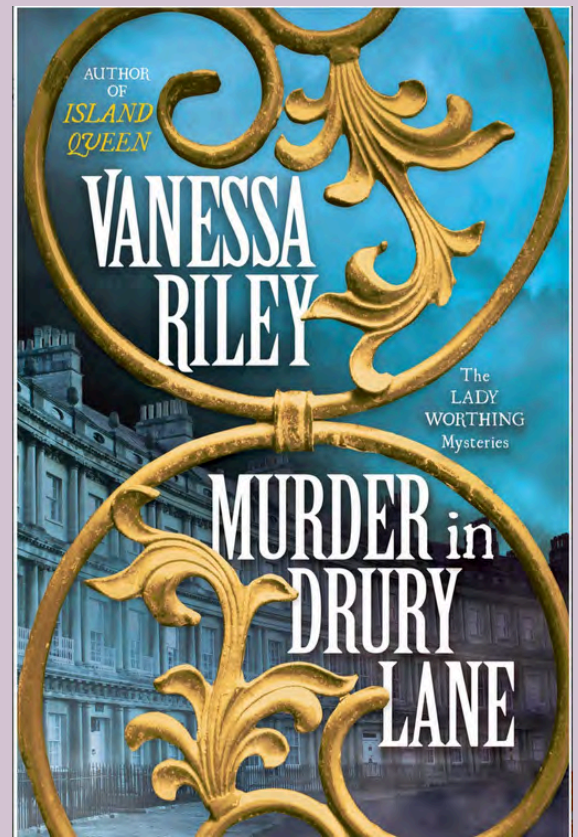
Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour (substitute: whole wheat flour for a heartier texture)
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar (substitute: coconut sugar or honey)
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cold and cut into small pieces (substitute: coconut oil or vegan butter)
  
- 1/2 cup dried currants (substitute: raisins, chopped dates, or dried blueberries) Soak in warm water for 20 minutes, then pat dry.
  
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries (substitute: chopped dried cherries or apricots)
- 2/3 cup buttermilk (substitute: 2/3 cup milk with 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice to sour, or a non-dairy milk such as almond or soy milk)
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

THE OPTIONAL GLAZE CAN ADD AN EXTRA LAYER OF SWEETNESS AND A SLIGHT TANGINESS IF MADE WITH LEMON JUICE, BALANCING THE OVERALL FLAVOR PROFILE PERFECTLY.

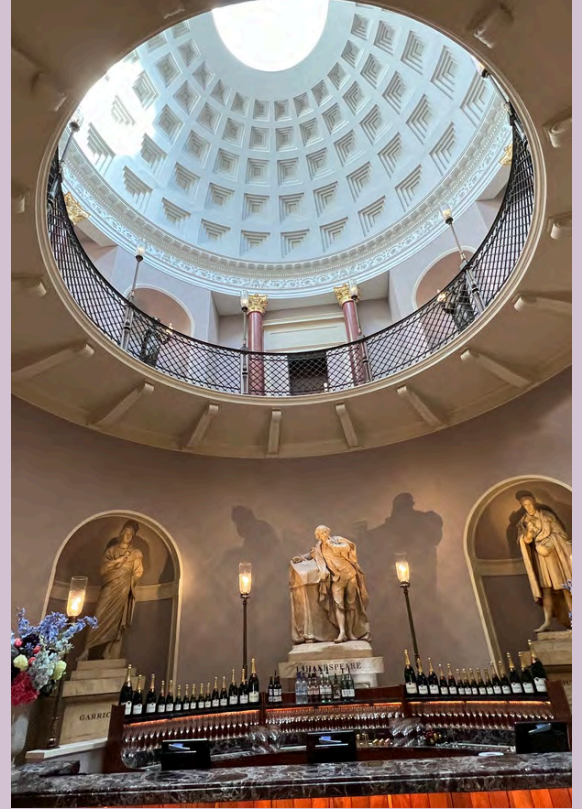
Optional glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons milk or lemon juice





# RECIPE FUN



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. PREHEAT OVEN: PREHEAT YOUR OVEN TO 400°F (200°C) AND LINE A BAKING SHEET WITH PARCHMENT PAPER.
2. MIX DRY INGREDIENTS: IN A LARGE BOWL, WHISK TOGETHER THE FLOUR, SUGAR, BAKING POWDER, AND SALT.
3. CUT IN BUTTER: ADD THE COLD BUTTER PIECES TO THE FLOUR MIXTURE. USE A PASTRY CUTTER OR YOUR FINGERS TO MIX UNTIL THE MIXTURE RESEMBLES COARSE CRUMBS.
4. ADD DRIED FRUITS: STIR IN THE DRIED CURRANTS AND CRANBERRIES UNTIL THEY ARE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED.
5. MIX WET INGREDIENTS: IN A SEPARATE BOWL, WHISK TOGETHER THE BUTTERMILK, EGG, AND VANILLA EXTRACT.
6. COMBINE MIXTURES: POUR THE WET INGREDIENTS INTO THE DRY INGREDIENTS. STIR UNTIL JUST COMBINED. THE DOUGH SHOULD BE SLIGHTLY STICKY BUT MANAGEABLE.
7. SHAPE DOUGH: TURN THE DOUGH OUT ONTO A FLOURED SURFACE AND KNEAD GENTLY A FEW TIMES UNTIL IT COMES TOGETHER. PAT IT INTO A 1-INCH THICK ROUND. USE A FLOURED KNIFE OR BENCH SCRAPER TO CUT THE DOUGH INTO 8 WEDGES.
8. BAKE: PLACE THE WEDGES ON THE PREPARED BAKING SHEET, LEAVING SOME SPACE BETWEEN EACH SCONE. BAKE FOR 15-20 MINUTES OR UNTIL THE SCONES ARE GOLDEN BROWN AND A TOOTHPICK INSERTED INTO THE CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN.
9. COOL: ALLOW THE SCONES TO COOL ON A WIRE RACK.
10. OPTIONAL GLAZE: IF USING, MIX THE POWDERED SUGAR WITH ENOUGH MILK OR LEMON JUICE TO ACHIEVE A DRIZZLE-ABLE CONSISTENCY. DRIZZLE OVER THE COOLED SCONES.

# RECIPE FUN



Abigail and Flo love their cheeses. Here is an easy guide to making a delicious English-inspired charcuterie board. It's a delightful way to showcase cheeses, jams, and other treats.

## Ingredients:

- Fancy Charcuterie Board or Big Cutting Board
- Cheeses: Choose a variety of English cheeses such as Cheddar, Stilton, Red Leicester, and Wensleydale with cranberries.
- Cured Meats: Select a couple of varieties like prosciutto, salami, or smoked ham.
- Crackers and Bread: Opt for a mix of water crackers, oatcakes, and slices of baguette.
- Jams and Spreads: Include English preserves such as fig jam, apricot preserve, and a jar of Branston pickle for a savory touch.
- Nuts and Fruits: Use almonds, walnuts, and fresh grapes or figs for a sweet contrast.
- Garnishes: Fresh herbs like rosemary or thyme sprigs for decoration.



# RECIPE FUN



## Instructions:

### 1. Prepare the Cheeses:

- Arrange the cheeses on a large wooden board or serving platter. Cut some into bite-sized cubes or slices and leave others whole for variety.

### 2. Add Cured Meats:

- Fold or roll the cured meats and place them in between the cheese sections or in a separate area on the board.

### 3. Arrange Crackers and Bread:

- Place the crackers and slices of baguette in a visually appealing pattern around the cheeses and meats. You can stack some crackers vertically for height variation.

### 4. Set Out Jams and Spreads:

- Spoon the jams and preserves into small bowls or jars and position them strategically on the board. If using Branston pickle, place it in a separate dish with a small spoon for serving.

### 5. Include Nuts and Fruits:

- Scatter the nuts and fresh fruits around the board, filling in any gaps. They add color and texture to complement the cheeses and meats.

### 6. Garnish and Serve:

- Finally, garnish the charcuterie board with fresh herbs like rosemary or thyme sprigs for an aromatic touch.

## Serving Tips:

- Temperature: Take the cheeses out of the fridge about 30 minutes before serving to allow them to come to room temperature for better flavor.

- Pairing: Serve with a chilled glass of white wine or a refreshing English cider for a perfect accompaniment.

- Enjoy: Invite your guests to explore the flavors by combining different cheeses with jams, spreading preserves on crackers, and experimenting with different combinations of meats and nuts.

This English-inspired charcuterie board is not only delicious but also a feast for the eyes, making it a delightful addition to any gathering or as a special treat for yourself! Bon appétit!



# HOW TO HELP

Dive into the intrigue of Regency London with *Murder in Drury Lane*, where Lady Abigail Worthing uncovers secrets that could unravel high society. #LadyWorthing #HistoricalMystery

Step into a world of murder and mystery in Vanessa Riley's gripping debut novel, "*Murder in Drury Lane*." Follow Lady Abigail Worthing as she navigates the dark underbelly of Regency London's elite. #NewRelease #HistoricalFiction

Discover a darker side of Regency-era society with Vanessa Riley's *Murder in Drury Lane*. Lady Abigail Worthing must unravel the truth behind a murder that threatens to tarnish her reputation forever. #BookClubPick #HistoricalMystery

Join Lady Abigail Monroe on a thrilling journey through scandal and suspense in *Murder in Drury Lane* by Vanessa Riley. Perfect for fans of historical fiction and gripping mysteries! #MustRead #LadyWorthingMysteries

Delve into the first installment of the Lady Worthing Mysteries with *Murder in Drury Lane* by Vanessa Riley. A tale of murder, secrets, and the resilience of a woman determined to uncover the truth. #BookRecommendation #HistoricalCrime



VANESSA IN LONDON VIEWING THE SITES.

# Connect With Me

## SOICAL MEDIA & MORE



Connect with me and join the conversation:

Website: <https://vanessariley.com>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/vanessarileyauthor/>



TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@vanessarileyauthor>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/VanessaRileyAuthor>

Twitter or X: <https://www.twitter.com/VanessaRiley>



Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/regencymaid>

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://bit.ly/contactVanessaRiley>.



A full list of Vanessa's books can be found at

<https://bit.ly/VRbooks>.

Let's connect and dive deeper into the world of books together.

# 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.



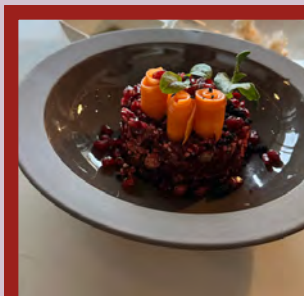
# VANESSA'S QUOTE FOR TODAY

**STAY FOCUSED  
AND  
CELEBRATE  
YOUR  
JOURNEY!  
YOU ARE**

*WORTHY!*



BOOKSTORE FUN



COOKING & PORCH FUN

OPENING CREDITS & CAMEO IN  
SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



# Other Books By Vanessa Riley

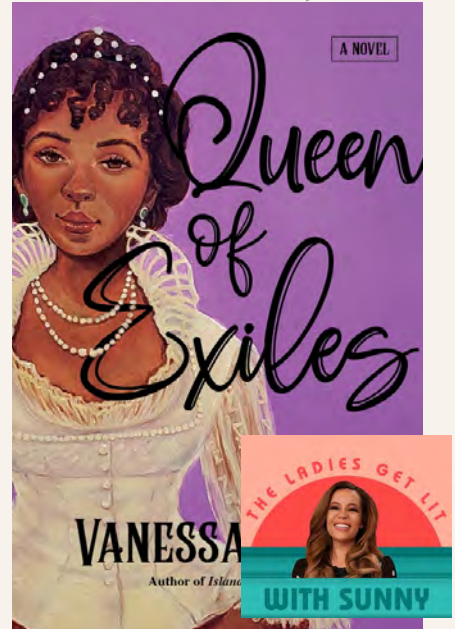
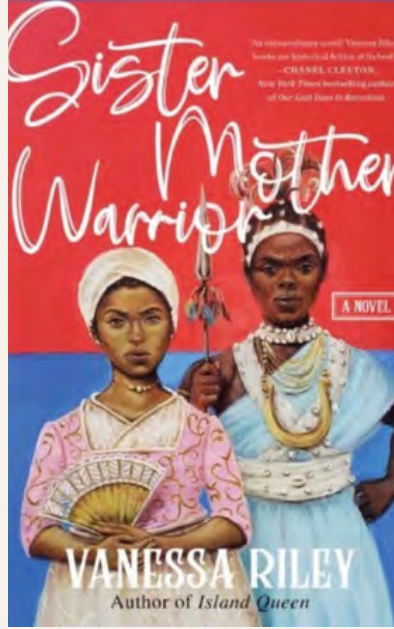
## HISTORICAL FICTION ABOUT REAL WOMEN

Entertainment

CNN

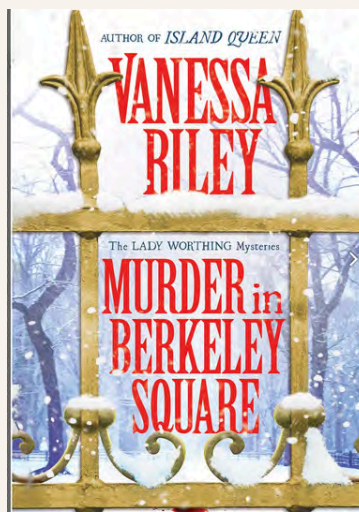
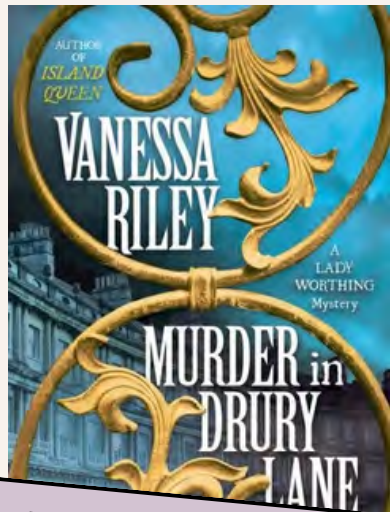
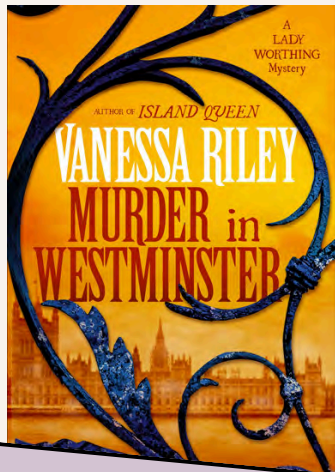
ESSENCE

The New York Times



## HISTORICAL MYSTERIES

GOOD MORNING AMERICA



LJ LIBRARY JOURNAL

KIRKUS

THE ROOT

TODAY

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)



# Other Books By Vanessa Riley

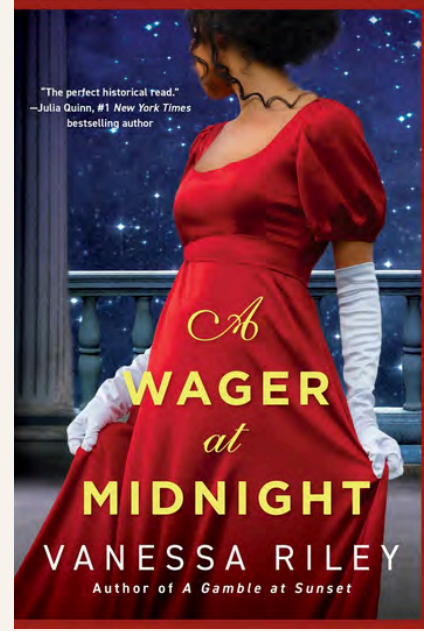
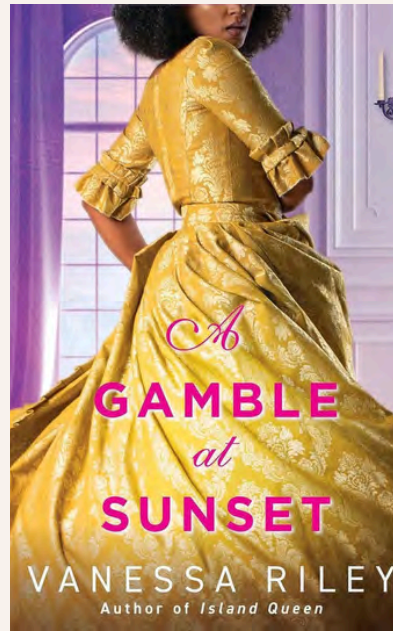
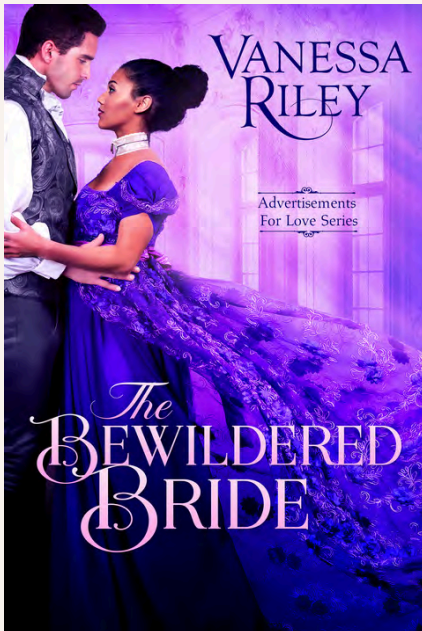
## HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Entertainment WEEKLY

CNN

ESSENCE

The New York Times

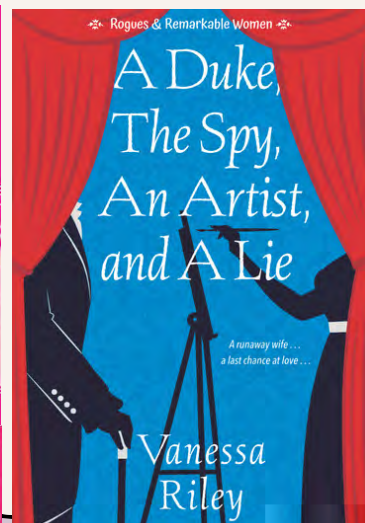
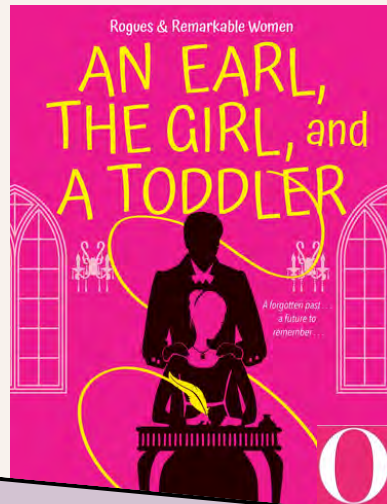
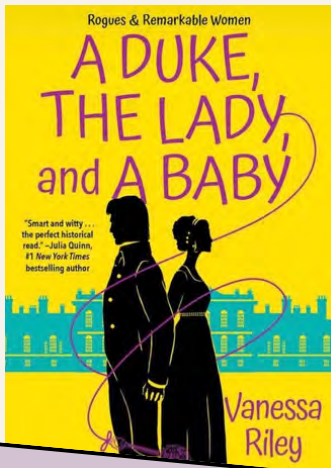


GOOD MORNING AMERICA

LJ LIBRARY JOURNAL

KIRKUS THE ROOT

TODAY



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/VRBOOKS](https://bit.ly/vrbooks)