

**VANESSA RILEY**  
**MURDER** in  
**WESTMINSTER**

Questions  
Extras  
Goodies  
for Readers

*Book Club Reader's Guide*

**MURDER IN  
WESTMINSTER**

VANESSA RILEY

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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 "Murder in Westminster." 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 first title, "Murder in Westminster."

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



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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.

SARILEY



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

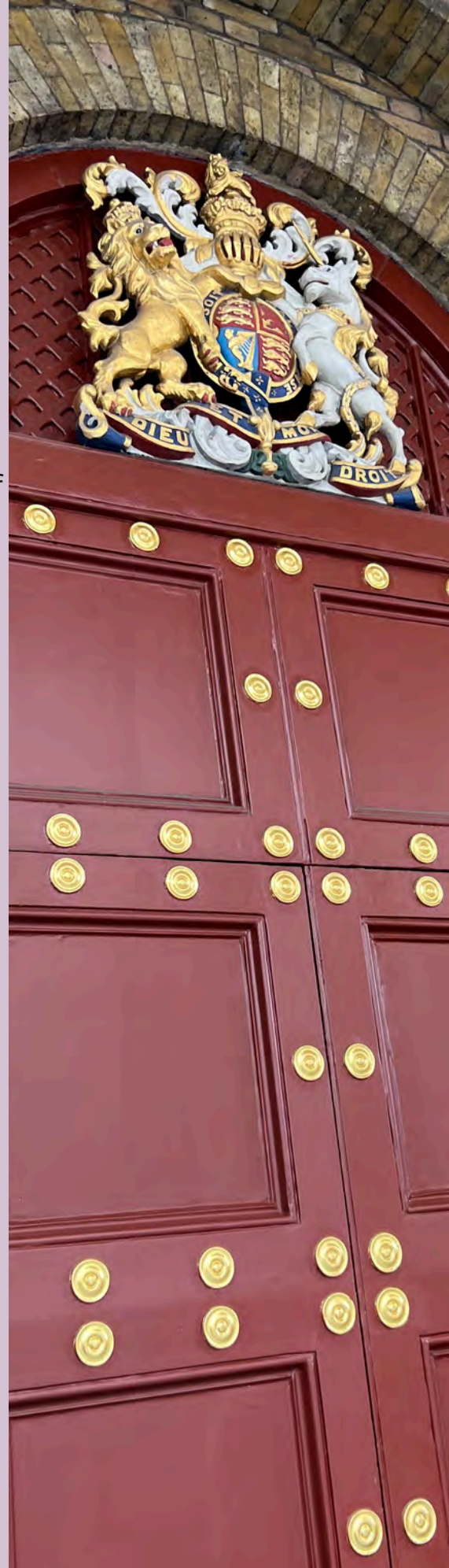




# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- How does Lady Abigail Worthing's background and family history shape her character and actions throughout the novel?
- What are the central themes of the novel? How do they reflect the social and historical context of the Regency era?
- How does Vanessa Riley portray the true diversity of the Regency era? How does this affect your perception of historical fiction?
- How well does the author build suspense and intrigue in the murder mystery plot?
- How does "Murder in Westminster" compare to other historical mysteries you've read, particularly those set in the Regency era?
- Discuss the dynamic between Abigail and Stapleton Henderson. How does their relationship evolve throughout the story?
- Juliet Henderson: How do you feel about Juliet Henderson and her lifestyle? Did she receive the justice she deserved in the story?
- Stapleton Henderson: Did knowing his background affect your perception of him?
- Florentina Sewell: How does Florentina's love of math and logical thinking contribute to solving the mystery? What does her character add to the story?

Doors of Drury Lane Theater



# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Neil Vaughn is based on rumors of a man who did secret work for the Prince Regent, particularly the Black Boxer, Bill Richmond, who was friends with the prince. What did you think of him? Were you surprised of a Blackamoor man taking on this role.
- Florentina Sewell: What role does Florentina Sewell, Abigail's math-loving cousin, play in the story? How does she complement Abigail as a sidekick?
- Social Issues: How does the novel address issues of race, class, and gender? What impact do these issues have on the plot and characters?
- Were there any plot twists that you found particularly surprising or effective? How did they enhance the story?
- How effectively does the author bring the setting of Regency-era London to life? What details stood out to you?
- What motivates the various characters in the novel? How do their motivations drive the plot forward?
- How important is historical accuracy in a novel like this? Do you feel "Murder in Westminster" balances historical fact with fiction well?
- Which character did you find the most compelling or relatable? Why?
- How does the novel handle the concept of justice? Do you feel the resolution of the murder case was satisfying?
- Secondary Characters: Discuss the roles of secondary characters such as Lord Duncan and Miss Mary. How do they contribute to the story?
- Narrative Style: How did you find Vanessa Riley's narrative style and prose? Did it enhance your reading experience?
- What role do real historical figures like William Wilberforce, Hannah More, and Mary Edwards play in the story? How do they enhance the historical context?

# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Comparisons to Bridgerton: The book is marketed as a darker twist on Bridgerton. Do you agree with this comparison? Why or why not?
- What moral dilemmas do the characters face? How do they resolve them, and what does this say about their character?
- Symbolism: Are there any symbols or recurring motifs in the novel? How do they enhance the narrative?
- What do you think the future holds for Lady Abigail Worthing? Would you be interested in reading more books in this series?
- How did "Murder in Westminster" affect you personally? Did it change any of your views or perspectives?
- What was your favorite moment or scene in the book? Why did it stand out to you?
- How does the cover art reflect the story inside? Did it influence your decision to read the book?
- How do the real-life historical fight for abolition and events woven into the story impact your understanding of the period? Do they add to the authenticity of the narrative?

**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 Westminster* 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

WEAR REGENCY BALLGOWNS AT YOUR BOOK CLUB MEETING. GET PROPS LIKE FANS AND FEATHER PENS. TAKE PICTURES IN THESE REGENCY 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 WESTMINSTER.

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 WESTMINSTER**

<https://spoti.fi/3XXvX0z>



02

### **SISTERHOOD SONGS**

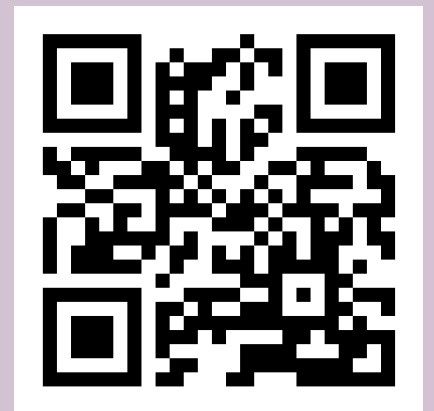
<https://spoti.fi/3TEqRnb>



03

### **I WANT TO A BETTER PERSON**

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



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 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!

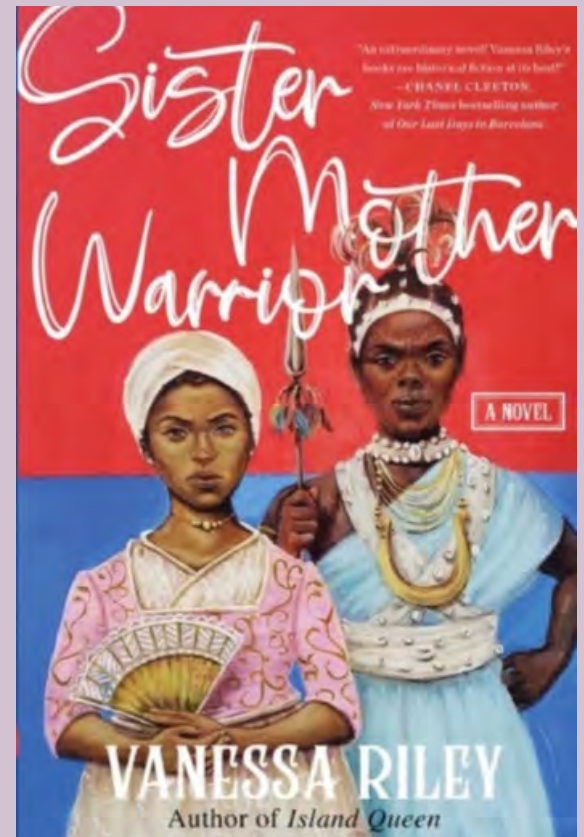
# RECIPE FUN

## PAIN PATATE (HAITIAN SWEET POTATO PUDDING)

THIS DELIGHTFUL DESSERT IS A YUMMY TRADITION IN HAITIAN CUISINE, COMBINING SWEET POTATOES WITH WARMING SPICES AND COCONUT MILK FOR A RICH, SWEET TREAT.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 LARGE SWEET POTATOES (ABOUT 2 LBS), PEELED AND GRATED
- 1 CUP GRATED COCONUT (FRESH OR UNSWEETENED DESICCATED)
- 1 CAN (14 OZ) COCONUT MILK
- 1 CUP EVAPORATED MILK
- 1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR
- 1/2 CUP RAISINS (SOAK RAISIN IN WARM WATER 20 MINUTES BEFORE USING)
- 1/4 CUP MELTED BUTTER
- 1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
- 1 TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON
- 3/4 TEASPOON GROUND NUTMEG (1/2 TEASPOON IF FRESHLY GROUND)
- 1/4 TEASPOON GROUND ALLSPICE
- 1/2 TEASPOON OF SALT





# RECIPE FUN

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. PREHEAT YOUR OVEN TO 350°F (175°C). BUTTER A 9X13-INCH BAKING DISH OR A 4-6 OVENPROOF RAMEKIN DISHES.
2. IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL, COMBINE THE GRATED SWEET POTATOES, GRATED COCONUT, COCONUT MILK, EVAPORATED MILK, BROWN SUGAR, RAISINS, MELTED BUTTER, VANILLA EXTRACT, GROUND CINNAMON, GROUND NUTMEG, GROUND ALLSPICE, AND A PINCH OF SALT. MIX WELL UNTIL EVERYTHING IS THOROUGHLY COMBINED.
3. POUR THE MIXTURE INTO THE GREASED BAKING DISH, SPREADING IT OUT EVENLY WITH A SPATULA.
4. PLACE THE DISH IN THE PREHEATED OVEN AND BAKE FOR ABOUT 1 HOUR TO 1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTES, OR UNTIL THE TOP IS GOLDEN BROWN AND A TOOTHPICK INSERTED INTO THE CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN.
5. LET THE PUDDING COOL TO ROOM TEMPERATURE BEFORE SLICING INTO SQUARES. PAIN PATATE IS DELICIOUS SERVED WARM OR AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.



# HOW TO HELP

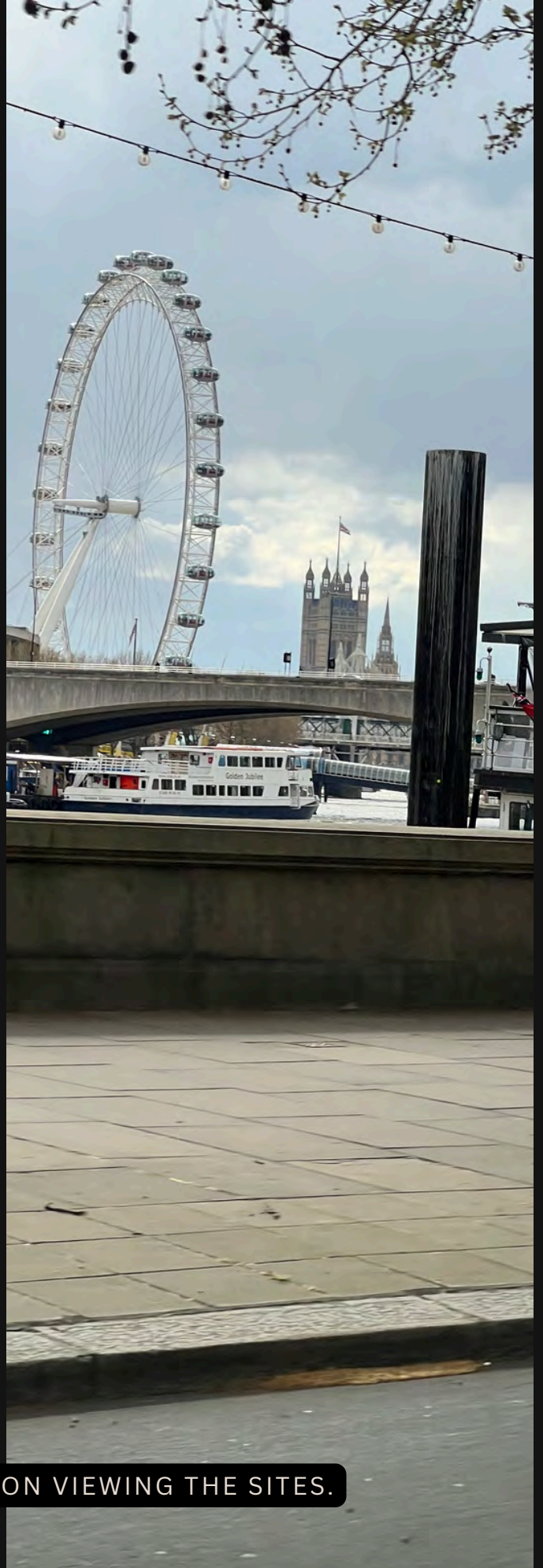
1. Dive into the intrigue of Regency London with *Murder in Westminster*, where Lady Abigail Worthing uncovers secrets that could unravel high society. #LadyWorthingMysteries #HistoricalMystery

Step into a world of murder and mystery in Vanessa Riley's gripping debut novel, "*Murder in Westminster*." 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 Westminster*. Lady Abigail Worthing must unravel the truth behind a murder that threatens to tarnish her reputation forever. #BookClubPick #HistoricalMystery

Join Lady Abigail Worthing on a thrilling journey through scandal and suspense in *Murder in Westminster* 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 Westminster* 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.

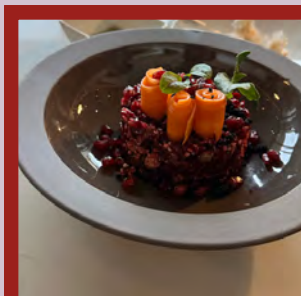
# VANESSA'S QUOTE FOR TODAY

# 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

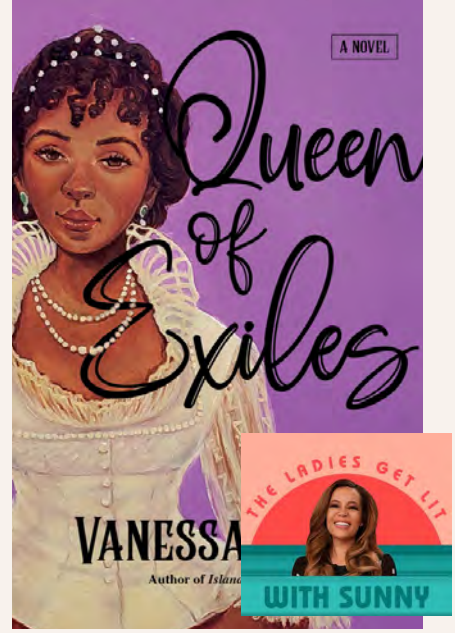
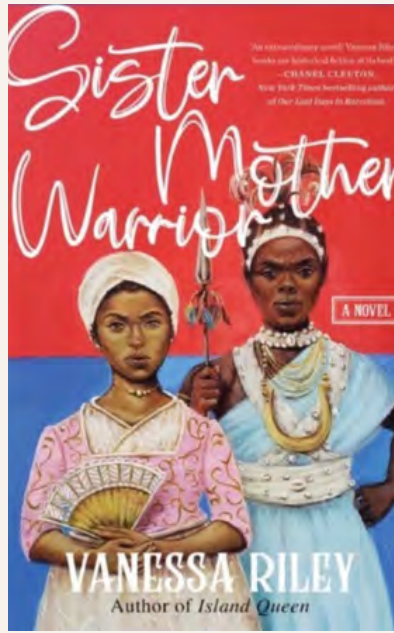
## HISTORICAL FICTION ABOUT REAL WOMEN

Entertainment

CNN

ESSENCE

The New York Times



## HISTORICAL MYSTERIES

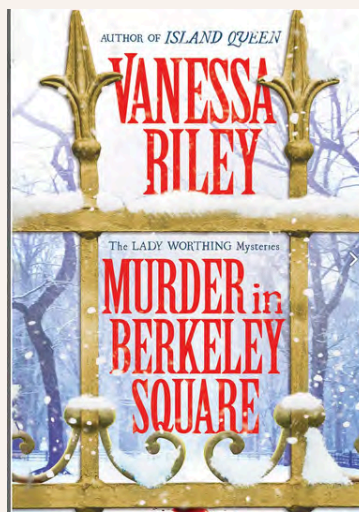
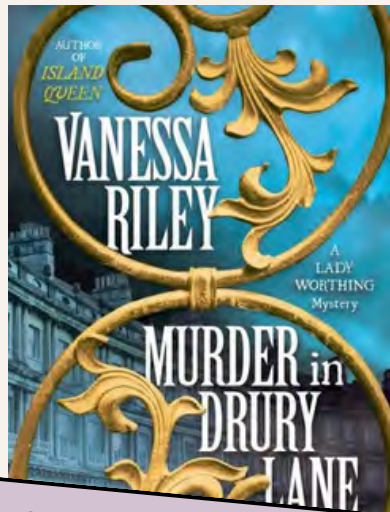
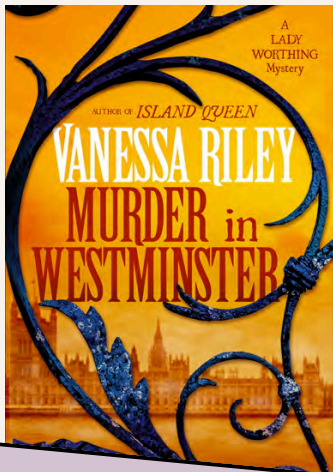
GOOD MORNING AMERICA

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THE ROOT

TODAY



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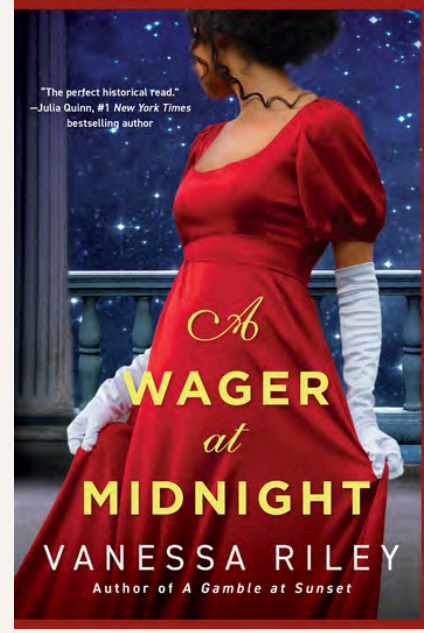
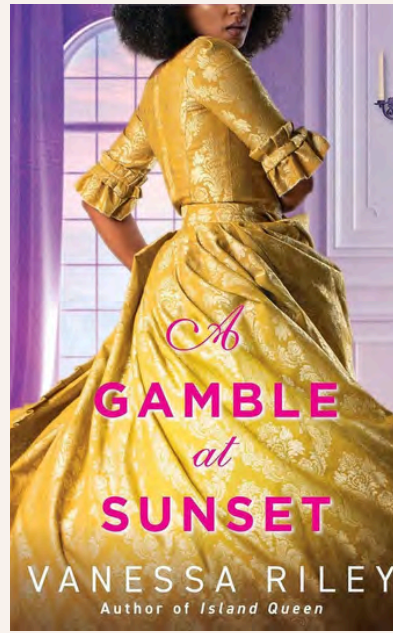
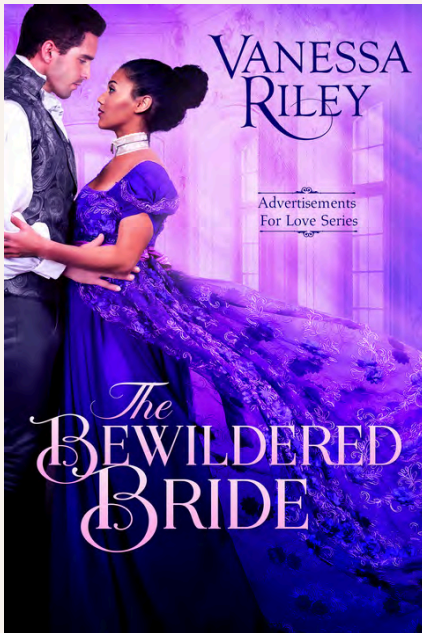
## HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Entertainment WEEKLY

CNN

ESSENCE

The New York Times

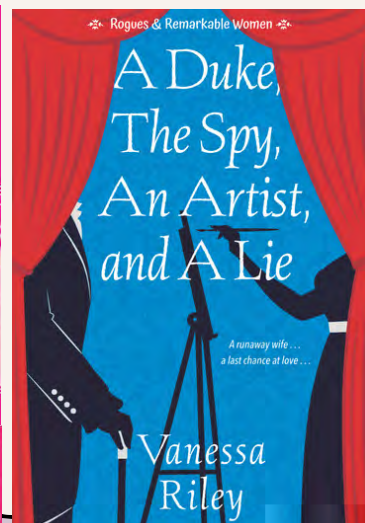
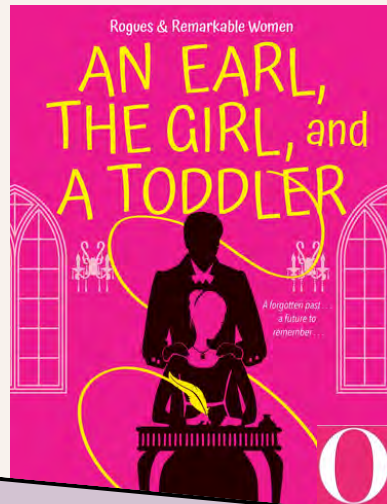
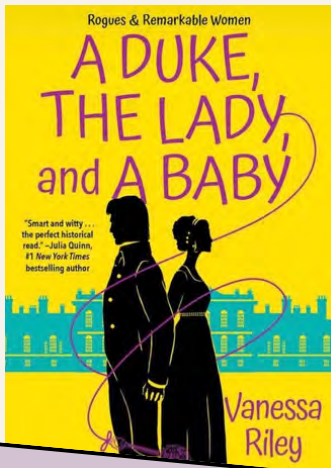


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