



A NOVEL

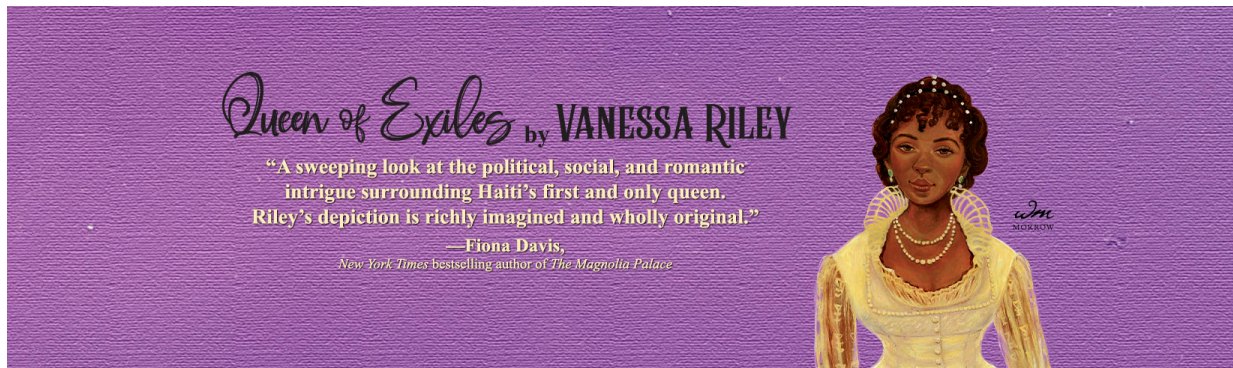
Queen of Exiles

Book Club
Questions

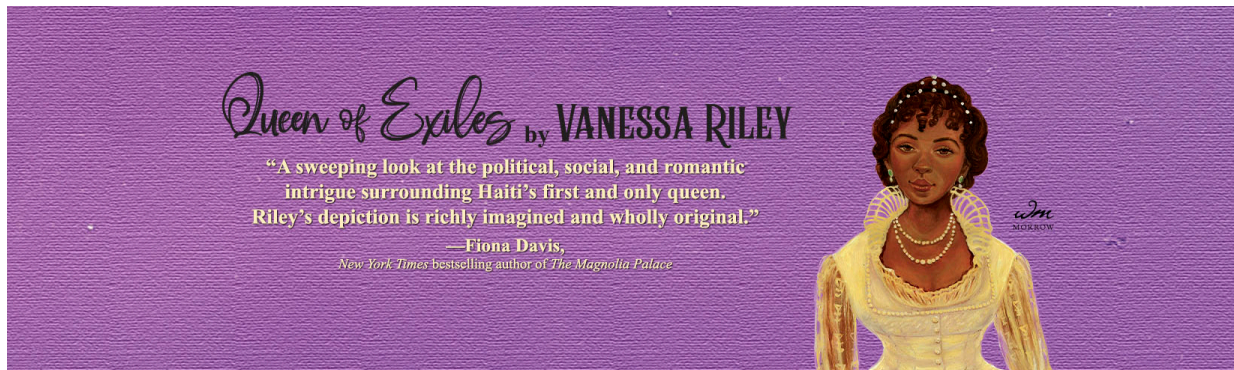
VanessaRiley.com

VANESSA RILEY

Author of Island Queen

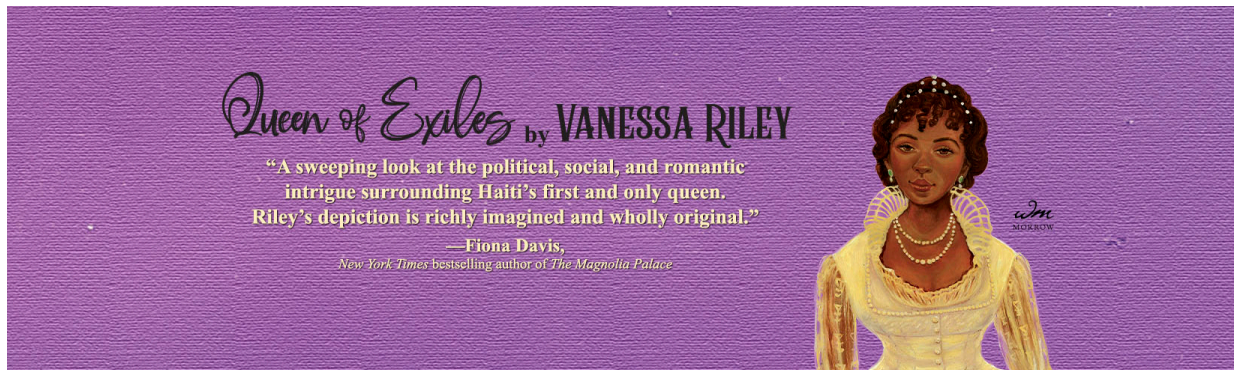


1. Queen of Exiles is told in three timelines at different stages of the life of Queen Marie-Louise Coidavid Christophe. What is the significance of these three timelines? What aspects of Queen Louise are portrayed or even dominant in her personality in each of the timelines?
2. Queen Louise is sometimes called the Sorrowful Queen. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer?
3. What were the main themes of Queen of Exiles? How were those themes brought to life or embodied in the characters?
4. What are Queen Louise's strengths and weaknesses? What is dominant? Are any of these aspects fatal flaws?
5. Discuss the conflict of a mother trying to raise two daughters of varying talents and two different health conditions.
6. Castles and palaces are important themes mirrored in the settings of Queen of Exiles. How important were the various locations in the book? What was your favorite? What surprised you? Did the setting add to or distract from the story?
7. While the author, Vanessa Riley, tries to spare or limit the painful details, she feels it necessary to show Louise witnessing Henry's decline and death. There are other points in the narrative where Riley picks and chooses painful scenes. What did

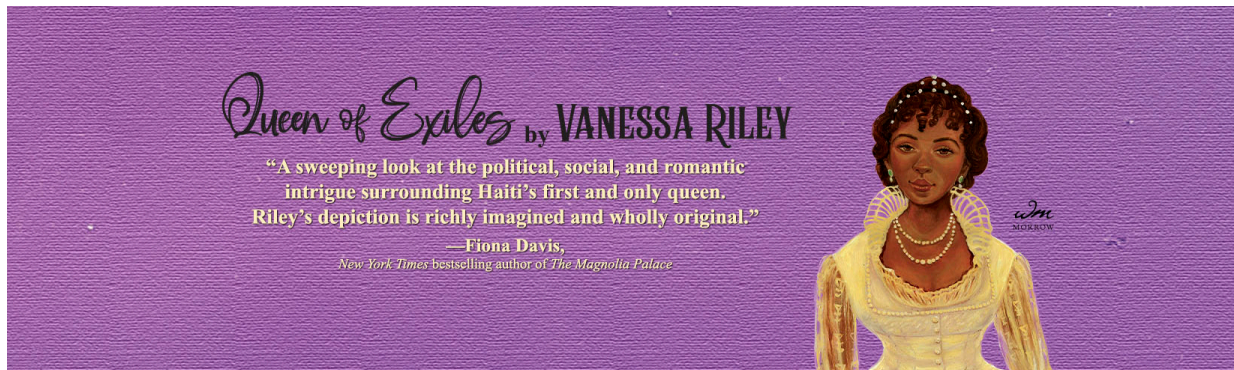


you think of her approach? What would you have left out? What needed more details?

8. Were there any quotes, sentences, or passages that stood out to you? Why?
9. Sisterhood is an important theme in all of Riley's books. Discuss the three sisters: Louise, Cécile Fatiman, and Genevieve Coidavid. What do you think of their interactions? Can true forgiveness be achieved among the sisters?
10. What did you like most about the portrayal of King Henry? What did you like the least?
11. What did you like most about the portrayal of Prince Pückler? What did you like the least?
12. What were the power dynamics between the characters? How did this affect their interactions? How did it affect them, particularly as the kingdom progressed?
13. Describe the court intrigues with the Haitian court. How were they similar or different than what is found in other political situations in Europe?
14. How do the way the minor characters like Zephyrine, Souliman, the Clarksons, the Romaines, and Chateaubriand help Louise express herself or her humanity?
15. Were there times you disagreed with a character's actions, particularly Louise's choice to reprimand Athénaïre or how she tried to save Henry? What would you have done differently?



16. After reading this story, how would you define Black Beauty? What about Black Royals?
17. What do you think Riley's goal was in writing this book? What ideas was she trying to illustrate?
18. Did your opinion of Louise's exile change as you read it? How?
19. Was the book satisfying to read? Why or why not?
20. If you could talk to the author, what burning question would you want to ask?
21. Which character did you most relate to and why?
22. What moment or scene prompted the strongest emotional reaction from you? Why?
23. If the book were made into a movie, who would play each of the lead characters?
(Please email this list to Dr. Riley, vanessa@vanessariley.com Subject Line: Cast of Queen of Exiles).
24. One story question is What would the world and Haiti be like if King Henry and Queen Louise had succeeded? What do you think?
25. Are there any books that you would compare this book to?
26. Have you read any other books by Vanessa Riley? How would you compare them to this selection?



Book Club Suggestion Meeting Themes:

1. Wear crowns at your book club meeting. Get props like sashes and jewels so your book club members can take pictures in these royal garbs and baubles. Post to social media with the hashtag #queenofexiles
2. Have a tea party. Enjoy rich chamomile and tea cakes and finger sandwiches.
3. Have a spa day. Book a local spa that specializes in hot pools or mineral springs.
4. Pamper your royal feet with a pink or lilac pedicure party.
5. Meet at an Italian Restaurant and have great tomato caprese or ribollita.