

Questions  
Extras  
Goodies  
for Readers

VANESSARILEY.COM

*Book Club Reader's Guide*

# SISTER MOTHER WARRIOR

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 "Sister Mother Warrior." 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 story of revolution.

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.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with me.

Warm regards,  
Vanessa Riley

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



Vanessa Riley, historian and traveler, had a insightful time learning about women and power in Hait.

I firmly believe Women are the way forward.



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BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES BEHIND THE SCENES

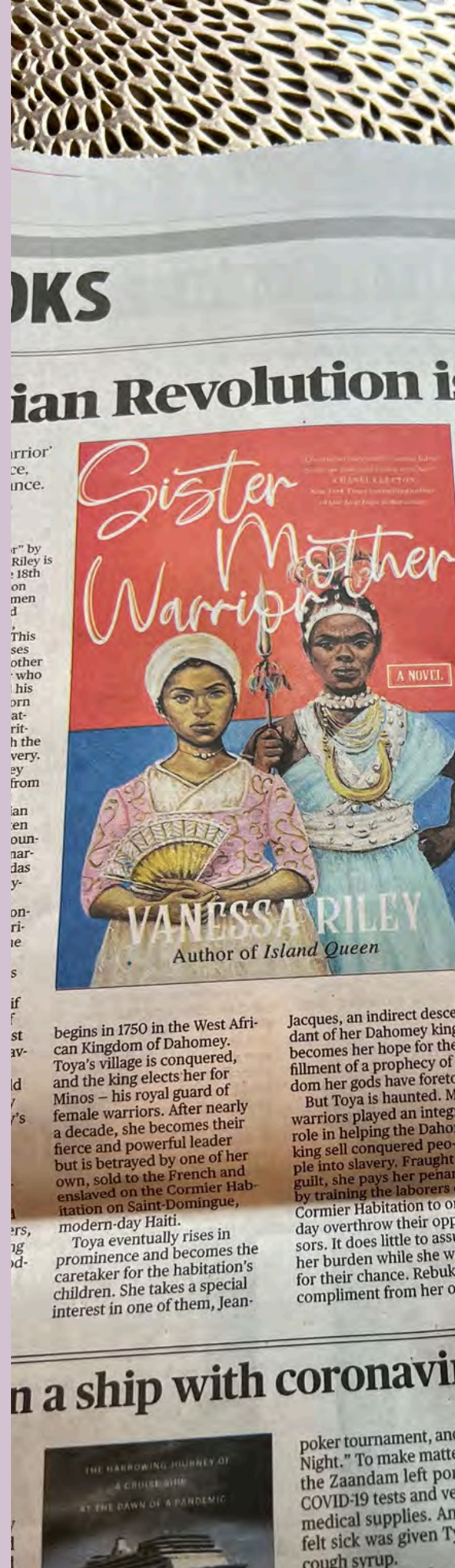
# READING CHECKLIST

Reader ..... Year .....

Book Title	Start	Middle	Finished	Rate
	✓			

# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the title? Did it resonate with you and how the story is told, why or why not?
2. What were the main themes of *Sister Mother Warrior*? How were those themes brought to life in the characters?
3. What did you think of the prophetic poem starting each section?
4. What did you think of the writing style and the way *Sister Mother Warrior* was structured?
5. How important was the time-period or the setting to *Sister Mother Warrior*?
6. 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 felt it necessary to include certain painful scenes. What did you of the way violence was portrayed? 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. What did you like most about the portrayal of Gran Toya? What did you like the least?
10. What did you like most about the portrayal of Marie-Claire? What did you like the least?
11. What did you like most about the portrayal of Jean-Jacques Dessalines? What did you like the least?



# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. What were the power dynamics between the characters? How did this affect their interactions? How did it affect them over time, particularly as Dessalines grows in power?
2. How does the way the minor characters like Elise, Maman, and Mamie see themselves differ from the way others see them?
3. Were there times you disagreed with a character's actions, particularly Marie- Claire's choice to marry and then to have an affair? Gran Toya choice to become enslaved? Gran Toya's choice to remain on the Duclos plantation for as long as she did? What would you have done differently?
4. Overall, how did Sister Mother Warrior make you feel? Describe the emotions the story evoked?
5. What do you think Riley's goal was in writing this book? What ideas was she trying to illustrate?
6. Did your opinion of Sister Mother Warrior change as you read it? How? 17. Was the book satisfying to read? Why or why not?
7. If you could talk to the author, what burning question would you want to ask?
8. Which character did you most relate to and why?
9. Who was your favorite character? Why?
10. What moment or scene prompted the strongest emotional reaction from you? Why?
11. If the book were made into a movie, who would play each of the lead characters?
12. One story question is the concept that we are all Black. Everyone who remained in Haiti by right of the constitution became Black. How do you feel about this? Would you want everyone to be Black?
14. Are there any books that you would compare this book to?
15. Have you read any other books by Vanessa Riley? How would you compare them to this selection?





# 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 CROWNS AT YOUR BOOK CLUB MEETING. TAKE PICTURES IN THESE ROYAL GARBS AND BAUBLES. POST TO SOCIAL MEDIA WITH THE HASHTAG #SISTERMOTHERWARRIOR

02

HAVE A MANGO TEA PARTY. ENJOY RICH MANGO TEA, MANGO SALADS, AND MANGO DESSERTS AND MANGO RELISH ON LAMB OR ANOTHER MEAT.

03

HAVE A SPA DAY. BOOK A LOCAL SPA THAT SPECIALIZES IN HOT POOLS OR MINERAL SPRINGS. OR PAMPER YOUR ROYAL FEET. WARRIORS NEED TO BE PAMPERED TOO.

04

MEET AT AN HAITIAN RESTAURANT AND HAVE GREAT GRIOT (MARINATED AND FRIED PORK CHUNKS, OFTEN SERVED WITH PIKLIZ (A SPICY RELISH) AND DIRI AK DJON DJON (BLACK MUSHROOM RICE, MADE WITH DJON DJON MUSHROOMS).

# *Moody Joyful Fun Healing*

## PLAYLISTS

01

### **THE SONG LIST FOR A SISTER MOTHER WARRIOR**

<https://spoti.fi/460xHYW>



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!

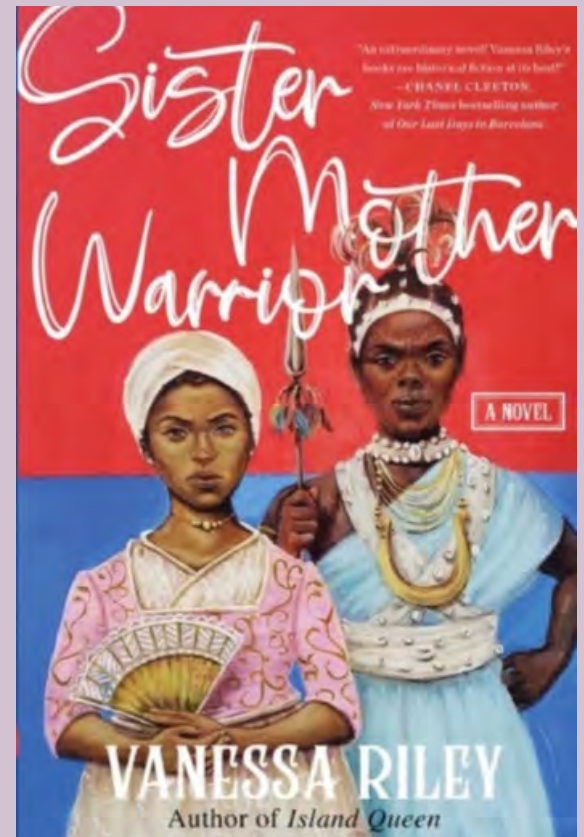
# RECIPE FUN

## 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 heart of the Haitian Revolution with *Sister Mother Warrior* by Vanessa Riley. Follow the incredible journeys of Marie-Claire Bonheur and Gran Toya as they fight for freedom and justice. #HistoricalFiction #BlackHistory

2. Discover the true stories of two extraordinary women in *Sister Mother Warrior*. Vanessa Riley brings the first Empress of Haiti and a legendary warrior to life in this epic tale of courage and resilience. #MustRead #WomenInHistory

3. Experience the power and determination of women who shaped history in Vanessa Riley's *Sister Mother Warrior*. A sweeping novel of love, rebellion, and the fight for freedom. #BookRecommendation #HistoricalFiction

4. *Sister Mother Warrior* by Vanessa Riley takes you on an unforgettable journey through the Haitian Revolution. Witness the strength of Marie-Claire Bonheur and Gran Toya as they rise against oppression. #NewRelease #HistoricalFiction

5. Join Vanessa Riley as she tells the powerful stories of Marie-Claire Bonheur and Gran Toya in *Sister Mother Warrior*. A vivid, gripping novel that highlights the resilience of women in the fight for liberation. #BookClubPick #HistoricalFiction



# 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.

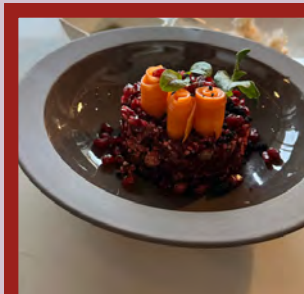
# VANESSA'S QUOTE FOR TODAY

# 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

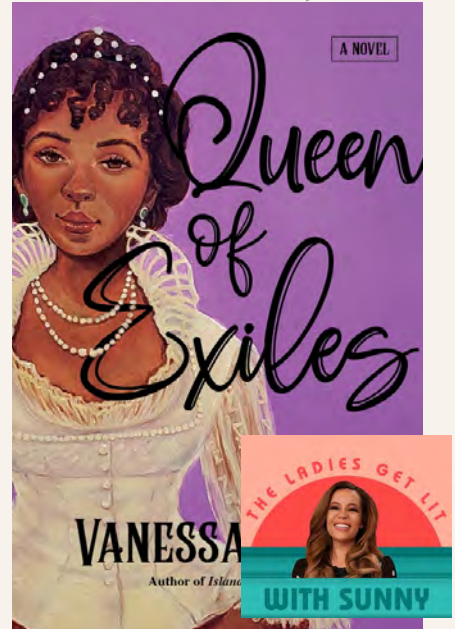
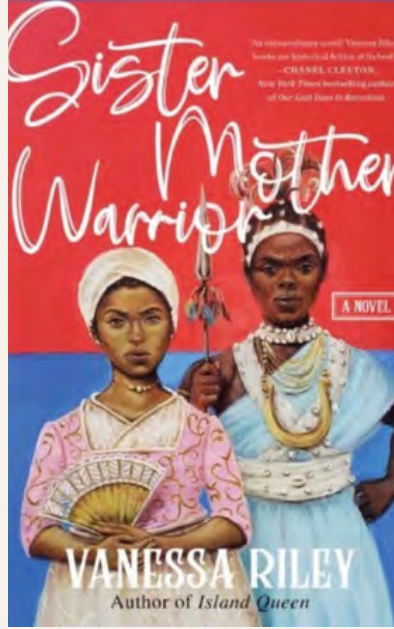
## HISTORICAL FICTION ABOUT REAL WOMEN

Entertainment

CNN

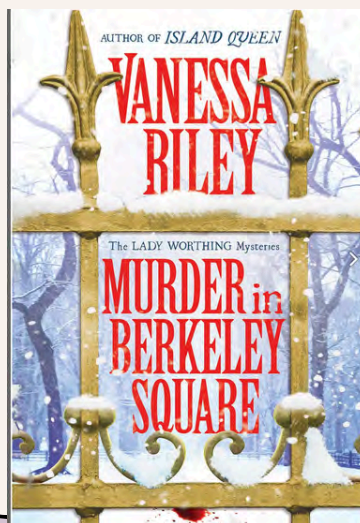
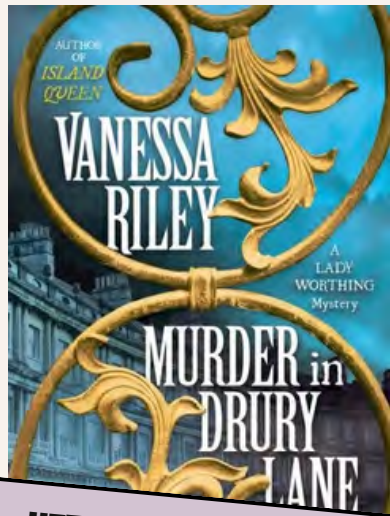
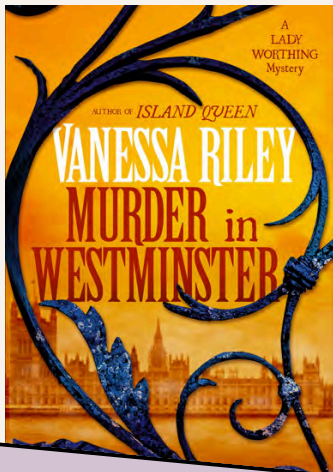
ESSENCE

The New York Times



## HISTORICAL MYSTERIES

GOOD MORNING AMERICA



LJ LIBRARY JOURNAL

KIRKUS

THE ROOT

TODAY

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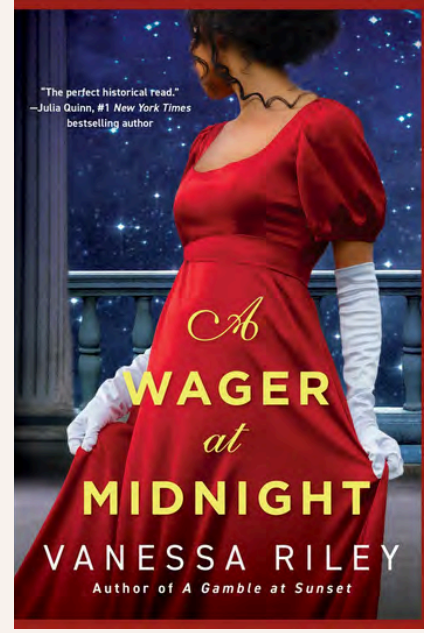
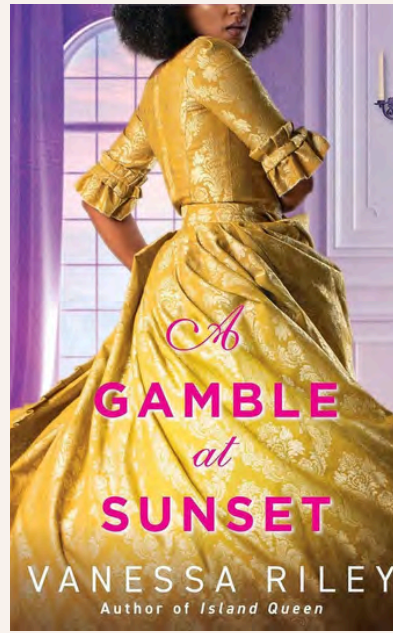
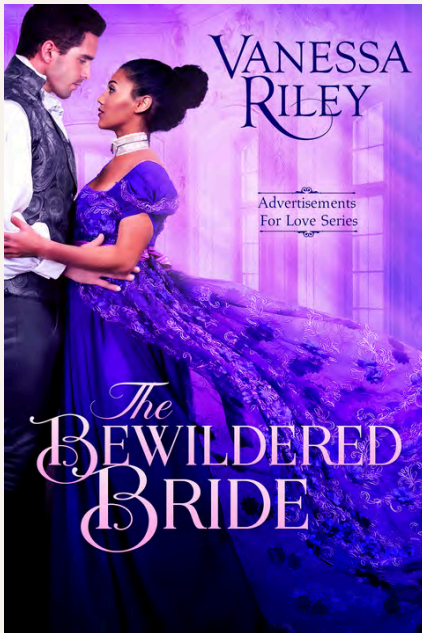
## HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Entertainment

CNN

ESSENCE

The New York Times

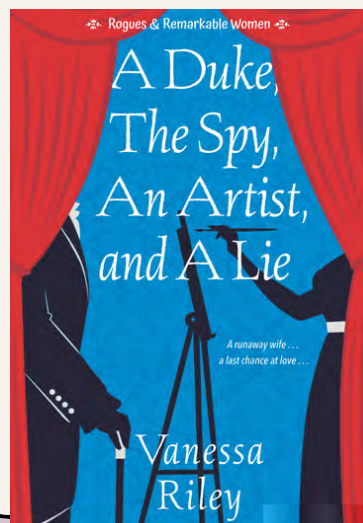
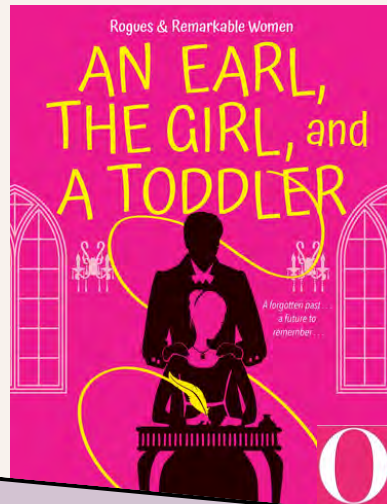
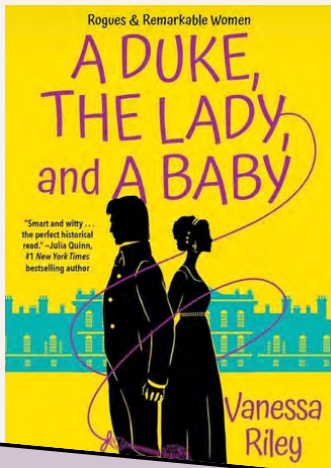


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