



# Vanessa Riley

Sharing Our History Through Storytelling



Hey !

Vanessa here.

I'm so excited. *Sister Mother Warrior*, my new hardcover historical fiction releases July 12. Next week!!!

This time I take you to territory in Africa conquered by the Dahomey (present-day Benin) and then to the tropical island of Saint Domingue (present-day Haiti). You will learn about two of the bravest Black Women I've found in history, Adbaraya Toya and Marie-Claire Bonheur.

This book has been on 13 lists as a must-read--AJC, Buzzfeed, Essence, ABC News, Bookbub, Reader's Digest, and more.

If you are in the Atlanta or DC areas please come out. I can't wait to see you and to talk more about this book.

[Follow my Instagram](#) to get more real-time event happenings and more.

Don't forget to make fun memories this summer. It's so important. The picture above are author friends, Sonali Dev (holding her upcoming title [The Vibrant Years](#)), Sally Kilpatrick (working on an exciting WIP) and Piper Huguley (just released the fabulous, [By Her Own Design](#).) We had yummy BBQ.

Vanessa

## News For My Readers

### Upcoming Launch & Book Events

Upcoming events for the launch of *Sister Mother Warrior* and happenings I will be attending. I'd love for you to come out.

For more details, how to register, locations, etc. [click here](#).

July 2022	
Vanessa Riley	
<i>In Person Events   All Times are EST</i>	
11	<b>ANGELA'S LITERARY CAFE'</b> Angela Anderson- 7:00 PM
12	<b>ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER</b> Book Launch & Signing 7:00 PM
13	<b>GWINNETT LIBRARY</b> Sister Mother Warrior Talk 7:00 PM
14	<b>DECATUR LIBRARY</b> Q&A with Journalist Nicki Salcedo 7:00 PM

@vanessarileyauthor



# July 2022

## Vanessa Riley

*In Person Events | All Times are EST*

21

### BOOKWORM BOOKSTORE

Bookclub Discussion- 7:00 PM

28

### EAST CITY BOOKSHOP

Conversation with Denny S. Bryce 6:30 PM

29

### POLITICS & PROSE

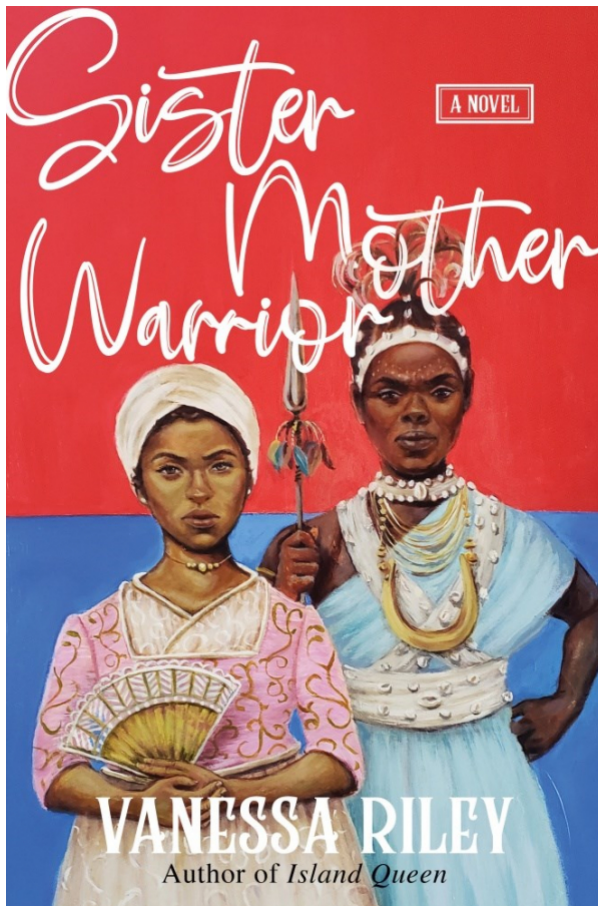
Union Market: Black Protagonists Discussion with Denny S. Bryce 7:00 PM

30

### APOLLYCON

Signing: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

@vanessarileyauthor



## Sister Mother Warrior

**COMING JULY 2022!**

Two women shape the heart of the Haitian Revolution. Sister Mother Warrior tells their story through their eyes.

Have you preordered? If you pre-order from [Loyalty Books](#), [Acapella Books](#), [Kindred Spirits Books](#), and [Malik Books](#).

The bag pictured below is amazing. In five languages, it says, "We will win!"



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOOK](#)

[Pre-Order for the Tote Bag](#)

## NEW HISTORICAL MYSTERY

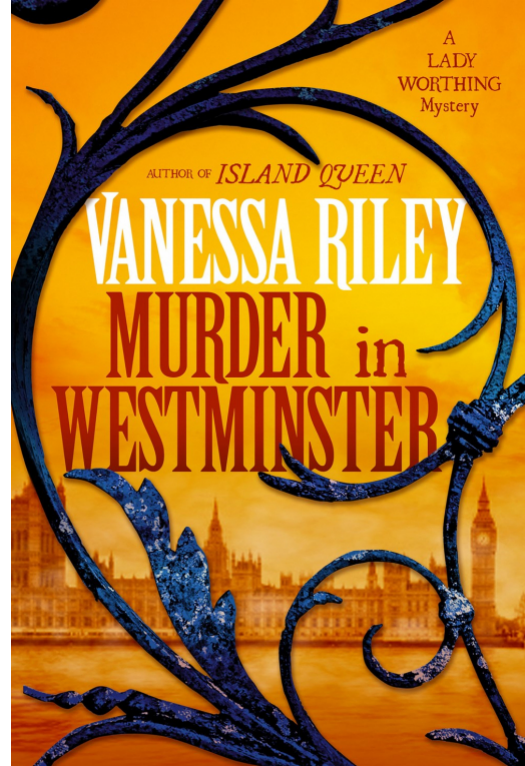
### **Murder in Westminster**

**COMING AUGUST 29, 2022!**

The first book in a diversely cast Regency-set mystery series and featuring an amateur female sleuth who must solve her neighbor's murder after being listed as one of the prime suspects, to Kensington.

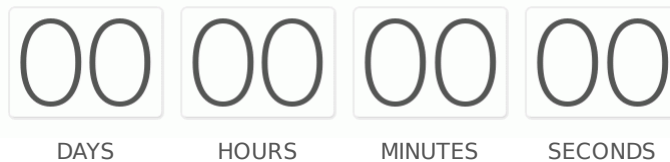
Smart, witty, and refreshingly diverse, this new Regency-set series from acclaimed author Vanessa Riley combines her

signature emotional richness and attention to detail in a historical mystery featuring a strong, clever, and captivating heroine. Publisher's Weekly says: "Riley offers a vibrant picture of the roles Black and mixed-race people played in Regency life. Fans of *Bridgerton* will enjoy this one."



DISCOVER MORE HERE

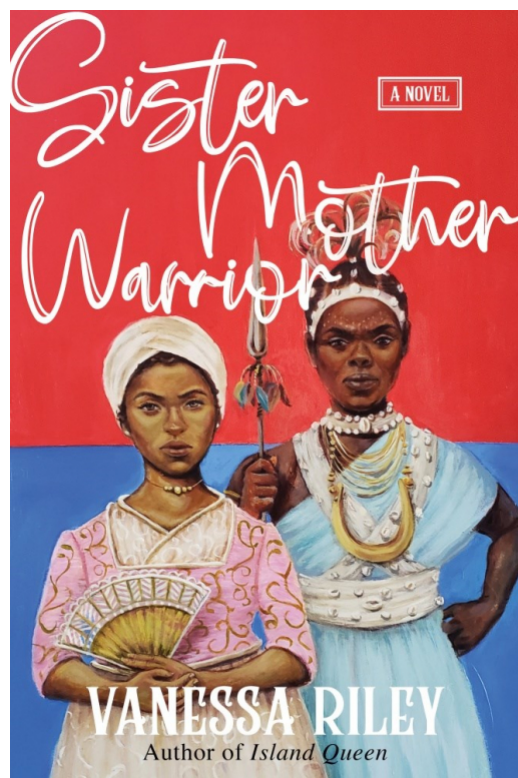
## COUNTDOWN TO MY NEW HISTORICAL FICTION



### Sister Mother Warrior

Starred Review - Library Journal

Riley follows up *Island Queen* with another sweeping, powerful historical novel based on two remarkable real women. Adbaraya Toya grows up in the West African Kingdom of Dahomey and becomes one of their feared women warriors. In 1758, a betrayal leads to her being sold into slavery and sent to the French colony of Saint-Domingue on Hispaniola (part of present-day Haiti). There she uses her healing and medicinal knowledge to survive and takes a



maternal interest in young enslaved orphan Janjak, training him as a warrior in hopes of a better future. As Janjak grows up on Hispaniola, so too does Marie-Claire Bonheur, further south on the island. Marie-Claire, a free Black woman, has complicated relationships with her mother, aunt, and grandmother--all of whom have different experiences as women of color in late 18th-century Saint-Domingue. When Marie-Claire meets Janjak (who will later take the surname Dessalines and become the first ruler of an independent Haiti), their instant and strong bond forms the basis for a lifelong relationship that will be tested by time, distance, and the Haitian Revolution led by Janjak.

**Verdict:** Riley has written a well-researched gripping novel about an enslaved people gaining freedom, with the emotional connections among the players as its beating heart.

Reviewed by Jane Jorgenson, Jun 01, 2022

## Booklist

"Riley follows her critically acclaimed historical novel *Island Queen* (2021) with a gripping tale celebrating the strength and resilience of exceptional Black women.

Riley's women-focused and illuminating retelling of the Haitian Revolution, one of the most successful uprisings of enslaved people in the world, is emotionally rich, deeply detailed, and unforgettable."— Enobong Tommelleo, Booklist

## READ REVIEWS

Thank you for all you do. Keep spreading the word.

Be blessed.



XOXO

That's all for now.

Till next time.

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