

LIFE OF  
RILEY

*Mary Wride*



CREATING LIFE IN LOCKDOWN 2020

# Introduction

## MEET RILEY

Like many people I won't forget 2020!

For me, the impact of Covid 19 and the enforced restrictions created welcome space for reflection. It was an opportunity to connect with hidden emotions, listen to my intuition and give myself permission to play. Inspired by this freedom, I wrote a short memoir (see page 19) and as I reflected on a difficult past I mysteriously found a delightful new friend.

This is the story of how a chance event led to the creation of my creature doll and how we became lockdown buddies - meet Riley.



*Part One*

RILEY COMES TO LIFE

Normal life was put on hold  
Stay at home we all were told  
Only walk out once a day -  
Pretty tough I have to say

A new routine would soon emerge  
To be in nature was the urge  
Peaceful trails and gentle breeze  
Blossoms flowering on the trees

I saw some wood down in the stream  
The flowing water made it gleam  
I let it dry out in the sun  
Then took it home to have some fun



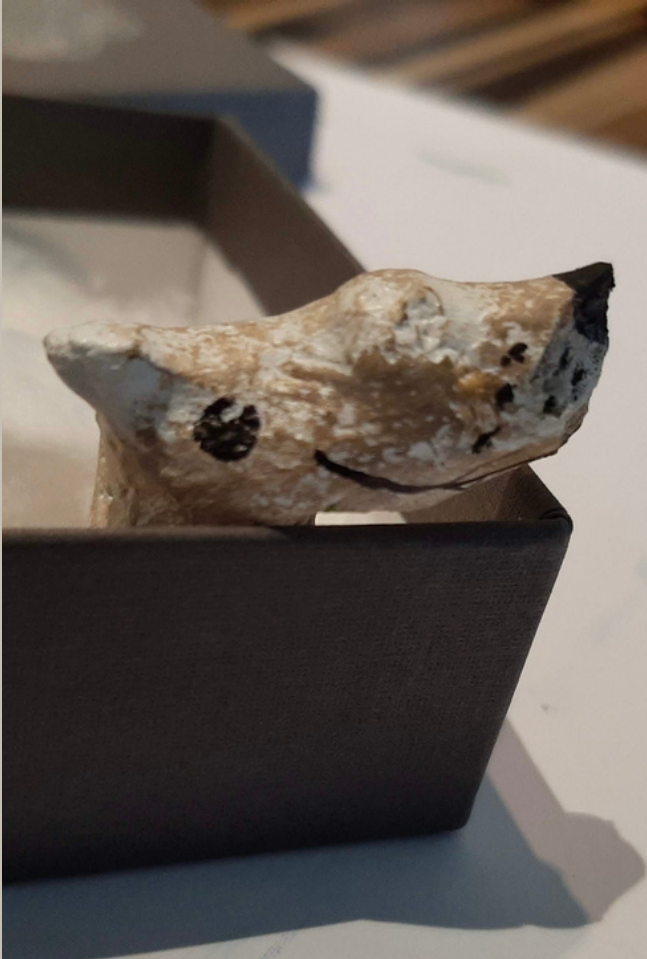
I pondered it for many days  
I looked at it in different ways  
And then at last a shape was seen  
Which prompted me to paint it green

Sat on the table all alone  
it seemed to make itself at home  
It watched me as I played around  
With other bits of wood I'd found



I felt that it was calling me  
To give it life, to make it be  
If it could speak, what would it say  
Don't paint me green,  
try white or grey

I mixed up colours, gave a stir  
I added brown to look like fur  
A transformation on the way  
And then we had a fateful day



I held it up and all about  
And just like that I broke its snout  
'Oh No!' I cried, 'I've let you down'  
It looked so sad, it made a frown

And then I heard a voice so thin  
'Before you put me in the bin  
look again, what do you see  
There is a life inside of me'

I saw you clearly there and then  
The little face that I would pen  
You came to life and smiled at me  
I knew that I had set you free

I made a lighthouse just for you  
A guiding light to keep you true  
For all of us must chart a course  
To journey free and find our source

You watched the boats out on the sea  
You looked at them, and then at me  
How did they stay out on the blue  
If they could do it, why not you



SEASIDE - OCEAN - RILEY

You met a starfish on the shore  
You fell in love and wanted more  
You tried to make friends with a shark  
But that was just a risky lark







TALLIS 'RILEY' KWYN

I sent your picture through my phone  
I said that you were in my home  
I introduced you to my friends  
Was I quite sane? Well that depends

I had to learn some other stuff  
To edit photos - that was tough  
You played and posed with bags of pride  
You welcomed all the things we tried

And so we filled up all the space  
Every day a different place  
Me with colours flowing free  
You excited, full of glee



And soon you had a name and voice  
And with that came the gift of choice  
To let your instincts guide the way  
To be inspired by each new day

You had no past to hold you back  
For you there was no sense of lack  
You listened closely to your heart  
To not resist but make a start

You didn't feel a need to know  
The way your life was going to go  
'It will unfold' you'd daily say  
'Don't keep control but seek to play

'Life is ours to shape and mould  
There's nothing here for us to hold  
We start again with each sunrise  
The journey that will make us wise'





'TRUTH IS FREEDOM'

Our growing friendship helped me find  
A way to ease my troubled mind  
To tell my story, sad but true  
My heart it spoke because of you

I named you Tallis in my book  
You were not pleased - I got the look  
I hadn't asked you for your views  
That Riley was the name you'd choose

Now look at you, brought into being  
A piece of wood once never seeing  
Now you live the Life of Riley  
Full of passion - wise and smiley

With words and feelings deep and true  
I've learnt so very much from you  
A favourite phrase, 'just see what's there  
It's life, so live it - if you dare!'



FOLLOW RILEY ON INSTAGRAM  
[@THESONGOFTRUTH](https://www.instagram.com/thesongoftruth)

*Part Two*

CREATIVE LIFE IN  
LOCKDOWN

# Welcome to my home

Everything in this booklet was created here in my small kitchen in the South West of France.

It was during the first lockdown that I ordered my very first set of acrylic paints. The results you see demonstrate my basic skills.

Collecting wood from the stream has been a joy. Washed smooth and transported by the water, each piece has its own unique shape, colour, feel and story.

Maybe more friends will follow.



# The Stream







## *Joy & Creation*

Inspired by Riley, I'm developing the habit of play and continue to experiment with the local resources.

Take a look at some of my creations on the next page.



*I encourage you to play*

*Part Three*

THE SONG OF TRUTH

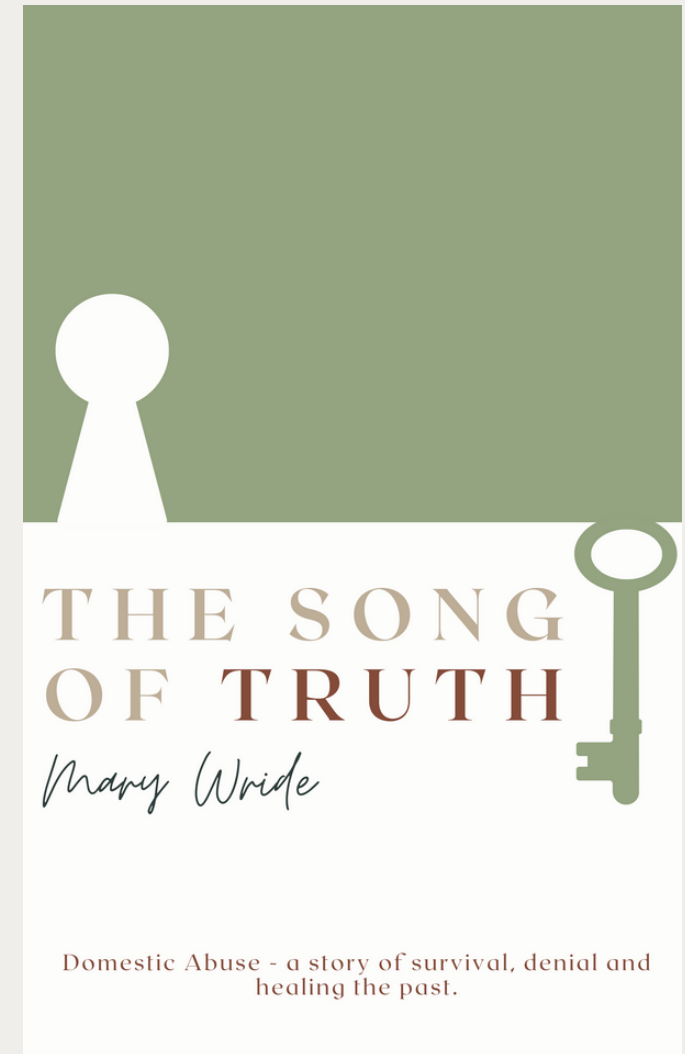
## EXCERPT FROM THE SONG OF TRUTH - CREATURE DOLL

Riley became my lockdown buddy. I was like a little girl chatting with her doll and as we wrote rhymes together, I was reminded of the poetry I'd scribbled in my youth. And what was it about dolls? Throughout the ages, we humans have thought them to hold magic, mystery and special powers.

Clarissa Pinkola Estés wrote, 'dolls are believed to be infused with life by their makers. They represent what lies within us, a little piece of our soul.' Riley felt like a little piece of mine.

If you would like to read my book about growing up in a violent home follow this link.

THE SONG OF TRUTH FROM AMAZON





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