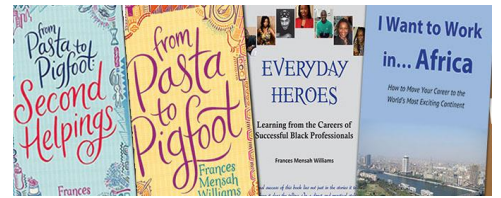


FRANCES MENSAH WILLIAMS'

BOOK CLUB

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 2 | December 2019 |



WELCOME DEAR READER!

It's almost time to say goodbye to 2019. Where did the year go?!

In this issue, I'll give you an update on some recent events and a peek into 2020 – which is going to be an awesome year. Two (yes, 2!!) new novels to share with you in the coming 12 months, as well as loads more adventures.

Do write in and let me know your plans for 2020 and any news you'd like to share with the Club.

Enjoy!

PS: I've finally joined [Instagram](#)!!! So exciting! Please follow me at:

francesmensahw

LA VILLE D'AMOUR

Visiting Paris

Finding inspiration in Paris on the final stop of the year. (p.2)

COMING UP IN 2020!

A sneak preview of my upcoming new novel. (p.3)

BELONGING AND IDENTITY

Excerpts from my interview with AKADI magazine on writing from dual cultural perspectives (p.3)

AN EVENT(FUL) CLOSE TO 2019

A look at recent book events and attending the final TEDx Euston event. (p.4)

Visiting Paris - La Ville d'amour

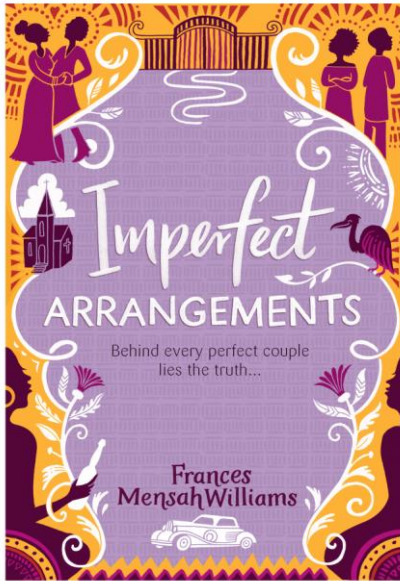
Love travels...and I certainly did this year! Paris, the City of Love, was my final travel destination of 2019 and an unforgettable experience. From walking through the cobble streets to revisit legendary landmarks with my dear friend - in between sampling seafood tapas and juicy steaks - to marvelling at the beauty of the paintings in the historic Leonardo da Vinci exhibition in the Louvre museum, it was a wonderful few days ... also a good location for a story, I think.



Here are some of the pictures from my visit. Where's the best place you've visited in 2019? Let me know - and send a photo to share!



AVAILABLE IN MARCH 2020!



Drum roll...!!!

A sneak preview of the beautiful cover of my next novel, *Imperfect Arrangements*

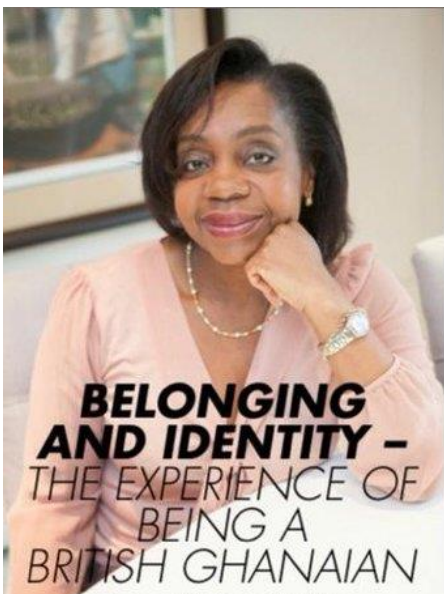
There are two sides to every story...

In the sun-soaked capital of Ghana, close friends Theresa, Maku and Lyla struggle with the arrangements that define their relationships.

More details in the next newsletter...

READY TO [PRE-ORDER](#) YOUR SIGNED COPY YET?

The AKADi Magazine recently rebranded and is producing some beautiful magazines. Here's an excerpt from my interview in [Issue 2](#).



Challenging Stereotypes

"Frances is keen to challenge cultural stereotypes about Africa and being African. While this book (*From Pasta to Pigfoot*) does not shy away from issues of economic hardship in Ghana and the country's slave trading past, Frances is also keen to contemporise what it means to be African.

"I am not really interested in telling the story about colonialism. This has been talked about many times. I want to focus on the bit that doesn't get talked about and that is today's Africans who are very cosmopolitan, very middle class, exposed to the same sort of media, news, activities, art, fashion as everywhere else in the world."

[Read the rest of the interview in the AKADi Magazine](#)

Issue 2 of the AKADi Magazine is out and features interviews from a range of Ghanaians both on home soil and in the diaspora.

msbwrites.co.uk



Closing 2019 – EVENT(FUL) MOMENTS

The last months of the year offered inspiring events where I had the chance to interact with readers and to attend the 10th (and final) TEDx Euston event in London.

Literary Bites – Where Food and Literature Collide

This was an exciting and uplifting evening organised by Joy Francis of Words of Colour Productions. Along with fellow authors, the award-winning Yvette Edwards and Yassmin Abdel-Magied, we read extracts from our work while sampling some of the dishes featured in our writing.



Tasty morsels from **Sudan**, **Montserrat** and **Ghana** accompanied honest and open discussion with the audience about the role of food in our lives and relationships.

Gratitude Brunch and Book Swap

Food and books...are you spotting a theme here?



Organised by Charisma Campaign, this brunch included a three course Ghanaian cuisine meal, a book swap and some awesome poetry and acoustic performances.

I met talented young authors, spoken word artists and dedicated readers - and enjoyed some excellent jollof rice!

TEDx Euston 2019

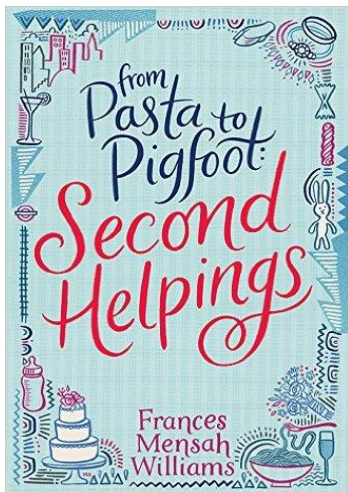
10 years after the inaugural TEDx event in London, the TEDx Euston Legacy event showcased a fantastic series of talks from speakers sharing their phenomenal ideas for Africa. Interspersed with music, poetry and some sublime singing, it was THE ultimate experience!

Grab a cup of tea and treat yourself to the videos!

<https://tedxeuston.com/index.php>



WIN A COPY OF *SECOND HELPINGS!**



I'm giving a signed copy of *Second Helpings* to the first person who correctly answers the question below. If you already have it, I'll happily send you a signed copy of *From Pasta to Pigfoot* instead!

Q: Part of the novel is set in Ghana. What was the name of Ghana's first President?

[REPLY NOW](#) and win your free copy!

***OR CHOOSE THE ORIGINAL 'FROM PASTA TO PIGFOOT'**



Seasons Greetings and a Merry Christmas!

I wish you and your families a joyous, peaceful, blessed and fun-filled Christmas and...

...a healthy, positive and fruitful 2020!

A final word...

[Get in touch](#) – I'd love to hear from you! Frances

Instagram: francesmensahw

Twitter: @FrancesmensahW

FB: facebook.com/francesmensahwilliams

To unsubscribe from the Book Club, [contact me](#)

On writing:

"You take people, you put them on a journey, you give them peril, you find out who they really are."

-Joss Whedon (US producer, director and screenwriter)