

# FRANCES MENSAH WILLIAMS Readers'

# BOOK CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO 11 | September/October 2020 |

## WELCOME DEAR READER!

It's lovely to see so many new members joining our Readers' Club.

As avid readers and writers, let's get to know one another. Please feel free to write in and share your story and what you are reading.

I'm excited to bring you some great book reviews on *Imperfect Arrangements* in this issue and share my hilarious interview with bestselling novelist Dorothy Koomson.

[Drop me a message with any other news you'd like to](#) share with the readers' Club.

Stay safe

Frances x



## BOOK CHAT

An Interview with bestselling novelist Dorothy Koomson

(p.2)

## WORDS OF COLOUR

Book reviews of *Imperfect Arrangements*

(p.3)

## WHAT I'M READING

(P.4)

## BEST MUG EVER!

My favourite mug

(p.5)

## EVENTS

Tips on Getting Published... and more

(p.6)

# THE BOOKMARK

## Chatting to bestselling novelist Dorothy Koomson about books, writing... and jollof rice!

When Dorothy Koomson asked me if I'd like to be interviewed by her for her Bookmark series, it was a no-brainer! Here is an excerpt from Dorothy's interview.



**Dorothy Koomson: When did you decide to become a writer?**

**Frances Mensah Williams:** I think I was eight or nine years old when I knew I would be a writer, but it took about (loud cough) years to get there.

**Dorothy Koomson: Can you tell us about your latest book?**

**FMW:** It's called *Imperfect Arrangements* and tells the story of best friends Theresa, Maku, and Lyla and their struggles with the less than perfect arrangements that define their relationships. I wanted to explore the complexities of relationships and take an honest look at how culture impacts marriage for both men and women. I also wanted to celebrate the awesome power of women supporting other women.



“

**I wanted to take an honest look at how culture impacts marriage for both men and women.**

**Dorothy Koomson: Chocolate Hobnob or Lemon Drizzle Cake?**

**FMW:** It *has* to be chocolate hobnobs! I see eating any kind of chocolate whenever possible as part of my duty to help boost Ghana's cocoa exports.

**Dorothy Koomson: Jollof or plantain?**

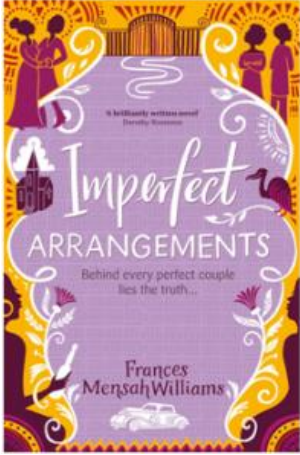
**FMW:** WHYYYY???! What kind of question is this to ask a woman from Ghana? It *cannot* be either/or. It must be *both*!



Read the full interview [here](#)

# Words of Colour Book Review

## Review by Barbara Grant



Theresa, Maku and Lyla have been friends since childhood. Theresa's mum Clementyne sends her daughter on holiday with Lyla and her family to Ghana. On that first visit, Theresa meets Maku, Lyla's cousin, who has been sent by her parents to live with Lyla's family in the city, in the hope that she will secure a better education, marry well and build a better life.

Frances Mensah Williams' latest book [Imperfect Arrangements](#) explores the divergent paths of these diverse women's careers, marriages, and forays into motherhood. The book examines the three friends' marital relationships, how they handle shattered hopes and dreams, learn to juggle the expectations of husbands, and the in-laws, and redefine how they love and want to be loved as modern women. Each friend narrates her own story and the lessons learnt.

Theresa, and her new husband Tyler relocate from London to Accra, Ghana, dreaming of shattering the glass ceiling, to build their own businesses – Theresa in PR and Tyler in regeneration and development.

At least that was the idea...

Read the rest of Barbara Grant's review for Words of Colour [here!](#)



**Thank you,  
Mommy loves to  
read read!**

I was blown away by this video review of *Imperfect Arrangements*.

Watch the review at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TBrRZmh7SE>

## YOUR BOOK REVIEW MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE...

If you have read and enjoyed *Imperfect Arrangements*, *From Pasta to Pigfoot* or *From Pasta to Pigfoot: Second Helpings*, please do me a MASSIVE favour and post a short review on Amazon.

Here's a helpful link to [post your review on Amazon!](#)\*

\* For readers outside the UK, please use your country Amazon.com website

## WHAT I'M READING...

### The Blessed Girl by Angela Makholwa

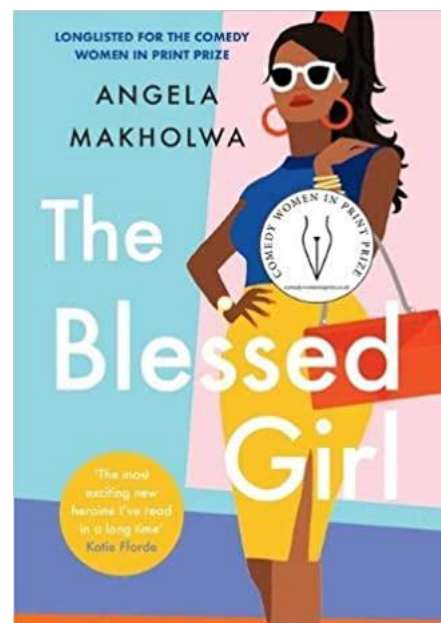
**Blessed** [*pronounced bless-id*]

The state of being blessed, often referring to a person, usually female, who lives a luxurious lifestyle funded by an older, often married partner

Young, beautiful, and ambitious, Bontle Tau has Johannesburg wrapped around her finger. Her admirers are falling over themselves to pay for her Mercedes, her penthouse, and her Instagrammable holidays. She's come a long way, and it's been far from easy.

Yes, Bontle gets the blues from time to time. The shrink keeps wanting to talk about a past she's put behind her. But what she doesn't think about can't hurt her, can it?

Shortlisted for the Comedy Women in Print Prize, this book will make you laugh, gasp, and maybe even cry.



[Write in and share](#) *what's at the top of your reading list!*

## Q: 'Where Can I Buy Your Books?'

A: [Click here](#) for a list of retailers and booksellers



This is my absolute favourite mug - because the words are so true!!

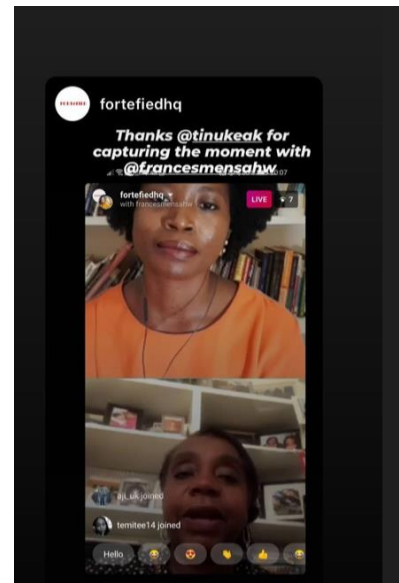
[Send me](#) a picture of your best mug and tell us why you love it.

## EVENTS

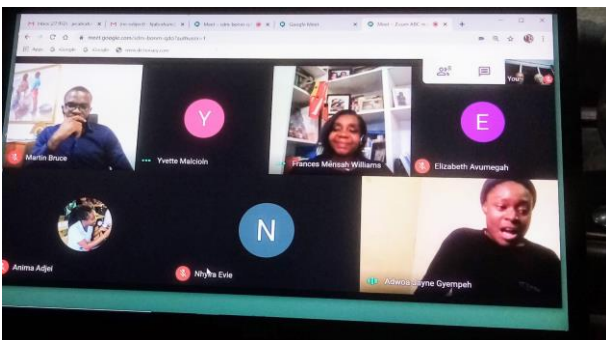
### Getting Published!

Huge thanks to Tomi of Fortéfied for this great conversation.

If you'd like to hear **my tips on getting published**, watch our discussion on Instagram [via this link](#).



### Henry's Bookclub



It was such a pleasure to join in the chat with Henry's Bookclub in Ghana who have just finished reading *Imperfect Arrangements*. A spirited discussion with lots of laughs!

Do invite me to your Book club chat 😊

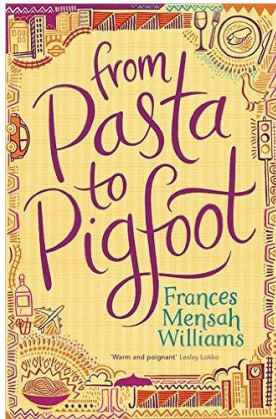
## FREE BOOKS!!



There's still time to download your choice of free ebooks!

If you're looking for books where women of colour shine, check out [this link](#).

# Have you read...?

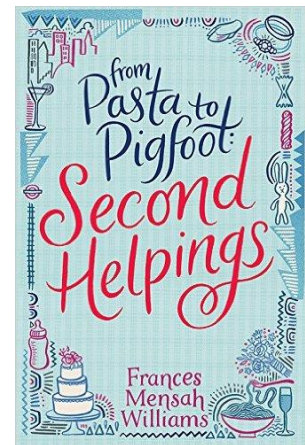


A novel set in London and Ghana following the mishaps of under-achieving PA, Faye Bonsu. On a mission to find love, a disastrous night out leaves pasta-fanatic Faye's romantic dreams in tatters and underscores her alienation from her African heritage. Leaving her cosy middle-class life in London's leafy Hampstead to find out what she's missing, Faye is whisked into the hectic social whirlpool of Ghana where she meets a host of characters. Transported into a world of food, fun and sun, and faced with choices she had never thought possible, Faye is forced to discover that no matter how far you travel, you can't find love until you find yourself.



**'Brilliant characters...very true to life and you got a glimpse into Ghanaian life and its culture.'**

Pasta fanatic Faye Bonsu seems to have it all; a drop-dead gorgeous and successful boyfriend, a burgeoning career as an interior designer and a rent-free mansion in leafy Hampstead to call home. But with all her friends shifting into yummy mummy mode, a man who seems to have no desire to put a ring on it, tricky clients, and an attractive and very single boss, things are not quite as straightforward as they might appear. Hoping to escape from her suddenly complicated life and revive her wilting romance, Faye returns to sunny Ghana for what she hopes will be the time of her life. But life doesn't always offer second chances and when disaster strikes, she is forced to confront the biggest question of her life and to make a choice that comes with consequences she will have to live with forever.



[Paperback and ebook versions available online](#)

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

*Frances*

Instagram: francesmensahw

Twitter: @FrancesmensahW

FB: facebook.com/francesmensahwilliams

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



*A final thought...*

**"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."**

**– Jhumpa Lahiri**