

# FRANCES MENSAH WILLIAMS Readers'

# BOOK CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO 12 | November/December 2020

## WELCOME DEAR READER!

It's getting chilly out there and almost time to bring out the 'big' coat!

Hello to my new readers and thank you so much for joining our Readers' Club. It's my way of keeping in touch with you and sharing my news and upcoming releases.

I'd love to get to know you, so write in and tell me about yourself. I'm always excited to hear what you are reading and your recommendations for books.

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

Stay safe

Frances x



*In this issue...*

### BLACK BRITISH ROMANCE

Black Ballad explores romance  
by Black writers

### INTRODUCING TYLER

An excerpt from  
Imperfect Arrangements

### BOOK REVEAL!!!

### 'RIVER WILD'

Join my Advance Reader Team  
for a copy of my next book!

### WHAT I'M READING

### BOOK REVIEWS

### EVENTS

Recent and upcoming events.

## Black British Writers in Romance



**Like many writers of romantic fiction,** I'm passionate about stories with love at their heart. I turn to romance for uplifting stories that capture both the exuberance of new love and the resilience of mature love. Stories that ignite joy and sometimes incite pain, but always offer hope... and, yes, happy endings.

Growing up in North-West London, I happily devoured the books with white protagonists that dominated the shelves of my small library. But there was always something special about finding a novel which featured a black heroine who was equally focused on finding love and her happy ending.

For too long Black British women have been absent from the pages of romance fiction, but these authors are staking their claim, says novelist Sareeta Domingo in an article for [Black Ballad](#) entitled '**The Black British Women Writing Themselves into Romance Novels**'.

In her article, Sareeta raises the question: 'Where do Black British women fit into the narrative of romance fiction?'

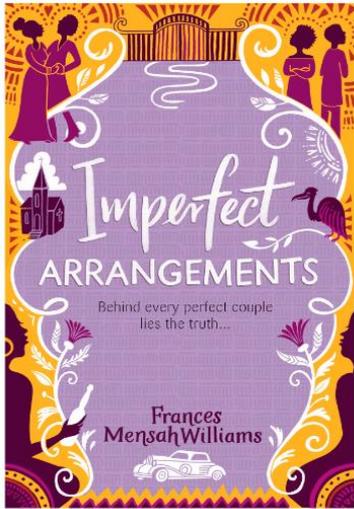
“

*Like me, Black British readers of romance long to find some characters with whom they don't have to leap the mental hurdle of difference before sinking into their stories. Yet even today, there is a surprising lack of authors we can turn to for that uniquely Black British take on romance.'* – Sareeta Domingo

You can read Sareeta's article in full [here](#)

Photo credit: blackballad.co.uk

# Introducing Tyler...



My latest novel, [Imperfect Arrangements](#), tells the story of three couples: Theresa and Tyler, Maku and Nortey, and Lyla and Kwesi. Over the course of a year, they will be forced to confront the truth of their relationships as they battle lies, infidelity, clashing cultures and ambition.

## When we first meet... [Tyler](#)

Tyler sat at his desk and willed the phone to ring. Almost six o'clock. It was late, but there was no way he was leaving until this was resolved. He was determined not to call Jeff's office again – well, at least not immediately. It had been clear the last time he'd phoned that Ayesha, Jeff's PA, was struggling to conceal her irritation even as she'd reassured him that the documents he needed to sign had been dispatched.

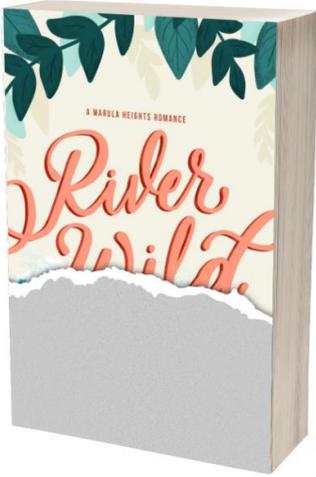
'Jeff says it's a done deal, so just relax, man,' he murmured. But saying it wasn't the same as believing it, and after a moment Tyler jumped to his feet to pace up and down his office, the largest in the suite of rooms he had confidently rented only a few weeks earlier. Its glass walls gave him a perfect view of the heavy mahogany door leading into the board room, reminding him that he had no board – or even staff, other than Patience. But it was still early days, he reasoned, and besides who in their right minds would sign up to be a director for a start-up property development company with no business?

He frowned at the silent phone on his desk and briefly considered calling his wife just to hear another voice. Thinking of Theresa prompted thoughts of the baby and his frown deepened. While he was ecstatic at the idea of a son – and he had already decided their first child would be a boy – Tyler couldn't deny that it was an additional pressure he hadn't anticipated.

The pregnancy had already brought some unwelcome changes, not least Theresa's frequent absences just when he most needed her. Tyler had always relied on his wife's insights, and her instinctive ability to charm all the right people while steering him away from the wrong ones. But ever since the nausea from her pregnancy had made her reluctant to join him at social events where he could drum up business, he was starting to feel alone and vulnerable and, much as he hated to admit it, ever so slightly resentful. However selfish and unreasonable, particularly now with their changed circumstances, he still wanted this move to be *their* adventure and not one he was expected to experience without her...

[Available now in ebook and paperback!](#)

**COMING SOON!!**



**COMING IN SPRING 2021!**

## Fancy reviewing my next novel River Wild?

***Is love the price for living the dream?***

Ambitious real estate agent River Osei loves her job and has put marriage to her artist boyfriend Cameron on the back burner while she focuses on her life goals. That is, until she negotiates a property deal for demanding music mogul Donald Ayo and falls in love... with his house.

If you'd be interested in reading the book and joining my Advance Reader Team , [please contact me NOW](#) to find out more and get your copy!

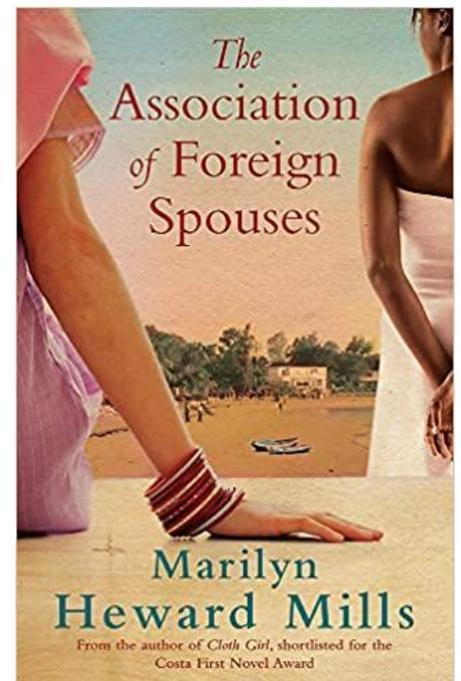
## WHAT I'M READING ...

### **The Association of Foreign Spouses by Marilyn Heward Mills**

Marriage to a handsome Ghanaian architect has brought Eva far from the quiet English countryside. Alfred had made it sound heavenly, but the foreign culture bewilders her. But Eva has her friends - Dahlia, Yelena and Margrit - all of them strangers in a foreign land, who rely on each other.

When a sudden coup unnerves everyone, and Eva's relationship with Alfred begins to unravel, The Association of Foreign Spouses discover that there are dark sides to their lives, and they must scheme to protect themselves and their families.

**Set in Ghana in the turbulent eighties, The Association of Foreign Spouses is a story of a group of women who support each other, unified by their foreignness, and wooed by this place they come to call 'home'.**



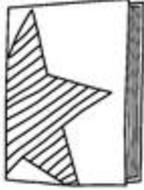
**Write in and share what's at the top of your reading list!**

# REVIEWS of *Imperfect Arrangements*

**booklife** SCOUTING REPORT

## Scouting Report

In this roundup of the best-reviewed BookLife titles, we highlight a relationship story, a novel about renewal after divorce, and a suspense thriller.



**Imperfect Arrangements**  
FRANCES MENSAH WILLIAMS  
**Synopsis:** Three couples face changes in love and life.  
**PW's Takeaway:** Readers are sure to enjoy this uplifting work.  
**Read the Review:** [publishers-weekly.com/9780958917546](https://publishers-weekly.com/9780958917546)

**Ms. Bitch**  
TRICIA O'MALLEY  
**Synopsis:** A painful divorce leads a 36-year-old to rediscover herself.  
**PW's Takeaway:** A stirring beach read perfect for readers who believe in second chances.  
**Read the Review:** [publishers-weekly.com/9781951254117](https://publishers-weekly.com/9781951254117)

**When Memory Fails**  
L.C. HAYDEN  
**Synopsis:** Hayden's gripping novel is the seventh to feature retired Dallas police detective Harry Bronson.  
**PW's Takeaway:** Fans of offbeat suspense novels will be gratified.  
**Read the Review:** [publishers-weekly.com/ASINB07PRK48TQ](https://publishers-weekly.com/ASINB07PRK48TQ)

'A charming romance ... readers are sure to enjoy this uplifting work'

**Publishers Weekly**

Read the full Publishers Weekly review [here](#)

## AKADi Magazine Book Review

Read Rhoda's delightful review in full in AKADi Magazine [here](#)

BY RHOA

*Imperfect Arrangements* by Frances Mensah Williams CBE tells the story of three couples living in Accra, and their various relationship challenges over a 12-month period. Readers follow the experiences of best friends Theresa, Maku and Lyta, the men in their lives, and the highs and lows of these bonds.

The focus is always about relationships in my books," Frances told an audience during her official book launch on Ghana's 63 Independence Day on 6 March 2020.

It's the means by which people explore who they are and understand those vulnerabilities. It



**Frances - the writer**

Frances is a UK-based author with seven books to her name – three are non-fiction and the remainder are fiction. Her collection of fiction includes *Sweet Mercy* - a companion novella to *Imperfect Arrangements*. And her first novels *From Pasta To Pigfoot* and *From Pasta To Pigfoot: Second Helpings* follow Faye Bonsu's life - a Ghana-born Brit who reconnects with the Motherland and explores her identity.

You can read more about this topic in **AKADi issue 2**.

Although born in Ghana, Frances spent her early childhood

Watch Rhoda on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CDyAgXKJwp/>

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

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

# YOUR book review makes ALL the difference...

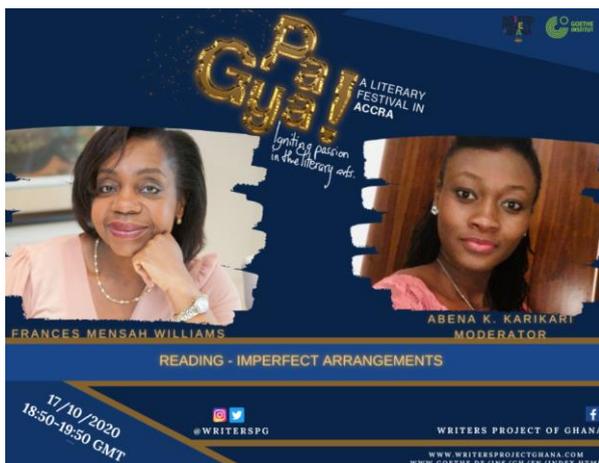
If you have read and enjoyed *Imperfect Arrangements*, *From Pasta to Pigfoot* or *From Pasta to Pigfoot: Second Helpings*, please do me a massive favour and post a short review on Amazon.

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

\* For readers outside the USA, please use your country Amazon website

## EVENTS

### Pa Gya! – Ghana's Annual Literary Festival



It was a huge honour to be invited to be part of Pa Gya! Ghana's leading literary festival in October (from my living room in London!).

I had an amazing conversation with the Ghanaian founder of book club Bookhaven, Abena Karikari, gave some readings from *Imperfect Arrangements*, and took questions from guests at the session.

### She's the Boss!

Setting up a business starts with a vision but takes a ton of work and sacrifice to sustain.

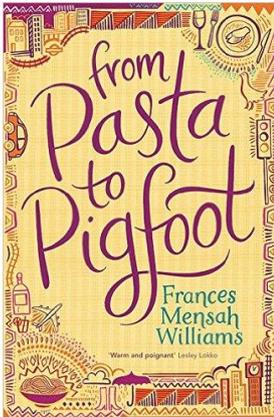
I enjoyed a fantastic chat with Daniella Genas on her show *She's the Boss* talking about business, books, and what keeps us going!

You can catch the video on the *She's the Boss* YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFJ8krb9ZRM&t=10s>



# 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...*

**"Reading brings us unknown friends."**

— Honore de Balzac