

FRANCES MENSAH WILLIAMS

Readers'

BOOK CLUB

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 13 | January/February 2021



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What's been happening?



WELCOME DEAR READER!

Happy New Year!

A big hello to everyone and I hope you managed to have a good Christmas and holiday season despite all our challenges. Thank you again for joining my Readers' Club and allowing me to keep in touch with you to share my news and upcoming releases.

Books and a love of reading are great unifiers, so write in and tell us about yourself and any great books you're reading and would recommend.

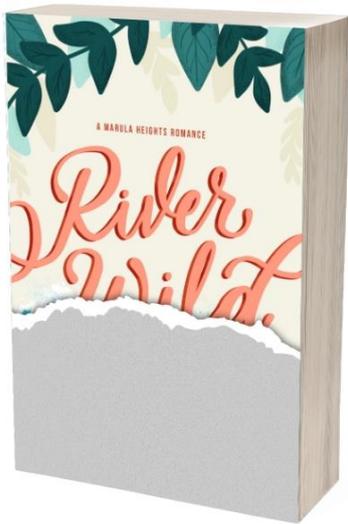
[Drop me a message with any other news you'd like to share.](#)

Stay safe

Frances x

UPCOMING NEW RELEASE!

River Wild



Is love the price for living the dream?

COMING IN FEBRUARY 2021!

Ambitious real estate agent River Osei loves her job and dreams of living in a home as beautiful as those she sells to her clients. Putting marriage to her artist boyfriend Cameron on the back burner, River's only focus is to hit her house fund target.

But River's plan is thrown into turmoil when she negotiates a sale to demanding music mogul, Donald Ayo. He is immediately taken with her, and she is equally taken with his house – a beautiful mansion in the luxurious gated community of Marula Heights. With Donald pressing for a deal that includes more than a house, River is forced to choose between the man she loves and a lifestyle she craves.

But living the dream isn't always what it seems and even the best fantasies come at a cost. Faced with the real-life consequences of her choice, River must learn that a house is not a home and love is not for sale.

AVAILABLE SOON ON AMAZON AND ONLINE RETAILERS!

PS: I'll send you all the links when the book is published, so look out for my next newsletter!

Think Like a Man

One of the joys of writing fiction is diving into the mind of your characters to understand what drives and motivates them – and why they make decisions that often leave us screaming ‘*don’t do it!*’ from the side lines.



Until recently, my male characters have been rather in the shadows: gorgeous and problematic, to be sure, but essentially playing a secondary role. Someone to get in the way of my heroine reaching her goal and an obstacle forcing her to learn more about herself and to grow as a person.

Enter *Imperfect Arrangements*. I wanted this book to explore the nature of love and relationships. This time, I wanted to place a magnifying glass over different types of unions and expose the truth behind some of the arrangements we see falling under the label of ‘marriage’.



Getting into the head of one man is hard enough (can I get an ‘Amen’?), so doing it for *three* men was quite the challenge!

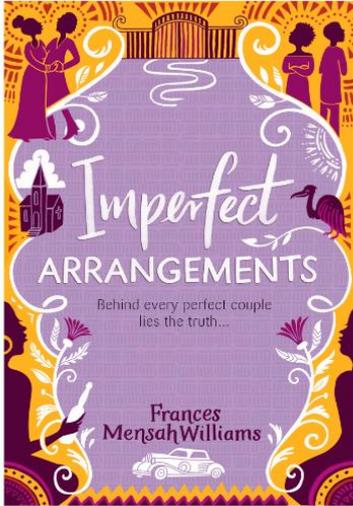
Taking this approach meant the men in the relationships had to come out of the shadows and reveal their thoughts and fears and show us who they are and *why* they do what they do. I wanted to show men not as one-dimensional ‘goodies’ or ‘baddies’ but as complex people who, like women, are caught up in the same conflict of having to make difficult choices and dealing with their consequences.

So, while *Imperfect Arrangements* focuses on the entwined lives of three women friends Theresa, Maku, and Lyla, it also tells the story of Tyler, Nortey, and Kwesi, the men in their lives. Getting into the head of one man is hard enough (can I get an ‘Amen’?) and doing this for three men was quite the challenge!

Ambitious Tyler with his plans to develop a successful business, laid-back Nortey who is torn between his over-burdened wife and stubborn, dictatorial mother, and handsome Kwesi who is attracted to any woman who is not his wife – all three men became real to me. In the end, thinking like a man became a question of thinking like a person. Putting aside gender and focusing on the challenges everyone contends with while asking the questions we *all* ask ourselves: What makes me who I am? Which people and experiences have forged my values? What do I fear most? How do I view, receive, and show love? Who am I really?

If you are reading – or have read - the book, I hope you enjoy the results of my thinking like a man and I’d love to hear *your* thoughts about the men in *Imperfect Arrangements*!

Introducing Nortey...



My latest full-length 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... [Nortey](#)

‘Okay, my man, I’ll see you later. I should be there by six.’

Nortey ended the call and stared at his handset for a moment, still slightly shocked by the turn the conversation had taken. After being rebuffed so often, he hadn’t expected Tyler to accept his half-hearted invitation to go to Jake’s Joint for a drink. And with such enthusiasm.

He shook his head and a grin spread across his face. *I wonder what’s going on in yuppie paradise.* Maybe Mako’s theory was right and Theresa really *was* pregnant. In which case, no wonder the poor guy wanted the chance to escape and knock back a few drinks – the guys at Jake’s understood how crazy and hormonal women became when they were expecting. Whatever the reason for his change of heart, it was high time Tyler got it through his head that, in Ghana, real men didn’t hang around with their wives all the time. A guy could get laughed out of town for a lot less.

Nortey grimaced at the pile of papers stacked on his desk. Marking fifty essays analysing the impact of economic theories on global financial markets in a poky airless office held about as much appeal as going home did these days. Isabelle had been living with them for a week and it was safe to say that it wasn’t going well. As Maku had predicted, the child was set in her dietary ways and, on her first morning with them, had refused point blank to eat the spicy, sweetened *koko* his boys were used to gulping down for breakfast. After two days of not-so-silent protests, and with no financial contribution from George forthcoming, Nortey had gritted his teeth and driven to Swanson’s to hand over a wad of notes in exchange for a packet of Kellogg’s Corn Flakes. Threatening his sons with an instant beating if they dared to touch their cousin’s breakfast cereal, he had avoided Maku’s accusing gaze and left early for work that day – and every day since.

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

Free Books for You!!!



Sweet Romances to cure your January Blues

To give us all a lift as we start a new year, I've joined forces with some other writers to bring you FREE romance stories to cure any lingering January blues.

[DOWNLOAD](#) as many books as you like FREE! Remember, this offer is for a VERY LIMITED PERIOD and will *end on 31 January 2021!*

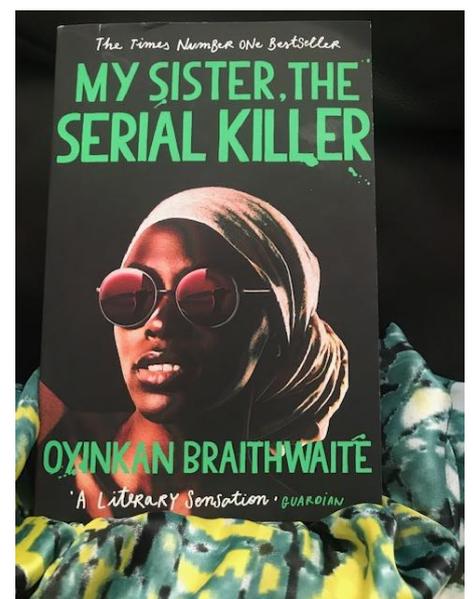
[DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE BOOKS HERE](#)

WHAT I'M READING ...

My Sister, The Serial Killer

What do you do when your beautiful but annoying little sister keeps killing off her boyfriends in 'self-defence'? Korede is already wrestling with her conscience about taking sibling support to such extremes. But when her sister, Ayoola, sets her sights on the doctor on whom Korede is nursing a secret crush, it's time for her to question her loyalties.

Despite the gruesome title, this is a book I really enjoyed reading! Set in Nigeria, this outrageous story is funny, sad, and thought provoking. How does a difficult upbringing shape us – and just how far *would* you go to protect someone you love?



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

BOOK REVIEWS of *Imperfect Arrangements*

/ AFRICAN
/ ARGUMENTS

HOME COUNTRY POLITICS ECONOMY SOCIETY CULTURE #ENGLAND

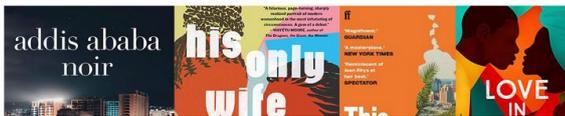
CULTURE TOP STORY

The top 20 African books of 2020

BY SAMIRA SAWLANI / DECEMBER 30, 2020

SHARE: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [@](#) [v](#) [in](#)

Our picks of the best from the year.



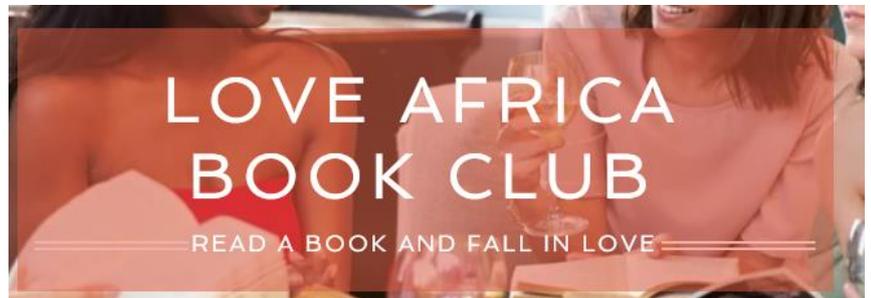
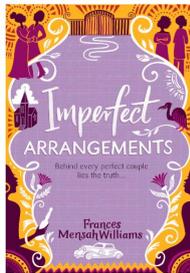
Read the full list [here](#)

Imperfect Arrangements selected as one of the Top 20 African Books of 2020!!!

“ The queen of romantic drama is back...

Focusing on the lives of three best friends living in Ghana, this charming read is about the challenges which come with friendship, love, and relationships, and the search for that happily ever after. ”

African Arguments



“ Get your end-of-year reading vibes on with this brilliant new novel set in sun-soaked Ghana.’

Love Africa Book Club

Q: ‘Where Can I Buy Your Books?’

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

YOUR book review makes ALL the difference...

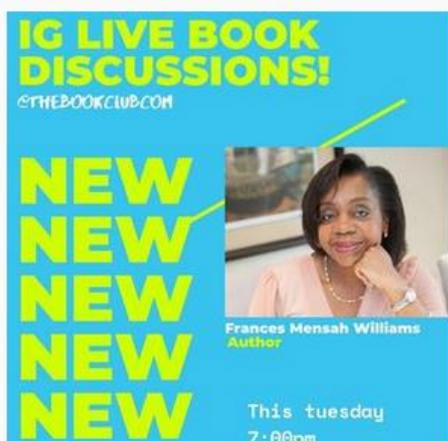
If you have read and enjoyed *Imperfect Arrangements*, *From Pasta to Pigfoot* or *From Pasta to Pigfoot: Second Helpings*, please do me a massive favour and post a short review on Amazon.

[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

The Romantics Book Club Discussion



Just before Christmas, I had a lively and hilarious chat with The Romantics book club, most of whom live in Ghana.

The Romantics had just read *From Pasta to Pigfoot* and it was lovely to hear their feedback. With call-ins from Johannesburg, South Africa, as well as mainland Europe, we debated Faye's motivation, Rocky's stubbornness, and the evil that is Michael!

Thanks for such a fantastic conversation!

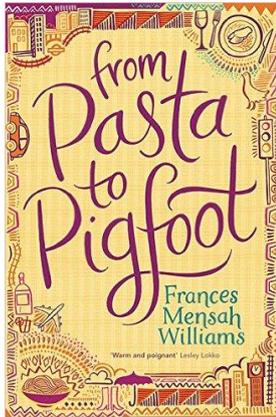
Qweens Talk with Qweens Magazine

The New Year started with a chat with Elizabeth Oloidi of Toronto-based Qweens Magazine. We had a lively discussion with lots of laughs as we talked about Black love in literature and my book *Imperfect Arrangements*.

You can watch our chat via the Qweens Magazine Instagram feed: @qweensmagazine



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

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Twitter: @FrancesmensahW

Facebook: facebook.com/francesmensahwilliams

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[contact me](#)



A final thought...

"A half-read book is a half-finished love affair."

— David Mitchell