

FRANCES MENSAH WILLIAMS Readers'

BOOK CLUB

NEWSLETTER

NO. 17 | November/December 2021



WELCOME DEAR READER!

Poof!!! And just like that, we're almost at the end of another year! Here's a picture of me in the heart of Paris, France, in 2019. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I can pay another visit next year.

Welcome to all our new readers and thank you for your interest in my books. It's always great to hear from Readers Club members, so write in and tell us about yourself and what you're up to - and of course share any great books you're reading and would recommend.

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

Stay well,

Frances x

Inside...

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The Story behind: *Sweet Mercy*



I'm often asked by readers about the inspiration for my books.

As I'm sure most writers will tell you, the ideas for our stories come from literally anywhere. It might be the words of a song you suddenly pay attention to or a snatch of overhead conversation. Sometimes even quietly observing a stranger on the train can provoke a slew of ideas about who this person is, where they might be travelling to, and why.

The idea that sparked the story of my novella *Sweet Mercy* was one of those random events that can appear incredibly significant (or not).

As I walked out of my local supermarket one afternoon, I noticed a woman driving into the car park, slowing down as she drove around, and then driving straight out again! There was plenty of parking available and I couldn't help wondering what she had been looking for in the car park and if she had found it. Was there a particular car she was searching for? I was so intrigued by the idea that suddenly popped into my head that I had to

rush home to scribble it down.

At the beginning of *Sweet Mercy*, we meet aspiring politician's wife Mercy Petersen as she circles the car park behind luxury supermarket, Swanson's. The sweet-natured home maker who abandoned her media career to focus on her beloved son Hakeem and support her successful businessman husband Lucas's bid for power is looking for one car in particular... her husband's.

Her fateful drive to the supermarket will reveal truths that unravel all the certainties in Mercy's life and present her with the impossible dilemma of protecting her son or taking revenge on his father. To succeed, Mercy will have to prove that sweetness can be a strength.



[Grab your copy of *Sweet Mercy**](#) and find out what happens next! 😊

*Also available from your Amazon country store if you're outside the USA

Autumn Treats!

If you enjoyed dressing up or trick-or-treating for Halloween, here's a reminder of another way to enjoy the long evenings!



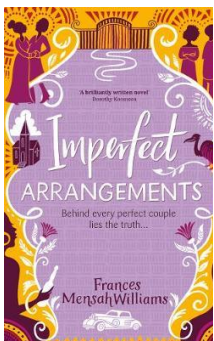
Love Reading? Bestselling author Dorothy Koomson's recommends...

(Who's on the list? You guessed it... 😊)

[LoveReading](#) is the UK's leading book recommendation website with a mission to share book love and encourage reading for pleasure.

When bestselling author Dorothy Koomson took over the reigns as Guest Editor in the Summer, she chose 5 books – 'gems' in her words – to highlight to readers "novels that also happen to be books that portray Black women and Black people as multidimensional beings."

2. The Drama – *Imperfect Arrangements* by *Frances Mensah Williams*.



“Best friends Lyla, Maku and Theresa have a rock-solid friendship – it's the other relationships in their lives that cause them heartache. When ambitious Theresa moves back to Accra with her husband, she doesn't realise it's going to show up the cracks in her relationship, and also make her friends look more closely at their lives.

This drama is full of twists and turns some of them heartstopping, others heart-rending, all of them brilliantly played out and realistic. If you're a fan of female-centered dramas, this is one for you.'

Thank you, Dorothy!

Read the full article [here](#)

Down Memory Lane

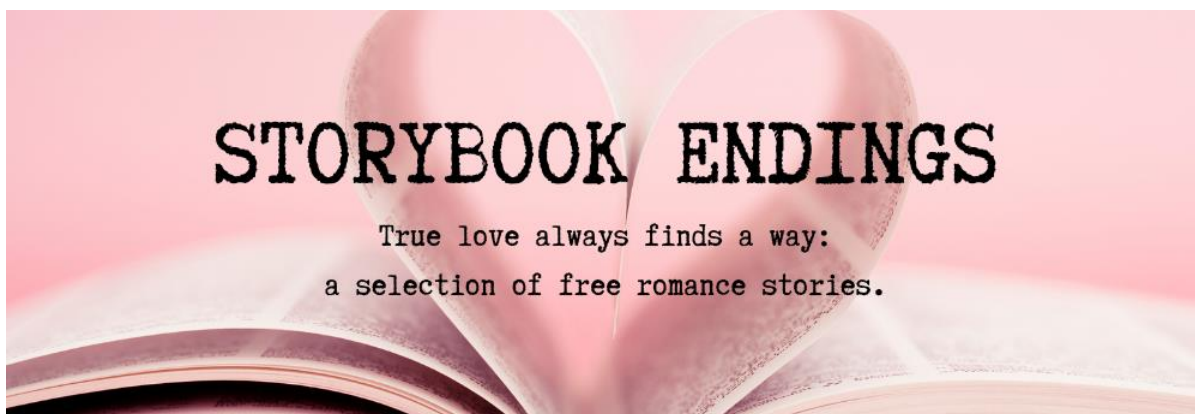


So, this is me holding my very first published novel on the first day I saw it in the shops!

The publication of *From Pasta to Pigfoot* was the start of an incredible journey for me as a fiction writer and seeing my book on the Bestselling Books shelves (straight in at No. 23!!) in a real-life bookstore is a feeling I'll never forget!

[Write in and share a picture](#) of your unforgettable memory with me and our readers.

FREE Romance Books for YOU!!



I've teamed up with some other authors to offer you free romance stories of all genres, so take your pick.

[DOWNLOAD](#) as many of these FREE romance books as you wish **before 30 November 2021** when the offer closes.

WHAT I'M READING ...

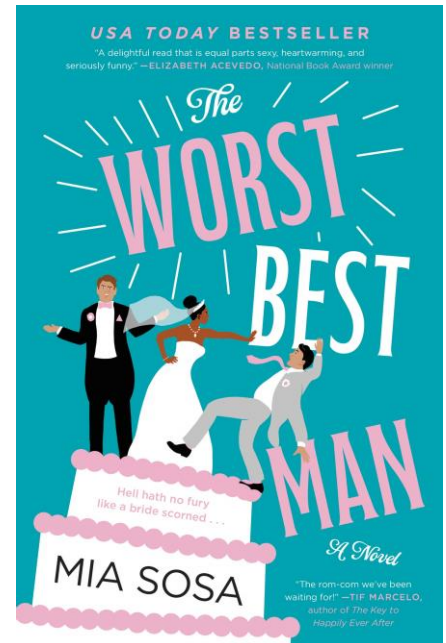
The Worst Best Man

By Mia Sosa

A wedding planner left at the altar? Despite that embarrassing blip from her past, Carolina Santos is offered an opportunity that could change her life.

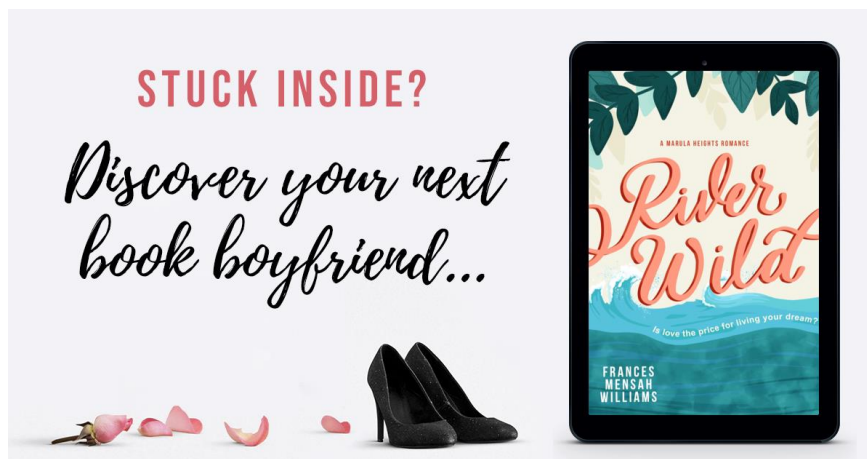
There's just one hitch... she must collaborate with the best (make that *worst*) man from her own failed nuptials.

I've only just started reading this novel, but if you've read it, share your review, and let me know what you thought!



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

BOOK REVIEWS of *River Wild*



5 Star Review!

“ This is a great book, and as always the author brings her characters to life so well.

It was a joy to read.’

Q&A

Q: Where Can I Buy Your Books?

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

Q: Where can I review your books?

A: If you have read and enjoyed my books, 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

BLACK BRITISH ROMANCE – An Author Roundtable



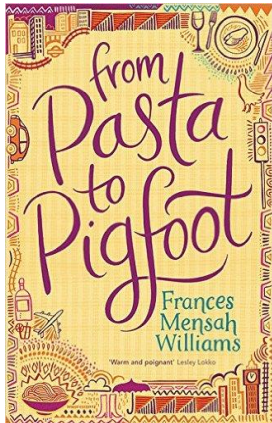
In October, I joined two other British-based authors: bestselling author Talia Hibbert and comedian, actor, and debut novelist, Andi Osho, to discuss Black romance and its position in British literary culture.

Organised by the Centre for Contemporary Literature and Culture at the University of Birmingham, the discussion was led by Amy Burge and was a blast!

We talked about everything from our writing challenges (writing sexy scenes!) to what we love most about romantic fiction.

You can watch a replay of the event online [here](#)

Have you read...?

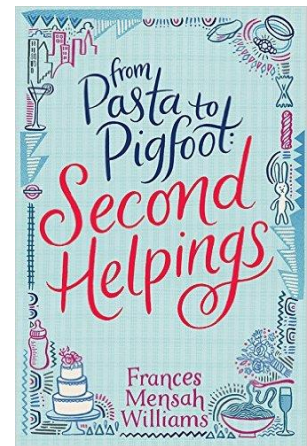


A novel set in London and Ghana following the mishaps of under-achieving PA, Faye Bonsu. On a mission to find love, a disastrous night out leaves pasta-fanatic Faye's romantic dreams in tatters and underscores her alienation from her African heritage. Leaving her cosy middle-class life in London's leafy 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](#)

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

Frances

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Facebook: facebook.com/francesmensahwilliams

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[contact me](#)



A final thought...

"Literature is the most agreeable way of ignoring life."

— Fernando Pessoa, The Book of Disquiet