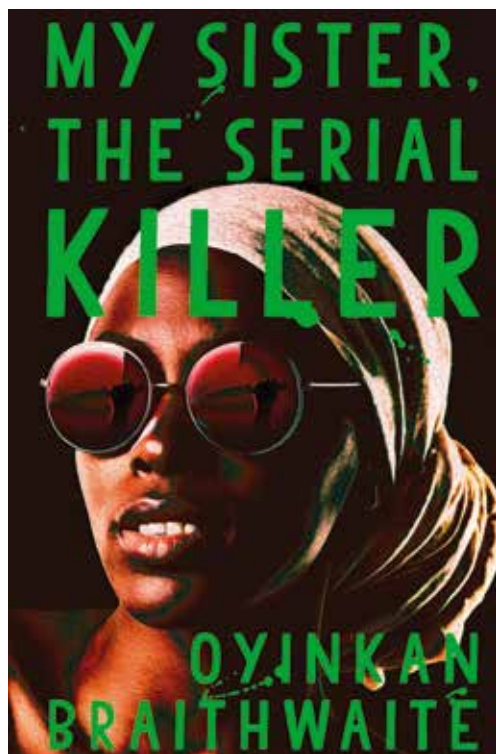




Readers' Guide



My Sister, the Serial Killer

Oyinkan Braithwaite

Atlantic Books

My Sister, the Serial Killer is the first novel by Oyinkan Braithwaite

thebookerprizes.com

About the author

Oyinkan Braithwaite was born in Lagos, Nigeria on 21 March 1988. She is a graduate of Creative Writing and Law from Kingston University London. Following her degree, she worked as an assistant editor at the Nigerian publishing house Kachifo and has been freelancing as a writer and editor since. She has had short stories published in anthologies and has also self-published work. In 2014, she was shortlisted as a top ten spoken word artist in the Eko Poetry Slam. Her debut novel, *My Sister, The Serial Killer* was shortlisted for the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction. She lives in Nigeria.

About the book

When Korede's dinner is interrupted one night by a distress call from her sister, Ayoola, she knows what's expected of her: bleach, rubber gloves, nerves of steel and a strong stomach. This'll be the third boyfriend Ayoola's dispatched in, quote, self-defence and the third mess that her lethal little sibling has left Korede to clear away. She should probably go to the police for the good of the menfolk of Nigeria, but she loves her sister and, as they say, family always comes first. Until, that is, Ayoola starts dating the fit doctor where Korede works as a nurse. Korede's long been in love with him, and isn't prepared to see him wind up with a knife in his back: but to save one would mean sacrificing the other...

What the judges thought

"*My Sister, The Serial Killer* is as skilful, sharp and engaging a debut as any first novelist can produce. The prose is as pointed as a lethal weapon in this funny, tragic and wildly entertaining book."

Discussion points

How do you think the book would be different if it was written from Ayoola's perspective?

What impact do you think setting the story in Lagos has?

How does the author use humour to balance the serious issues in the novel?

How do the family dynamics affect the sisters' actions?

If you were in Korede's place, would you act in the same way she does, or differently?

Themed reading

Elnathan John *Be(com)ing Nigerian*
Helen Tursten *An Elderly Lady Is Up to No Good*
Shirley Jackson *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*
Sophie Mackintosh *The Water Cure*

Useful links

<https://oyinkanbraithwaite.com/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jan/04/my-sister-the-serial-killer-by-okyinkan-braithwaite>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jan/15/oyinkan-braithwaite-thriller-nigerian-author-comic-debut-novel-my-sister-the-serial-killer>

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/stuck-with-them-an-interview-with-oyinkan-braithwaite/>