



LitChat October 26-28, 2009

Topic of the Week: GRIT LIT

Open chat

MONDAY, October 26, 2009

LitChat Delays in the day, but I'm here and ready for #litchat. Who's here to talk about GRIT LIT? -1:07 PM Oct 26th, 2009

thebookmaven Hey @LitChat! Can't stay for entire hour, but love this topic. #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 26th, 2009

SmokeLong Hmmm, Google results for Grit Lit show Southern writers like Larry Brown. Guess I'm not Grit Lit, after all. Damn. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 26th, 2009

tericoyne I'm present and accounted for #litchat! Always up for GRIT :) #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 26th, 2009

thebookmaven Was just rec'ing AL Kennedy's PARADISE to @bsandusky, and her take on end-stage alcoholism definitely qualifies. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 26th, 2009

DutchessAbroad Perhaps Grit Lit is honest un hiding #Litchat -1:09 PM Oct 26th, 2009

mariblaser Hi! I'm here to #litchat, wondering what Grid Lit is. Lots of tweets for the next hour (sorry for that dear followers :). -1:09 PM Oct 26th, 2009

LitChat @SmokeLong I hobbled the rhyme together to describe Monte Schulz's novel, THIS SIDE OF JORDAN. Edgy, dark, dysfunctional charas. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 26th, 2009

thebookmaven Another one of my fave Grit Lit picks is IRONWEED by William Kennedy. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 26th, 2009

sharifwrites @pussreboots dictionary.com says "dirty realism" #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 26th, 2009

LitChat Here's how I describe GRIT LIT: Gritty literary fiction that takes you into the armpit of life. Endearing charas, rotten themes. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 26th, 2009

SmokeLong @LitChat So would this be Grit Lit? <http://bit.ly/1BloSe> #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 26th, 2009

thebookmaven @LitChat Are the characters always endearing? Perhaps always sympathetic might be better... #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 26th, 2009

beeevee @LitChat Just finished Tropic of Cancer....grit lit, or no? #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

LitChat @SmokeLong Ha! No time to read the whole story, but I think you get the picture. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

tericoyne RT@LitChat Here's how I describe GRIT LIT: Gritty literary fic that takes u into armpit of life. Endearing charas, rotten themes #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

SmokeLong Must they be endearing? I think of Larry Brown or Dorothy Allison, and their characters are great, but not endearing, per se. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

Giorgiousphonic So GritLit is like realism? #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

techtigger has anyone here read Sandman Slim? Do you think that counts as Grit Lit? #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

ficwriter Late to the chat but a great example of grit lit is Flannery O'Connor's A Good Man is Hard to Find. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

susanmpls Not sure this qualas as Grit Lit, but I immediately though of HAIRSTYLES OF THE DAMNED by Joe Meno. Love that book. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 26th, 2009

DutchessAbroad @beeevee absolutely #Litchat -1:14 PM Oct 26th, 2009

sharifwrites @beeevee Henry Miller is gritty. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 26th, 2009

thebookmaven @susanmpls Love HAIRSTYLES and Meno! Great pull. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 26th, 2009

pussreboots RT @Giorgiousphonic: So GritLit is like realism? #litchat Apparently... but w/ dirt. -1:15 PM Oct 26th, 2009

sharifwrites I think of Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar. Maybe I'm wrong. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 26th, 2009

Giorgiousphonic Would Shiloh by Bobbie Ann Mason be Grit Lit? #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 26th, 2009

DutchessAbroad Brrrh! RT @ficwriter: Late to the chat but a great example of grit lit is Flannery OConnors A Good Man is Hard to Find. #Litchat -1:15 PM Oct 26th, 2009

SmokeLong @ficwriter Flannery fits the definition @LitChat is giving AND the southern definition that pops on Google. Flannery's brilliant. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 26th, 2009

mariblaser Am I the only one still at loss? #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 26th, 2009

beeevee @DutchessAbroad Re: Grit Lit I find it annoying when someone tries to be edgy. Miller seems like 'pure grit.' Holy, somehow. #Litchat -1:16 PM Oct 26th, 2009

Giorgiousphonic @mariblaser nope... me too... #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 26th, 2009

Topic of the Week:

GRIT LIT -p 1

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CarolyBurnsBass When I think of grit lit, I think of FINN by @JonClinch and THE ROAD by Cormac McCarthy. #LITCHAT -1:17 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @Giorgiousphonic Bobbie Ann seems like another example that crosses both the Southern and the dirty. "In Country" fits, too. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat @thebookmaven Sometimes the charas are endearing, sometimes horrifying. Each book is different. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites Grit Lit--so realistic that it makes you want to turn away??? #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 26th, 2009
thebookmaven Willy Vlautin is a good example of a recent author penning "Grit Lit" -- check out his THE MOTEL LIFE. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 26th, 2009
pussreboots @mariblaser No. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat If you have a question to pose to the chat, send to @LitChat w/o hashtag and I will post to chat in order. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 26th, 2009
susanmpls @mariblaser think it's realistic, even harsh stories w/ strong characters. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 26th, 2009
revolucion0 wouldn't really solid gritlit not have a happy, hollywood ending? isn't that the difference between "subversive" and mainstream lit?#litchat -1:18 PM Oct 26th, 2009
thebookmaven @LitChat V. true, but if they're not sympathetic, v. tough to keep reading... #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousphonic @SmokeLong #LitChat That makes sense. I haven't read "In Country" but I absolutely loved Shiloh for the situation that was presented -1:19 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites RT @beevabee: @DutchessAbroad Re: Grit Lit I find it annoying when someone tries to be edgy. #Litchat -1:19 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DutchessAbroad Am with you RT @beevabee: @DutchessAbroad annoying some1 tries 2be edgy. Milsee =pure grit. Holy, somehow. #Litchat -1:19 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @thebookmaven So true. In FINN, protag was horrifying, but prose was so arresting it kept me. Could read only a few pgs at once. #LITCHAT -1:21 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mariblaser Like Nabokov's Lolita that made my stomach churn? RT @susanmpls: think it's realistic, even harsh stories w/ strong characters. #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DutchessAbroad Title char in Sabbath's Theatre by Phil Roth not sympa but still ...! #Litchat -1:21 PM Oct 26th, 2009
ficwriter I don't think authors try to be edgy with grit lit but simply turn on the overhead light and throw off the sheet. #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousphonic How does an author become edgy? I'm not sure I know what you guys mean by that. #LitChat -1:21 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DutchessAbroad They're fearless #Litchat -1:22 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DutchessAbroad Unafraid RT @Giorgiousphonic: How does an author become edgy? Im not sure I know what you guys mean by that. #Litchat -1:22 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DebraMarrs Hi, joining late in convo. Grit lit is new term for me. Would McCourt's Angela's Ashes qualify in memoir? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Ischorp @tericoyne how hard was it to start to write that first book? To get it flowing out of your soul? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat Q1 fm Giorgiousphonic How is edgy defined? #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DutchessAbroad Author has to be unafraid f.l. Of being confused with his/her characters #Litchat -1:24 PM Oct 26th, 2009
thebookmaven I like @ficwriter's observation about turning on overhead and throwing off sheet; grit lit magnifies warts, moles, cracker crumbs. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Ischorp @litchat What obstacles are the hardest to overcome when writing a first novel? #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 26th, 2009
susanmpls @litchat, is Lolita grit lit? @mariblaser I think of Lolita as a twisted coming of age novel...it's too dreamy to be gritty, IMO #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat @DebraMarrs ANGELA'S ASHES is certainly gritty, but the term lends itself primarily to literary fiction that is edgy and gritty. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong re Q1: pushing to the edge of what's comfortable/acceptable #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat @Ischorp Thank you for your questions, but our discussion now is about GRIT LIT books. We'll talk writing later. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 26th, 2009
pussreboots @LitChat I don't think edgy = gritty #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 26th, 2009

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tericoyne some writers tend to have a grittier POV in general? Don't u think? They don't try, that's just how they see things #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites @susanmpls Didn't see it as gritty (but dreaminess fades away towards end, won't reveal spoilers). #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 26th, 2009
ficwriter RT @pussreboots: @LitChat I dont think edgy = gritty #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DutchessAbroad Sorry got to go #Litchat -1:29 PM Oct 26th, 2009
DebraMarrs @LitChat Thx for clarification on grit lit as primarily literary fiction vs. memoir #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 26th, 2009
revolucion0 @mikecane that's why being an independent artist is more fun, because you're not limited to happy endings. (less \$, more fun) #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat @pussreboots Edgy and gritty are not used as synonyms here. They are two different elements in a description. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CindieGeddes Chuck Pahlanik seems grit lit to me. He calls it Dangerous Writing. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mariblaser @susanmpls Why do you feel Lolita is dreamy? I felt I was watching the events from beside the characters. Felt so realistic! #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 26th, 2009
pussreboots @LitChat I don't think edgy has any part w/ realism. Edgy to me = pretentious. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @pussreboots isn't all fiction, by its very definition, pretentious? both are rooted in pretense. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 26th, 2009
susanmpls Some indie publishers who do grit lit: Serpent's Tail; Akashic; Punk Planet Books; Feral House; Ig #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 26th, 2009
thebookmaven @susanmpls And Soft Skull! #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat Are others experiencing Twitter problems today? #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 26th, 2009
JoLynnF @LitChat What about Jim Thompson? Characters rarely endearing - is he something else again? #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @tericoyne I agree. Some authors have natural grit to their voice, they are comfortable writing about characters with sharp edges. #LITCHAT -1:34 PM Oct 26th, 2009
lovingunme @SmokeLong Ha! No time to read the whole story, but I think you get the picture. #litchat: @SmokeLong Ha! No ti.. http://bit.ly/4eP6iL -1:35 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mariblaser Always good to know! RT @susanmpls: Some indie publishers who do grit lit: Serpent's Tail;Akashic;Punk Planet Books;Feral House; Ig #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 26th, 2009
pussreboots @SmokeLong No. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 26th, 2009
susanmpls @thebookmaven I fogot Soft Skull. Duh. We could just direct tweeps to Consortium and PGW publisher lists. Is where grit lit lives. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 26th, 2009
thebookmaven @susanmpls HAHA, not a bad idea... Everyone, take a look at those lists! Grit Lit Lives at Your Indie Press. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 26th, 2009
tericoyne Edgy and gritty are what readers and others call it, a writer is just telling the story they want, I hope. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong #litchat Much praise to indie presses Dzanc, Publishing Genius, Rose Metal Press, Soft Skull, etc. -1:39 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousphonic I agree, @tericoyne. As a new writer, I don't write with anything like that in mind. I don't know if that's normal. #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Another indie with good grit lit is @UnbridledBooks. Has anyone here read THE EVOLUTION of shadows by Jason Quinn Malott? #LITCHAT -1:42 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CindieGeddes Is grit lit where the good horror writers went after that genre began to slip? #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 26th, 2009
susanmpls @mariblaser Lolita: I found it the atmosphere dreamy, at least until it starts to break down. They lived n dreamworld of own making #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 26th, 2009
techtigger for comicbook fans, John Constantine, Hellblazer series is Grit Lit - MC is anti-hero, doesn't always win, makes his own life hard #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 26th, 2009
techtigger definately agree, edgy is not gritty. Gritty books can be edgy as well, but not always. Edgy can be too hip/cool to be gritty #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 26th, 2009
skodobah Just caught this chat. Are we talking about the differences/similarities of grit and edgy?#Litchat -1:45 PM Oct 26th, 2009

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CarolyBurnsBass @CindieGeddes Although there may be horrible elements in grit lit, grit lit isn't horror, eg, is SILENCE OF THE LAMBS horror? #LITCHAT -1:45 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites @CindieGeddes I'm remembering Clive Barker's Books of Blood from the 80's. Those were gritty. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mariblaser Got it, and agree. But as it breaks later, wouldn't qualify as GritLit? RT @susanmpls: Lolita:They lived n dreamworld of own making #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat @skodobah Differences between edgy/gritty are part of wider discussion about GRIT LIT. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 26th, 2009
jasonbrow Would Martin Amis's fiction be considered GRIT LIT? Like 'Dead Babies?' #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mariblaser That clarifies a lot! Thanks! :) RT @techtigger: for comicbook fans, John Constantine, Hellblazer series is Grit Lit #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LexxClarke @CarolyBurnsBass psychological horror? #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 26th, 2009
jasonbrow Would it not be a celebration nor a condemnation of the flawed existence? Is GRIT more style or substance? #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @LexxClarke: Is there a genre called psychological horror? #LITCHAT -1:48 PM Oct 26th, 2009
skodobah @LitChat Thank you.#Litchat -1:49 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @jasonbrow I'd say yeah on Amis. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LexxClarke Sorry to be tardy again,I blame the BST/GMT switch! #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @jasonbrow Neither celebration or condemnation falls straight into the realm of reality. Much of grit lit is realism. #LITCHAT -1:50 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousponic Would you consider The Chrysanthemums by Steinbeck Grit Lit? #LitChat -1:53 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @jasonbrow Grit lit can be both style and substance, not specifically either. #LITCHAT -1:53 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CindieGeddes @CarolyBurnsBass Psychological horror was in the late 80 , early 90s, at least in short stories. Don't know about books. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 26th, 2009
scgreen So when an author writes grit lit, are they aiming for that feel or is it just a manifestation of his or her style? #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 26th, 2009
jasonbrow @CarolyBurnsBass Would we say GRIT eschews romantic principles? Is GRIT the child of Realism or Modernism? Both? #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LexxClarke @CarolyBurnsBass I have no idea!Perhaps there should be? #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @jasonbrow Style eg, THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO, substance eg, THE ROAD. #LITCHAT -1:55 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousponic @scgreen I think it's just his/her style or the style they're choosing to go with #LitChat -1:55 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass Good question. RT @jasonbrow Would we say GRIT eschews romantic principles? Is GRIT the child of Realism or Modernism? Both? #LITCHAT -1:56 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @LexxClarke oh no! Think I got confused by time change. Did #litchat start an hour ago? -1:56 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @CarolyBurnsBass I was thinking of Diaz, but doesn't Drown fit Grit Lit more than Oscar? #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LexxClarke @rebeccawoodhead yup sure did! #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 26th, 2009
ficwriter @scgreen I think it's grows out of the dirt of an author's life. Tom Franklin's Poachers comes to mind. #LITCHAT -1:57 PM Oct 26th, 2009
TheNewAuthor @rebeccawoodhead yes it did. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 26th, 2009
scgreen @Giorgiousponic So then Grit Lit could cross all genres. #LitChat -1:58 PM Oct 26th, 2009
scgreen @rebeccawoodhead SURE did. Sorry you missed it. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites Is grit a style or a genre? #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @TheNewAuthor @LexxClarke Oh Bovril! #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 26th, 2009
CarolyBurnsBass @SmokeLong I haven't read DROWN. But the narrator(s) of OSCAR are pretty gritty. Oscar himself was a romantic. #LITCHAT -1:58 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat @rebeccawoodhead Yes, my dear. We are about to wrap up. There's still some smart savvy people chatting. Catch up and take over. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousponic @scgreen #LitChat Certainly. In my opinion, any author could write something that people take as Grit Lit whether it was intentional or not -1:59 PM Oct 26th, 2009

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mciddangelo RT @sharifwrites Is grit a style or a genre? #litchat <it's that stuff on the back of the sink that is hard to scrub off.> -1:59 PM Oct 26th, 2009
susanmpls @CarolyBurnsBass It absolutely eschews romanticism. Grit is opposite of ideal. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousphonic I'd say it's more of a style @sharifwrites #LitChat -2:00 PM Oct 26th, 2009
scgreen @sharifwrites From what I'm reading, I believe it's style. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @CarolyBurnsBass I'll buy that. Oscar himself was so distinctive that I remember the romance more than the grit. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @LitChat LOL! #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LexxClarke rofl RT @rebeccawoodhead: @TheNewAuthor Oh Bovril! #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat Great convo, today. Much to think about and carry on for Wednesday's continuation of topic. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites @scgreen Okay, b/c I'm looking it up and some pages make it seem like a genre. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 26th, 2009
harlanerskine @ToddWalker @richburroughs @heyhotshot @lizkuball @bryanf check out #litchat for a possibility of how #artphotochat & #artchat might work. -2:01 PM Oct 26th, 2009
scgreen @susanmpls Why does have to be opposite of ideal? wouldn't that depend on the character's view point? #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites @Giorgiousphonic Thanks. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mciddangelo @sharifwrites but I mean that with affection. ;) #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat Some LitChat-keeping here: @ficwriter will be moderating on Wednesday, with help from a few others among you. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @sharifwrites LitChat coined the term for this discussion, not realizing the term already existed to define a genre. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead trying to think of gritty romance... #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 26th, 2009
SmokeLong @sharifwrites @LitChat coined the term for this discussion, not realizing the term already existed to define a genre. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead sex on the beach = gritty romance ? :P #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 26th, 2009
sharifwrites @MCidDAngelo Ha! Were you lurking the whole time? Good convo today. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 26th, 2009
Giorgiousphonic lol @mciddangelo's definition of grit =) #LitChat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
mciddangelo @sharifwrites came in at the end; I've been feeling rather morose lately #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead Sons and Lovers - kind of - in a twisted way #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
thebookmaven @rebeccawoodhead Actually, IRONWEED could work as gritty romance! #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
ficwriter Hope you will join me on Wed. I'll have two guests @George9Writer and @Karen_Palmer, both authors of grit lit. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat Be sure to give @ficwriter your best behavior on Wednesday and come back on Friday for guest host @ArthurBurdnett (MonteSchulz). #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LexxClarke @rebeccawoodhead you're such a comedian! lol #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 26th, 2009
rebeccawoodhead @thebookmaven haven't read it. Is it good? #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 26th, 2009
scgreen @rebeccawoodhead gritty romance = sex in a southern diner? #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 26th, 2009
LitChat And BTW, Monte Schulz is the son of beloved Peanuts creator, Charles. Check him out at http://litchat.net . #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 26th, 2009
WEDNESDAY, October 28, 2009
ficwriter Lit chat kicks off in 5 minutes. Today's topic is Grit Lit. (And my tweets aren't showing up.) So this is a test. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Guesting at #litchat momentarily, along with @George9Writer. Apologies in advance if your feed gets too full of, well, me.
ficwriter Grit Lit: Think sharp-edged literary fiction w/ violent themes, wounded characters and adverse settings. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @ficwriter Such as Cormac McCarthy's work? #litchat
ficwriter Please welcome @Karen_Palmer, author of two powerful, masterfully written grit lit novels All Saints and Border Dogs. #litchat

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George9Writer Glad to be here on #litchat along with @Karen_Palmer - topic: Grit Lit , @ficwriter hosting ficwriter @TamaraNKitties Absolutely like Cormac McCarthy. Karen, so you agree? #litchat
Karen_Palmer Hey Darrelyn. Thanks for the invite. Hi @George9Writer. @TamaraNKitties McCarthy's work certainly fits. #litchat
ficwriter Also, please welcome @George9Writer, author of a gritty, harrowing novel The Legend of Jimmy Gollihue. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Noticed that on Monday, other examples included Flannery O'Conner & Wm. Kennedy. I'd add Larry Brown and Aussie Tim Winton. #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Thanks so much for having me, Darrelyn! #litchat Connecting directly with my readers is what it's all about.
TamaraNKitties @Karen_Palmer With the success of McCarthy's 'The Road' is there a bigger audience now for these kinds of novels? #litchat
ficwriter Yes, Karen, O'Connor and Kennedy, Larry Brown was the master, Harry Crews, Tom Franklin, Chris Offutt, Silas House, and Lee Smith. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @Karen_Palmer I have enjoyed Tim Winton's work too :) He wrote 'Dirt Music,' right? #litchat
George9Writer One other author whose work meets the grittiness standard, & far exceeds it, is William T Vollmann - e.g. The Royal Family #litchat
Karen_Palmer @TamaraNKitties Dirt Music is one of my all-time favorite novels. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @George9Writer Ah, have been curious about Vollmann since reading about his work in P&W :) #litchat
ficwriter McCarthy's success will hopefully increase Grit Lit audience. But you never know. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @George9Writer Vollmann, yes! @TamaraNKitties Don't know if there's more of an audience since THE ROAD. #litchat
mariblasers Off to #litchat for the next hour, so lots of tweets coming.
TamaraNKitties It seems strange 2 call it 'Grit Lit.' I grew up in Montana, & this kind of writing just strikes a chord with me. Seems realistic. #litchat
George9Writer @TamaraNKitties I'm just getting into The Royal Family, which is about an underground dynasty of prostitutes & their queen. #litchat
cafenirvana Lurking on #litchat. cos am very hungry and will run off soon to get a bite.
ficwriter Karen and George, I'd like to ask you a few questions. Each will be directed to both of you. #litchat
bookswim #litchat - sorry for the late join, but how would you define #gritlit ?
ficwriter Q1 Did you set out to write grit lit? Or did it simply emerge from the story? #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Re Q1: No, I didn't set out to write Grit Lit (I didn't even know what it was!), but I knew my story would be gritty. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Q1 I wouldn't have known what grit lit was. But for ALL SAINTS, Larry Brown's JOE was a model. Lyrical, but unblinking. #litchat
ficwriter @TamaraNKitties Yes, it is realistic. It's like the dirt under your fingernails or the bottoms of your feet. #litchat
ecollins8 @Karen_Palmer any particular suggestions for working moms (and writers) to increase their writing productivity? #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer I think it was Cormac McCarthy's early works (like Outer Dark) that are grim and gritty. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @Karen_Palmer Luv that description: 'lyrical but unblinking' ! :D #litchat
ficwriter Larry Brown's Joe is one of my favorites. Also Fay, about a young woman drifter untouched by violence, death, and bloodshed. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @ecollins8 Hey Elizabeth. God, something always suffers. When my kids were young, I used to write in the middle of night. #litchat
ficwriter Q2 Because the characters of Grit Lit are often dark and violent, were you ever surprised by the places they would take you? #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Re Q1: My main character, Jimmy, has to fight against history of alcoholism, gambling addiction, violent side. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @George9Writer Where would you put BLOOD MERIDIAN? #litchat
TamaraNKitties Would you define 'The Pesthouse' by Jim Crace as grit lit also? Read that recently, tho I didn't love it. #litchat
techtigger lurking on #litchat while office halloween party is in progress. Odd mix, grit-lit and kids in cute costumes ;) #litchat

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Karen_Palmer Q2 Yes, I was definitely surprised. Both Harlan (in AS) and James (in BD) were angrier, more violent than I understood at first. #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer *laughs* Blood Meridian? I can't think of a grittier, dirtier, grimmer book - I loved it! #litchat
Jimbrez #litchat You caught my attention with Brown and Crews, tho I'd not heard it as grit lit. I would think Pollock's Knockemstiff fits too?
George9Writer @ficwriter Re Q2: Yes, I was often surprised by how extreme the writing got, re darkness, violence, depravity. #litchat
badbadbad #litchat Jumping in, quick break at wk. Never knew "grit lit" was a term. Should I be framing my agent/pub pitches this way? novel qualifies
ficwriter @Jimbrez Welcome @Jimbrez. Yes I agree Knockemstiff fits, too. #litchat
ficwriter @TamaraNKitties I'm not that familiar with The Pesthouse, but what I do know does not seem to fit. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @George9Writer Have never forgotten two images from BLOOD MERIDIAN. Indians on horseback in bridal gear and the judge in outhouse. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @ficwriter The Pesthouse is more of an alternate reality type story, though it delves into darker side of people quite a bit. #litchat
maggiedana Don't suppose a love scene on the beach would count as grit-lit, huh? #litchat
ficwriter Q3 Were you ever tempted to "pretty up" a character's "ugly" character trait? #litchat
Karen_Palmer @badbadbad Don't know that the term is used by agents. I think it's just useful for this convo. Maybe @ficwriter knows different? #litchat
TamaraNKitties LOL!!! RT @maggiedana: Dont suppose a love scene on the beach would count as grit-lit, huh? #litchat
CDominiqueG Hello #litchat !
Karen_Palmer Q3 No, never prettied up any of them. In AS, Glory (the nurse) gives an overdose of morphine to a child. Caught some s**t for that. #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer Oh yes, & so many others. Implications of an intimate bond with severe, coldblooded violence. Depravity of soul. #litchat
mariblaser @ficwriter May I pose a Q directly, or send it to you first? #litchat
Karen_Palmer @maggiedana Making pearls, eh? #litchat
ficwriter Grit Lit is considered a subcategory of Southern fiction but @Karen_Palmer's California set Border Dogs proves it can be elsewhere. #litchat
ficwriter @Karen_Palmer That was a heavy scene for me, but that's why I thought it was brilliant. #litchat
iamJaymes Hello Hello Hello HEEEEELLLLLLOOOOO! :D #litchat
TamaraNKitties @Karen_Palmer Do you get strange reactions as a woman who writes 'gritty'? #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Re Q3: Sometimes I was tempted to pretty up my main character's deeds, like murder out of drunken rage. #litchat
maggiedana Good one! But maybe more like chafing pearls. RT @Karen_Palmer: @maggiedana Making pearls, eh? #litchat
TamaraNKitties @ficwriter I've also heard McCarthy referred to as a western writer (as opposed to a southern writer). What do you think of that? #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter RE Q3: ... but resisted the urge to make Jimmy "nice" or socially acceptable. He is still a hero. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @TamaraNKitties Early readers of the ms (sent out w/out author name by my pub) thought it was written by a man. #litchat
badbadbad #litchat Really?! "Southern fiction grit lit" works for me. badbadbad's in the Dirty South... self-destruction v. redemption, etc. Hmmm...
ChesterStreet Has anybody ever read anything by McCarthy that would not be considered gritlit? #litchat #litchat
maggiedana Gender bias rears its head again! RT @Karen_Palmer: Early readers of the ms thought it was written by a man. #litchat
ficwriter Do you agree that Grit Lit's crude violence is often a prelude to grace and sets up a more powerful transformation. #litchat
George9Writer The Legend of Jimmy Gollihue is set in Southern Appalachia, and adventures are throughout South, Southeast. #litchat
badbadbad @Karen_Palmer #litchat ... written by a man. did that matter in the end?

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Karen_Palmer @ficwriter I'm pretty sure there's some Pacific Northwest grit lit too, though it escapes me at the moment. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @Karen_Palmer Was there backlash/resistance when they found out a woman had written it? #litchat
mariblaser Do any of you feel that your challenges to sell the book/find an agent were greater than others because of the grit? #litchat
maggiedana Duh. Smacking head. Just got the connection between grit-lit and Southern. Boy, am I dense today. Brain is waterlogged. #litchat
iamJaymes RE: Q3 Never, I may have wanted to make them nice so their actions look more sinister but never changed their core nature, ever. #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Violence-then-grace: Yes, I agree to a large extent. My character ultimately comes unglued, has epiphany after violence. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Would also like to mention Stephen Elliott's work. HAPPY BABY is so painful and emotionally astute gritty doesn't do it justice. #litchat
ficwriter @Karen_Palmer Doesn't surprise me. You do men as well as any man. I also thought you were from Louisiana when I read All Saints. #litchat
TamaraNKitties Think so too :) RT @Karen_Palmer: @ficwriter Im pretty sure theres some Pacific Northwest grit lit too... #litchat
CDominiqueG I am so very lost #litchat
Karen_Palmer @TamaraNKitties @badbadbad Don't know if it mattered, though was told that if I used pseudonym or initials, might get more reviews! #litchat
ficwriter Grit Lit is dark and heavy but is also mixed with humor by authors such as Lee Smith and Jill McCorkle. #litchat
DebraMarrs @ficwriter Listening in. Great convo. Illuminating... and making a list of new titles to read #litchat
iamJaymes @CDominiqueG follow @ficwriter's tweets for the questions. Took me a while to figure it out too, need an easier system for newbies. #litchat
techtigger not sure I get why grit lit is associated with southern lit. Would think it would be defined more by character than location? #litchat
CDominiqueG @iamJaymes ahhh, got ya! #litchat
alisonwells RT @mariblaser Do any of you feel that your challenges to sell the book/find an agent were greater than others because of the grit? #litchat
mariblaser @CDominiqueG @thejohnkeenan The theme is Grit Lit, @TamaraNKitties and @George9Writer are answering some Qs. @ficwriter is hosting. #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Yes, humor is very important - irony and odd humor can even be found in McCarthy's darkest themes (Child of God). #litchat
maggiedana grits? RT @techtigger: not sure I get why grit lit is associated with southern lit. #litchat
ficwriter RT @iamJaymes: @CDominiqueG follow @ficwriters tweets for the questions. #litchat
winsloweliot @robertcrull I just realized #litchat is discussing grit lit - you should join in.
DebraMarrs @Karen_Palmer Voice and ability to write as a man, gritty, or as a woman, gritty and feminine is a compliment to writerly abilities #litchat
Karen_Palmer @alisonwells @mariblaser It might make it slightly tougher to sell. I dunno. What do you think @George9Writer? #litchat
TamaraNKitties @mariblaser Actually, I'm barging in, not answering questions. I think I may B a grit lit writer, tho had never heard the term B4;) #litchat
CDominiqueG @mariblaser ok, got ya #litchat
ficwriter Lee Smith's Oral history about the "cursed" Cantrell family comes to mind for humor. #litchat
CDominiqueG ok I may need Gritlit to be defined since @TamaraNKitties just now found thats what she writes #litchat
ficwriter More Grit Lit novel recommendations to follow. Please add your suggestions. #litchat
mariblaser @Karen_Palmer @TamaraNKitties Sorry for the confusion! *blush* Seems my brain is on a slower pace today. :) #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer I don't think it makes it harder to sell, since there's a market for it. The story/characters/writing are key. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Humor helps. Relieves some of the darkness. #litchat
ficwriter So many good Grit Lit short story writers like Chris Offutt, Silas House, and Tom Franklin. #litchat

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TamaraNKitties Maybe focus on working class/non-urban characters? RT @techtigger: not sure I get why grit lit is associated with southern lit. #litchat
Karen_Palmer John Fante's books. ASK THE DUST (which, after years awaiting production, was about the worst movie ever.) #litchat
mariblasers @TamaraNKitties I'm thinking like you now, but still not so sure. I'm happy you found yourself tho (in a way). :) #litchat
DebraMarrs What is the edge/border that defines literary "Southern" fiction genre to cross over to grit lit? #litchat
TamaraNKitties @mariblasers no worries :D #litchat
DebraMarrs Interesting juxtaposition RT @Karen_Palmer: Humor helps. Relieves some of the darkness. #litchat
ficwriter Dorothy Allison's Bastard Out of Carolina is about a woman's difficult childhood and predatory stepfather. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Someone mentioned "grits" -- as in standard Souther breakfast fare (along with Co'Cola?). #litchat
TamaraNKitties @Karen_Palmer Yes, ASK THE DUST was a bad movie, but it got me curious about Fante :) And Colin Farrell is hot no matter what! #litchat
mariblasers This is a great strategy/advice! RT @Karen_Palmer: Humor helps. Relieves some of the darkness. #litchat
George9Writer FYI: Grit Lit is often defined as being the same as Dirty Realism, which arose out of Minimalism (Carver, others) #litchat
ficwriter Grit Lit authors are like native trees that suck nutrients from the earth and scribble down truths in dirt. #litchat
ficwriter RT @Karen_Palmer: Someone mentioned "grits" -- as in standard Southern breakfast fare (along with CoCola?). #litchat
DebraMarrs RT @George9Writer: FYI-Grit Lit is often defined as being the same as Dirty Realism, which arose out of Minimalism (Carver, others) #litchat
juliabrown @ficwriter Is Wells Tower GritLit? Not much outright violence, but there's a negative psychological ravaging I feel after reading #litchat
TamaraNKitties Ah, minimalism :) RT @George9Writer: FYI: Grit Lit is often defined as being same as Dirty Realism which arose out of Minimalism... #litchat
DebraMarrs Poetic! RT @ficwriter: Grit Lit authors are like native trees that suck nutrients from the earth and scribble down truths in dirt. #litchat
mariblasers RT @ficwriter: Grit Lit authors are like native trees that suck nutrients from the earth and scribble down truths in dirt. #litchat
George9Writer RT @ficwriter: Grit Lit authors are like native trees that suck nutrients from the earth and scribble down truths in dirt. #litchat
ficwriter I also think the term "grit" is attributed to the "grit" it takes to survive a hard life in the South. #litchat
mariblasers RT @George9Writer: Grit Lit is often defined as being the same as Dirty Realism, which arose out of Minimalism (Carver, others) #litchat
DebraMarrs @ficwriter Best way to catch up on these authors? Chris Offutt, Silas House, and Tom Franklin. Bks? (titles) or in lit. jrnl? #litchat
ficwriter A good example of Southern grit is @George9Writer's character Jimmy, a pool shark with not much else going for him. #litchat
maggiedana guilty. RT @Karen_Palmer: Someone mentioned "grits" -- as in standard Souther breakfast fare (along with CoCola?). #litchat
ficwriter RT @mariblasers: This is a great strategy/advice! RT @Karen_Palmer: Humor helps. Relieves some of the darkness. #litchat
techtigger i guess I've always associated grit with the seedy underbelly of cities, people growing up on the tough streets, etc. #litchat
DebraMarrs RT @ficwriter: I also think the term "grit" is attributed to the "grit" it takes to survive a hard life in the South. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @George9Writer Can't go wrong w/a pool shark. Where is your novel set? (Will have to purchase after signing off here!) #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Yes, Jimmy (& the other characters) are composites of the many Southerners I've known, observed. #litchat
DebraMarrs RT @techtigger: i guess Ive always associated grit w the seedy underbelly of cities, people growing up on the tough streets, etc. #litchat

ficwriter @techtigger In Karen_Palmer's All Saints is about 3 soul-weary characters set in sinister streets of New Orleans. #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer Thanks! It's set in an imaginary S Appalachian town called Ithacord (like Ithaca of the Odyssey), & in Southeast #litchat
maggiedana Or the west. "True Grit" ? RT @DebraMarrs: "grit" is attributed to the "grit" it takes to survive a hard life in the South. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @techtigger I grew up in the West & there was much blood, violence, etc. There's definitely grit there :) #litchat
techtigger i grew up in rural farming community, never really thought of it as gritty ;) But I do see what you mean #litchat
Karen_Palmer Maybe another way to think about it is that, with grit lit, people get their hands really dirty -- literally or metaphorically. #litchat
ficwriter Q4 To achieve a Grit Lit landscape, do the odds of calamity need to be stacked high? #litchat
George9Writer RT @Karen_Palmer: ... with grit lit, people get their hands really dirty -- literally or metaphorically.// often morally, too #litchat
DebraMarrs I like this! RT @Karen_Palmer: ... with grit lit, people get their hands really dirty -- literally or metaphorically. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @George9Writer @Karen_Palmer ... especially morally? (regarding getting hands dirty) #litchat
ficwriter Tim Gautreaux is another favorite Lit Grit author of mine. Love both his novels and short stories. #litchat
Karen_Palmer Q4 Calamity? Lordy, yes. But all good fiction, in every genre, does that. #litchat
jillinski Grit lit? This is a new one for me. Niche genres are popping up like mushrooms. I can't keep up. #litchat
Karen_Palmer @ficwriter Love Tim Gautreaux as well. #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Q4: Yes! With mine, odds of calamity have hero facing self-destruction, before he can battle outside world. #litchat
TamaraNKitties I'm loving seeing the names of authors I actually read :) RT @Karen_Palmer: @ficwriter Love Tim Gautreaux as well. #litchat
George9Writer @TamaraNKitties The "hero" would be him/her that is able to emerge, damaged but alive, from chaos, sin, depravity. #litchat
ficwriter Loved the calamity in @Karen_Palmer's All Saints and Border Dogs. And in George9Writer's The Legend of Jimmy Gollihue. Great reads! #litchat
TamaraNKitties :) RT @George9Writer: @TamaraNKitties The hero would be him/her that is able 2 emerge, damaged but alive, from chaos/sin/depravity. #litchat
21stCscribe Seems2me US thing and wasn't Selby Jnr doing it 25 years ago? No appetite 4homegrown UK version, even tho' streets getting nastier #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Thanks, Darrelyn! Some stories just gotta have calamity. Gets the MC's attention, and the reader's. #litchat
TamaraNKitties With all the attention on vampires, etc. are grit lit and its cousins, realism & minimalism, harder to publish? #litchat
Karen_Palmer The hero of ALL SAINTS kills his wife bc of a mistaken notion. Takes the cumulative calamity of the whole book for him to realize. #litchat
ficwriter Would love to thank my guest authors @Karen_Palmer and George9Writer. (Feel free to continue on topic of Grit Lit everyone.) #litchat
DebraMarrs Need to go; thx @ficwriter for great convo starter. Your Qs were really good ones to guide the conversation on grit lit #litchat
21stCscribe gritlit represents vacuum at moral centre now we're all in meltdown? #litchat
DebraMarrs @George9Writer I look forward to reading your book. @ficwriter s/b paid, she loves it so much! I trust her (and you). Thx for chat #litchat
ficwriter Be sure to come back on Friday with guest host Monte Shulz (@ArthurBurnnett) author of This Side of Jordan. 4-5 p/et #litchat
TamaraNKitties @ficwriter Thank you for this :) I was going to lurk, but you caught my attention right away! #litchat
DebraMarrs @Karen_Palmer Thank you for your illuminating responses on grit lit today. Excited to get your books to learn more. #litchat
TamaraNKitties @21stCscribe I do see the correlation with a lot of work published in late 20th century. I think that's why I like it. #litchat

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George9Writer @TamaraNKitties I also do gritty vampires. Gotta cover all the bases :-) #litchat
George9Writer @DebraMarrs Thanks so much for that, Debra, and I hope you enjoy it! #litchat
TamaraNKitties @George9Writer Well, as long as they're gritty vampires and not love-struck vampires ;-) #litchat
ficwriter Writers, look for my guest blog this Friday for @JaneFriedman about past LitChat guest Steven Pressfield's book The War of Art. #litchat
George9Writer @ficwriter Thanks for having me, Darrelyn, it was a lot of fun & I learned a thing or two! #litchat
Karen_Palmer Thanks, everyone — especially Darrelyn, who is a smart cookie of a moderator. #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer ALL SAINTS sounds terrific, I like reading fiction set in New Orleans - will get a copy soon. #litchat
21stCscribe RT @George9Writer: @TamaraNKitties I also do gritty vampires. Gotta cover all the bases :-) #litchat Me I like 2go yard
ficwriter Thank you to everyone who participated in today's chat. Feel free to drop me a line if you have any more questions. #litchat
TamaraNKitties Thank you @Karen_Palmer and @George9Writer :) Now I know which books to buy next at the @TatteredCover! #litchat
ficwriter BTW, Friday's guest author is the son of Peanuts creator Charles Shulz. Interesting that he is a Grit Lit author. #litchat
mariblaser Thanks @George9Writer and @Karen_Palmer for bearing with us, and @ficwriter for the witty moderation. Learned a lot. :) #litchat
George9Writer @Karen_Palmer And thank you, Karen - you know your stuff. #litchat
techtigger thanks to @ficwriter and litchat crew for being so patient - think I finally understand what grit lit is :) #litchat