



LitChat December 18, 2009

Topic of the Week: FOOD & FAMILY

Guest host: Suzan Colon, Author of CHERRIES IN WINTER

Guest Host: @colonsuzan (Suzan Colon)

LitChat Join us for a chat with Suzan Colon (@colonsuzan), author of food and family memoir CHERRIES IN WINTER. #litchat 4-5 pmET today. -12:38 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Talking now with @colonsuzan getting ready for today's #litchat -12:56 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Hi, I'm here! #litchat -12:58 PM Dec 18th, 2009

danish_novelist Books shouldn't make you guilty. Books should stay on their shelves & shut up, but most go "read me" "I'm great" "don't ignore me" #litchat -12:58 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat In LitChat today we have Suzan Colon (@colonsuzan) author of CHERRIES IN WINTER. Please intro yourself and welcome Suzan. #litchat -1:01 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat I've just finished reading CHERRIES IN WINTER and loved how you were able to fulfill your grandmother's legacy in this book. #litchat -1:03 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Thank you. One of the things that made me so happy was being able to finally get some of her work published, albeit posthumously #litchat -1:04 PM Dec 18th, 2009

mariblaser @LitChat Hi everyone at #litchat ! Hi @colonsuzan , thanks for being here. :) Sadly I'll be only lurking for a while as #amwriting.... -1:05 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat I know your grandmother passed when you were quite young, but did you ever talk with her about becoming a writer? #litchat -1:05 PM Dec 18th, 2009

cmonstah My buddy @colonsuzan is on #litchat right now, talking about her memoir Cherries in Winter. -1:07 PM Dec 18th, 2009

mariblaser RT @cmonstah: My buddy @colonsuzan is on #litchat right now, talking about her memoir Cherries in Winter. -1:08 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LexxClarke Good evening @colonsuzan thank you for joining us tonight :o)I'm a writer learning the craft from those with a better understanding #litchat -1:09 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat If you have a question for @colonsuzan about writing a memoir, don't be shy. Ask her now in #litchat -1:09 PM Dec 18th, 2009

maggiedana @colonsuzan CHERRIES IN WINTER is a great title. Did it come to you right away, or did it grow out of the writing process? #litchat -1:12 PM Dec 18th, 2009

agnieszkasshoes @colonsuzan how do yU handle material that personal? Does your "author" side ever bow 2 loyalty 2 memory/family? How does that feel? #litchat -1:14 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Am wondering if @colonsuzan is having technical difficulties. Does anyone else on a Mac ever have trouble with @tweetchat? #litchat -1:14 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LexxClarke @LitChat on a Windows lappy here and it seems ok, I think! #litchat -1:18 PM Dec 18th, 2009

maggiedana @LitChat I don't think it's the OS that's causing problems. It's probably her server (the one in the frilly apron and cute cap). #litchat -1:19 PM Dec 18th, 2009

wendykwebb @LitChat I'm on a Mac, working fine. I just checked Susan's site and it seems that she's posting stuff that isn't showing up here. #litchat -1:20 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Am on phone now with @colonsuzan and trying to figure out why her tweets aren't getting into the feed. #litchat -1:20 PM Dec 18th, 2009

herstorian Checking in briefly with #litchat. Visiting with family right now; will try to check out the chat later, plus the auctions! #litchat -1:22 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Hello? Hello?! Am I here? #litchat -1:23 PM Dec 18th, 2009

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| LexxClarke @colonsuzan I think so! #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat @colonsuzan Yay! Let's continue. #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| mariblaser I see you! Welcome back! :) RT @colonsuzan: Hello? Hello?! Am I here? #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @colonsuzan yay! You're here #litchat -1:24 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @colonsuzan should we repeat questions? #litchat -1:25 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: She'd written articles, book chapters, and poetry, but never got anything published in her lifetime. #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| 4evermore for @colonsuzan : should you tell the people in your memoir that they're included? what if you no longer associate with them? #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat @agnieszkasshoes Yes, would you please repeat. Sorry for the difficulties today. #litchat -1:26 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @colonsuzan how do U handle material that personal? Does yr "author" side ever bow 2 loyalty 2 memory/family? How does that feel? #litchat -1:28 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| mariblaser Good questions on #Litchat today. Go on and take a peek fellow #writing tweeps! (ops, pun not intended) -1:29 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| colonsuzan So sorry, everyone, for the tech difficulties... #litchat -1:29 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: Hi Lexx! Welcome--I love hanging out with other writers! #litchat -1:29 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: Having major tech difficulties... Many sorries.... #litchat -1:30 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat I have RTd all of @colonsuzan's "hidden" tweets. I think we've worked out a system now, so let's continue chat. #litchat -1:31 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| 4evermore wrote a memoir last year and had trouble finding other memoirists. are there any online groups you recommend? thanks! #litchat -1:32 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: Don't know about online groups, but I read lots of memoir so I could see different approaches. #litchat -1:36 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| revolucion0 @colonsuzan I just wrote my humorous memoir; I hate to sell it as a memoir since I'm not famous.advice on framing such stories? #litchat -1:36 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat Is there a memoir that influenced you most when writing CHERRIES IN WINTER? #litchat -1:36 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| colonsuzan Well, I certainly wasn't famous (still not!). Memoir is hot now, but that shouldn't matter; integrity hotter. Just sell that book! #litchat -1:37 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| 4evermore @colonsuzan @revolucion0 my memoir is humorous, too. do folks think this affects marketability? #litchat -1:38 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @colonsuzan thank you! (It's Dan, btw :) - Agnieszka's shoes is from a book title :) #litchat -1:39 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| patriciastaino @colonsuzan What are your thoughts on writers who "set up" experiences with the intent of writing a memoir? #litchat -1:40 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| mariblaser Hey guys, where's the food on this #litchat? I'm hungry! haha ;-P -1:42 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: Wrote the book so fast (five months) I didn't have time or eyes to read anything else anyway! #litchat -1:42 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| rebeccawoodhead This is insane! Sorry I can't be at #litchat but am trying to make self heard above the crowds at mad Crimble party. xx #Frys -1:42 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |

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| colonsuzan Mariblaser: Turkey bean soup in Crock-Pot, oatmeal raisin cookies already baked! #litchat -1:42 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @patriciastaino set up or make up? #litchat -1:43 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| patriciastaino @agnieszkasshoes I really do mean set up. Like, "I'm going to India to find myself and then I'm going to write about it." #litchat -1:44 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| 4evermore @colonsuzan oh, so did you self publish your memoir? If there's a good link to read, I'd love to take a look at it! #litchat -1:45 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat We've been talking about food all week in prep of yr visit and set-up a page on blog called LitChew. Will you post a recipe? #litchat -1:45 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: My apologies, Dan! Now that I see you, you don't look like an Agnies ;) #litchat -1:46 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: Just trying this one more time to see if I can get in... #litchat -1:46 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @PatriciaStaino That's more nauseating than the James Frey style fictioneering #litchat -1:47 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| colonsuzan Re: LitChew--would love to! Soup or sweets? Lots of cookie recipes on my blog on cherriesinwinter.com.... #litchat -1:48 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| cowgirlwriter I can't imagine "setting up" a memoir. The best of life just happens. #litchat -1:48 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| colonsuzan I like the idea of just doing things, and if it's something good to write about that people want to read, great. #litchat -1:48 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| patriciastaino @agnieszkasshoes Cool. Just making sure I'm not alone on that thought... #litchat -1:49 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat @colonsuzan You pick the recipe--surprise us. The link is: http://bit.ly/8A5UA4 #litchat -1:50 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: I like the idea of just doing things, and if it's something good to write about that people want to read, great. #litchat -1:51 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: But that doesn't apply to more than half the things I like to do, so I'll spare you guys! #litchat -1:51 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| agnieszkasshoes @PatriciaStaino it's like "organised fun" - truly magical, and interesting, experiences are spontaneous #litchat -1:51 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat What path did you take from your idea of the book to selling it to Doubleday? Did you already have an agent? #litchat -1:52 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| maggiedana @LitChat @litchew I posted two boozy recipes: English trifle and New Orleans bread pudding. Howzzat for transatlantic appeal? #litchat -1:53 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| patriciastaino @colonsuzan Here's a weird one: Is your memoir better read in hard copy or as an e-book? I have options so what do you think? #litchat -1:54 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| colonsuzan I was incredibly lucky to find great agent with amazing connex in publishing. All happened VERY fast (w/in 6 mos) #litchat -1:54 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat @maggiedana I saw those and noticed both were originally intended for use of "stale" ingredients; in old times stretched the food. #litchat -1:56 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| revolucion0 @magiciansbook #litchat I will query book reviewers like someone would to agents and hope for the best -1:56 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |
| LitChat RT @colonsuzan: I think it's very rare, too--in fact the only memoir I know of w/set up experience was EPL... #litchat -1:56 PM Dec 18th, 2009 |

maggiedana @colonsuzan Only in publishing would '6 months' be considered fast. In other industries? Bring on the elephants to remove this tree #litchat -1:56 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Before I forget, something I wanted to share: <http://www.oprah.com/article/omagazine/200911-omag-junot-diaz-writing> #litchat -1:56 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat RT @colonsuzan: I was incredibly lucky to find great agent with amazing connex in publishing. All happened VERY fast (w/in 6 mos) #litchat -1:57 PM Dec 18th, 2009

maggiedana @LitChat Yes. Use of stale food important in old recipes. Equally important in modern grub 'cos it tastes so damned good. #litchat -1:57 PM Dec 18th, 2009

4evermore @colonsuzan good on you! I'll pick up a copy of your book. do you think publishing excerpts or making a book blog is a good idea? #litchat -1:57 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Please excuse repeats/reTweets... sometimes I'm in room and sometimes not! #litchat -1:58 PM Dec 18th, 2009

maggiedana @litchat Must add caveat. Stale baked goods only taste good when soaked in booze. #litchat -1:59 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Especially since publishing houses have taken major hits in recession. not as many people to help you, so you must do lots more #litchat -1:59 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat @colonsuzan Thanks for the link to Junot's piece in O. I loved OSCAR WAO. And to think it might never have been written is so sad. #litchat -2:01 PM Dec 18th, 2009

wendykwebb Words to live by. @maggiedana Must add caveat. Stale baked goods only taste good when soaked in booze. #litchat -2:01 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Re: Stale goods: Pretty good when soaked in gravy, too, or sugar, ice cream, whipped cream... #litchat -2:02 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat RT @colonsuzan: to Revolucion: yes, do that, and ask anyone/everyone for advice/help. If no leads, self-pub! #litchat -2:03 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat You published several YA novels in the Superman Smallville series. Do you see yourself going back to fiction anytime soon? #litchat -2:05 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Now it looks like my tweets aren't showing in feed. Hmmm... #litchat -2:11 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat RT @colonsuzan: I hope to still do a few more non-fiction books--actually working on two right now #litchat -2:11 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Can you tell us a bit about the two non-fic books you're now working on? #litchat -2:11 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Cursed feed! Re: Two new books--I am a rotten explainer, better producer. Thank goodness agent pitched CIW & not me! #litchat -2:13 PM Dec 18th, 2009

PeaceNicole RT @LitChat: Now it looks like my tweets aren't showing in feed. Hmmm... #litchat < I C U! ;-)-2:13 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Thanks! RT @PeaceNicole: RT @LitChat: Now it looks like my tweets aren't showing in feed. Hmmm... #litchat < I C U! ;-)-2:14 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Have to go in a sec-book group coming over! Many thanks to all of you who put up with cursed feed and asked great qs... #litchat -2:15 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Hope this chat hasn't been too frustrating for @colonsuzan. I've never seen Twitter act so prejudiced against a single user. #litchat -2:16 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan To all writers: Please write despite obstacles. To readers: Please keep reading and buying books. To everyone: Happy holidays! #litchat -2:17 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan Re: Cursed feed: Slightly frustrating but more than worth the effort to be w/LitChat peeps. :) #litchat - 2:18 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat Let's give @colonsuzan a extra LARGE round of applause for her graciousness and generosity of time today. {{{APPLAUSE}}} #litchat -2:18 PM Dec 18th, 2009

colonsuzan And many many thanks to LitChat host for walking this luddite through this century ;) #litchat -2:19 PM Dec 18th, 2009

LitChat @colonsuzan Now wishing you HAPPY HOLIDAYS and may you have CHERRIES IN WINTER and pears in the summer. #litchat -2:21 PM Dec 18th, 2009