



LitChat April 30, 2010

Topic of the Week: History & Mystery

Guest Host: Tasha Alexander, author

Guest host: @talexander

LitChat While we're waiting for @talexander to arrive, why not take a moment to get to know her at <http://bit.ly/6rvjzD>. #litchat -12:58 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander Got in a couple min earlier than expected & am now in a cab! Glad to be here with you guys! #litchat -12:58 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Great to see you! I've done that cab ride from O'Hare to downtown several times. You have plenty of time for us #litchat -1:00 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Welcome to #litchat. Today's guest host, @talexander, is running late, so we're going to chat casually until she's able to check in with us. -1:01 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @LitChat I'm here, in a cab, enjoying Chicago's 2nd season: road construction. #litchat -1:04 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam Hooray for #Litchat!!! Sorry. Got a little excited there. :-)-1:07 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ficwriter Taking a break from JazzFest. Excited to see how @talexander manages to tweet from a cab in Chicago. :) #litchat -1:07 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam @ficwriter Hey there! How are you? Good to see you here in #litchat. I too am excited to see how @talexander manages from the cab :-D -1:09 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ErikaRobuck I'm starting the series next week, and I can't wait. #litchat -1:09 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @ficwriter I'm just glad my plane wasn't any later! #litchat -1:09 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @ErikaRobuck Fingers crossed you enjoy it! #litchat -1:10 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ErikaRobuck @talexander I'm a nut for historical fiction, and I loved Elizabeth: The Golden Age, so I'm optimistic! :) #litchat -1:12 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @LitChat You may be stuck with me for hours. #litchat -1:12 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Let's begin by asking @talexander where she came up with the idea of a Victorian noblewoman sleuth. Tasha? #litchat -1:12 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam @ErikaRobuck Hiya! #litchat -1:12 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @talexander I just read the blurb about you and your books on the @LitChat blog, and now really want to read the books! #litchat -1:13 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @LitChat Hi everyone. Dropping in to join the fun. If @ficwriter can do it from NOLA #JazzFest, I can do it from my Fri. p.m. desk #litchat -1:13 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam @DebraMarrs Here Here, Debra. I have two work stations going but I'm not going to miss this one. :-) #litchat -1:14 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @LitChat ...intellectually and starting to search for a measure of independence. Quickly determined she'd have to be wealthy-- #litchat -1:15 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @LitChat Victorians, like most, give the wealthy more room to go against societal norms. #litchat -1:16 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @AuthorWilliam Hey, hey, Sir. You got it goin' on! #litchat -1:16 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass I've read all of Tasha's books. Wanna know what I enjoy most? The references to historical antiquities and traveler's insights. #litchat -1:16 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ficwriter @DebraMarrs I'm a bit fuzzy, so please forgive my slow tweets. A Victorian noblewoman sleuth is not to be missed. #litchat -1:17 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass C, that warms my heart as those are some of my favorite things to write. #litchat -1:18 PM Apr 30th, 2010

TwinkleChar Nice endorsement!//RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Ive read all of Tashas books. #litchat -1:18 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ErikaRobuck @talexander It sounds like you travel quite a bit. Have you walked in the steps of your protagonist? #litchat -1:19 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @TwinkleChar Thanks for reading! #litchat -1:19 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @talexander How well did you know the Victorian period before you began writing in it? #litchat -1:19 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ficwriter Agree! RT @TwinkleChar: Nice endorsement!//RT @CarolyBurnsBass: I've read all of Tashas books. #litchat -1:19 PM Apr 30th, 2010

TwinkleChar You are on my list, but it was @carolyBurnBass who already did the reading.//RT @talexander: @TwinkleChar Thanks for reading! #litchat -1:20 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @ErikaRobuck I have. Think it's v important to get a real feel for the places. Research in books, maps, etc is always limited. #litchat -1:21 PM Apr 30th, 2010

deegospel @candieprice lol #litchat -1:21 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @kashicat I've read about it for much of my life, so felt fairly comfortable when I started out, but there's always more to learn. #litchat -1:21 PM Apr 30th, 2010

deegospel i'm joining late. can anyone get me up to speed? #litchat -1:22 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @TwinkleChar :) My mistake! #litchat -1:23 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Author @talexander is guest host. She writes Victorian mysteries. RT @deegospel: im joining late. can anyone get me up to speed? #litchat -1:23 PM Apr 30th, 2010

deegospel @LitChat ooh victorian mysteries! @talexander #litchat -1:23 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat @talexander How do you avoid projecting 21st century mores/thought onto your 19th century character? #litchat -1:25 PM Apr 30th, 2010

TwinkleChar Good one!//RT @LitChat: @talexander How do you avoid projecting 21st century mores/thought onto your 19th century character? #litchat -1:25 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ErikaRobuck @talexander Saw your arts and antiquities link on your website. That will be a great reference while reading! <http://bit.ly/du24AX> #litchat -1:25 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @LitChat It takes conscious, careful effort. I read lots of letters/diaries of the period to get a sense of how women were thinking #litchat -1:26 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander It's critical to me to be true to the period--even when that flies in the face of what modern readers think Victorians were like. #litchat -1:27 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @talexander Which comes first for you? Character roles and relationships? Or mystery plot, clues, solving? #litchat -1:27 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @ErikaRobuck Thanks! It was fun to put together. I'm a nut for classical art. #litchat -1:28 PM Apr 30th, 2010

KristenCathleen RT @talexander: It's critical to me to be true to the period--even when that flies in the face of what modern readers think Victorians were like. #litchat -1:28 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @DebraMarrs Character. When I read a series, it's what makes me desperate to read the next installment. I love the narrative arc #litchat -1:28 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @talexander Have you found areas that "fly in the face" of what "modern readers" view as Victorian? Examples would be interesting. #litchat -1:30 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @DebraMarrs that goes from book to book--the story of how the characters develop. Love a good plot in each book, too, of course. #litchat -1:30 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass With TEARS OF PEARL I learned readers were surprised an Englishwoman of the time could travel to Constantinople & #litchat -1:31 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass become acquainted with the sultan. In fact, there are multiple examples of women who did just that. In the 18th c #litchat -1:32 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass I wish I could time travel to Constantinople. Today's Istanbul seems to have less freedom for women than in Victorian. Yes/no? #litchat -1:33 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass the British Ambassador's wife even bathed with the sultan's concubines. & 19th c Eng woman was 1st western woman #litchat -1:33 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass to dine at the sultan's table. There was also a great tradition of adventurous travel amongst many wealthy Vic womn #litchat -1:35 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @talexander: @DebraMarrs Character. When I read a series, it's what makes me desperate to read the next installment. I love the narrative arc #litchat -1:35 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass In ways, yes. I read lots of great accounts of how women in 18-19th c used their veils to hide their identities #litchat -1:36 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass & do what they wanted--like meet a lover in a public place. They also had the chance of more upward mobility than #litchat -1:37 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @talexander Yes, the veil certainly does go both ways. To cover/hide and to be covered/be hid. #litchat -1:38 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass their English counterparts. A laundress could become the sultan's favored concubine. #litchat -1:38 PM Apr 30th, 2010

TwinkleChar RT @talexander: It's critical to me to be true to the period--even when that flies in the face of what modern readers think Victorians were like. #litchat -1:39 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @CarolyBurnsBass Exactly. And I'm fascinated by women using what is an instrument of repression to in fact gain freedom. #litchat -1:39 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @talexander Agree with @CarolyBurnsBass about antiquities. Am also drawn in by relationships/sexual chemistry #litchat -1:39 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs RT @talexander: @CarolyBurnsBass ...I'm fascinated by women using what is an instrument of repression to in fact gain freedom. #litchat -1:39 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @DebraMarrs I think there's nothing more endlessly fascinating than human relationships. #litchat -1:40 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander (apparently I'm trying to see how many times I can use forms of the word "fascinating" in the course of an hour....) #litchat -1:42 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @TwinkleChar @talexander Agree abt being true to period. Strength in ur research comes through in believability #litchat -1:42 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @talexander: And Im fascinated by women using what is an instrument of repression to in fact gain freedom. #litchat -1:42 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ficwriter @talexander Fascinating history of veils. Perhaps we should return to wearing. Kidding, of course. Though it sounds intriguing. #litchat -1:43 PM Apr 30th, 2010

ErikaRobuck @talexander Relationships, and the barriers separating men and women. It adds so much tension, which makes for great narrative. #litchat -1:43 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs RT @talexander: @DebraMarrs I think theres nothing more endlessly fascinating than human relationships {makes excellent literature} #litchat -1:43 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Do you have a specific directive from your publisher about what topics to include or omit in the Lady Emily series? #litchat -1:44 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @talexander Sometimes, from what I've read, especially in context of a Sultan's rule, women could be great powers. #litchat -1:44 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @ErikaRobuck: Relationships and barriers separating men and women. It adds so much tension, which makes for great narrative. #litchat -1:44 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @ficwriter Veils sound not only intriguing but sensual in a way. But of course, only if not worn due to repression #litchat -1:45 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @LitChat Not at all. Although I suppose if I got too outrageous, eyebrows would be raised. My editor (who is phenomenal) offers #litchat -1:45 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @kashicat great insights and comments that send my imagination in all kinds of good directions. #litchat -1:46 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @kashicat That's absolutely true. Often the sultan's mother, called the valide sultan, had immense power. #litchat -1:47 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @talexander Sounds like you have a great author/editor relationship. #litchat -1:47 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @DebraMarrs There's a whole uproar in the province of Quebec right now because of new law FORBIDDING women to wear veils. #litchat -1:48 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs RT @talexander: @LitChat Victorians, like most, give the wealthy more room to go against societal norms. #litchat -1:48 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @DebraMarrs Agree. And no doubt there are days we'd all find a veil useful for a variety of reasons. #litchat -1:48 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @kashicat Similar things happening in France. #litchat -1:49 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @kashicat Abt. no veils in Quebec: Really!?!? That's a form of repression too. Ironic, isn't it? #litchat -1:51 PM Apr 30th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass No such thing as a bad hair day when you wear a veil... RT @talexander: @kashicat Similar things happening in France. #litchat -1:51 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam @talexander Does this editor work specifically with u on the big picture content and another do the nuts and bolts edit on your MS? #litchat -1:52 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @CarolyBurnsBass RT: No such thing as a bad hair day when you wear a veil... LOL! I need that! #litchat -1:52 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @DebraMarrs Yes, oppressive, IMO. Veils aren't allowed when dealing with any public govt service. They aren't as bad as France. Yet. #litchat -1:53 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander @AuthorWilliam He does all editorial till copyediting. #litchat -1:53 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @talexander France was the first place I thought of when Quebec made their law. #litchat -1:53 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @talexander @kashicat I've heard some schools in US trying to ban veils; likening to 'gang' wear bec. identifies cult(ures) #litchat -1:54 PM Apr 30th, 2010

mmj5170 Way late but let the record show I made it. Will shut up, read up and catch up #litchat -1:54 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @mmj5170 Hi and welcome - good convo going on here #litchat -1:55 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @talexander What do you appreciate most in your editor/author relationship? #litchat -1:56 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @kashicat Hmm... I hate what a few bad acts have done to our personal freedoms. Sorta reverts to aspects of Victorian days? #litchat -1:58 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Final question: Where in the world are you taking Lady Emily in your next book? #litchat -1:58 PM Apr 30th, 2010

AuthorWilliam @talexander Thank you! #litchat -1:59 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @DebraMarrs My editor (the brilliant Charlie Spicer) encourages, inspires. The faith he has in me is humbling. His razor sharp #litchat -1:59 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @DebraMarrs insights help me write better books. #litchat -2:00 PM Apr 30th, 2010
ficwriter @talexander Time to head back to the Fairgrounds. I'm looking forward to reading your series. Great job of tweeting from a Taxi. #litchat -2:00 PM Apr 30th, 2010
amgamble RT @talexander: @DebraMarrs Character. When I read a series, it's what makes me desperate to read the next installment. I love the narrative arc #litchat -2:01 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @LitChat DANGEROUS TO KNOW is set in Normandy in France. The book for 2011, which I'm writing now, is set in London. #litchat -2:01 PM Apr 30th, 2010
DebraMarrs @ficwriter Have fun. Talk when you get back to catch up! #litchat -2:01 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @AuthorWilliam Thanks for coming! #litchat -2:01 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @ficwriter Thank you!!! #litchat -2:02 PM Apr 30th, 2010
kashicat @talexander Thanks so much for being here! #litchat -2:02 PM Apr 30th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Having recently traveled to Australia, I would love to see Lady Emily take a steamer to the "colonies." #litchat -2:03 PM Apr 30th, 2010
deegospel @talexander thank you for a great interview. you were gracious to share so much #litchat -2:03 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @kashicat My pleasure! #litchat -2:03 PM Apr 30th, 2010
DebraMarrs @talexander Love "razor sharp" - wonderful when there's that 'aha' insight that's pulled right out of you too #litchat -2:03 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @deegospel Thanks so much! #litchat -2:03 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @CarolyBurnsBass Maybe someday..... #litchat -2:04 PM Apr 30th, 2010
LitChat We are at the end of the hour that @talexander promised us and must release her as her thumbs are probably numb from iPhone keying. #litchat -2:04 PM Apr 30th, 2010
DebraMarrs @talexander Enjoyed connecting with you today. Looking forward to DANGEROUS TO KNOW and to 2011 bk set in London #litchat -2:05 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @LitChat Perfect timing--cab pulling up to building! Thanks so much for having me. This was great fun! #litchat -2:05 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander @DebraMarrs Thanks so much! #litchat -2:05 PM Apr 30th, 2010
deegospel @litchat these chats get better and better. i missed my friend @sujathahampton earlier. regretted that. you're doing a great job. #litchat -2:05 PM Apr 30th, 2010
LitChat Let's all give @talexander an extra large #litchat THANK YOU and round of {{{APPLAUSE}}} for joining us today. -2:05 PM Apr 30th, 2010
DebraMarrs @LitChat Thank you for bringing authors, such as @talexander, and readers together! You rock! #litchat -2:06 PM Apr 30th, 2010
DebraMarrs {{Applause}} for @talexander and for @LitChat #litchat -2:06 PM Apr 30th, 2010
LitChat Excellent! RT @talexander: @LitChat Perfect timing--cab pulling up to building! Thanks so much for having me. This was great fun! #litchat -2:07 PM Apr 30th, 2010
talexander D's right. You rock!! RT @DebraMarrs: @LitChat Thank you for bringing authors, such as @talexander, and readers together! You rock! #litchat -2:07 PM Apr 30th, 2010
DebraMarrs @deegospel Isn't gr8 how ea. week tops the last at #litchat -2:07 PM Apr 30th, 2010
mmj5170 Short timer but with lots of enthusiasm. *Clapping* #litchat -2:07 PM Apr 30th, 2010
kashicat @LitChat I, too, really appreciate the work you put into this. #litchat -2:08 PM Apr 30th, 2010

talexander Ok must run or this guy's going to kick me out of cab! Hope to see you all again soon. Thanks! #litchat -2:08 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Many thanks to the fun and feisty group of #litchattics who bring so much to the conversation. You are the wings on the #litchat airplane. -2:08 PM Apr 30th, 2010

anrickatx @talexander Thx so much - was interesting just following along! #litchat -2:08 PM Apr 30th, 2010

DebraMarrs @talexander Byeeee. #litchat -2:08 PM Apr 30th, 2010

deegospel @DebraMarrs it is. @litchat i feel like i'm a part of something that will be huge very soon #litchat - 2:11 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat Shout outs to some new voices in #litchat today: @KristenCathleen @AlliesAnswers and several returning voices from previous chats. -2:12 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat @DebraMarrs @deegospel @kashicat #litchat is only as good as those who show up to chat. Thanks for your smart and insightful contributions. -2:14 PM Apr 30th, 2010

kashicat @LitChat I always enjoy #litchat but haven't been able to do more than dart in briefly, lately. -2:15 PM Apr 30th, 2010

LitChat @TwinkleChar I am going to DM you, please check shortly! #litchat -2:16 PM Apr 30th, 2010