



LitChat May 3, 2010

Topic of the Week: Sequels & Sagas

Open Chat, moderated by Erika Robuck (@ErikaRobuck)

MONDAY, May 3, 2010

ErikaRobuck Welcome to #litchat. This is @ErikaRobuck filling in for @LitChat. This week's topic is SEQUELS & SAGAS. 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck If you're here, introduce yourself. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ficwriter Good to see @ErikaRobuck is filling in for @LitChat. This weeks topic is SEQUELS & SAGAS. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck Ooooo, good topic =) #litchat 1 day ago from web

ficwriter I'm here and looking forward to today's discussion. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck According to Merriam Webster , a saga is defined as a "long, detailed account" or "prose narrative." #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck Welcome @ficwriter and @CourtneyKoschel! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck Q1: Which genres best lend themselves to sequels? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ficwriter @ErikaRobuck I would add that a saga chronicles the lives of several generations. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites @ErikaRobuck I believe genres that have a clear label, like mystery, horror, suspense, etc. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck @ficwriter Which lends sagas very nicely to sequels. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

sharifwrites @ErikaRobuck I've only seen sequels a few times with literary fiction, like Updike's Rabbit books. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck Hmm, for me it's not necessarily genre specific, but story specific. #litchat 1 day ago from web

agnieszkasshoes apologies but I can't find the #litchat tweets today, but look forward to joining you Wednesday if my computer behaves : 1 day ago from web

ficwriter Q1 Family sagas because the events are often set in motion by grandparents and have drastic effects on future generations. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck Maybe it's more about the characters than the genre? @sharifwrites @CourtneyKoschel #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck @agnieszkasshoes Hope your tweets start behaving! I've seen people complaining about Twitter today. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

sharifwrites @ErikaRobuck Yes, interesting to see characters grow and be in brand new situations. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck sorry, forgot my #litchat hashtag. I think it's definitely about characters and how much of a story they have to tell. 1 day ago from web

ErikaRobuck @ficwriter I love family sagas, but all those that currently come to mind are singles. (EAST OF EDEN, THORN BIRDS, ...) #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck So that leads to Q2: What's necessary to keep audience interest in a group of characters for a saga/sequel? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

Carrie_Wharton Have lost so much time doing queries & revisions since I dove into all this platform hysteria. How to strike right balance?? #litchat 1 day ago from web

ficwriter @ErikaRobuck Rebecca Wells Ya-Ya novels are among my favorites. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites @ErikaRobuck Keeping it fresh, rather than rehashing the same themes and actions. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
ficwriter @ErikaRobuck Q2 Tragedies, betrayals, triumphs, and reconciliations. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck @ficwriter Ah, yes! I love the YA YA's. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
ErikaRobuck RT @sharifwrites: @ErikaRobuck Keeping it fresh, rather than rehashing the same themes and actions. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
ErikaRobuck RT @ficwriter: @ErikaRobuck Q2 Tragedies, betrayals, triumphs, and reconciliations. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck Definitely the story and characters. I read 5 books from a 7 bk series and didn't finish the last 2 b/c of characters! #litchat 1 day ago from web
Carrie_Wharton Normally, even day or 2 off the manuscript makes returning to it harder, slower. Been 2 wks! Sorry 2 whine but wud LOVE any advice! #litchat 1 day ago from web
GLHancock Q2: How about a loose end and unanswered question (but not too many) and/or a minor cliffhanger? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
1 day ago from TweetDeck
ErikaRobuck @CourtneyKoschel Ooh, do tell. #litchat OUTLANDER?
ficwriter Absolutely! RT @GLHancock: Q2: How about a loose end and unanswered question (but not too many) and/or a minor cliffhanger? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck It was HOUSE OF NIGHT series. I kno a lot of ppl like it, but I couldn't handle characters had a coworker feel same #litchat 1 day ago from web
CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck the main character was unrealistically clueless. I thought it would get better, but never did #litchat 1 day ago from web
ErikaRobuck @CourtneyKoschel That's too bad. Flawed characters are necessary, but when there's no arc, what's the point? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
ficwriter @sharifwrites So true that there are few literary fiction sequels. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @ErikaRobuck Hi, joining you late. Gr8 Q's you're posting for #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
CourtneyKoschel @ErikaRobuck I agree. Normally I can suffer through, but not that one. #litchat 1 day ago from web
DebraMarrs @ficwriter Hiya. Good to see you back from #JazzFest and back to talking books #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck @GLHancock Yes, which must be why genre fiction tends to lend itself so well to sequels. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
ErikaRobuck @DebraMarrs Thanks, Debra! Welcome! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
kashicat Just got to #litchat, tho may have to observe more than talk today. 1 day ago from TweetDeck
ficwriter @DebraMarrs So glad you could join us. I'm back but not fully unpacked. :) #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @ficwriter @sharifwrites Sad that there are few literary fiction sequels. Always want more, more, more of good fiction #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck @kashicat Welcome! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
GLHancock @ErikaRobuck I can see historic, too, lends itself to sequels or sagas. What happens in the next decade, 100 years? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @kashicat Hi. Good to see you again too. I was late popping in just now also #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock e.g., Lauren Belfer is writing about New York through time. Her first, "City of Light," was fascinating. Now "A Fierce Radiance" #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @GLHancock Historical fiction is a great example. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck So Q3: Does it show a certain amount of fidelity, ego, or insanity (or a combination) for a writer to tackle a sequel? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

DebraMarrs @ErikaRobuck A strong sense of place/setting often draws me to a sequel ie. Susan Howatch's Penmarric + earlier bks #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites @DebraMarrs Yes, I loved what people like John Updike, Erica Jong, and Philip Roth did with literary sequels. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

DebraMarrs RT @ErikaRobuck:Q3: Does it show a certain amount of fidelity, ego, or insanity (or a combination) for a writer to tackle a sequel? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock @ErikaRobuck Q3: How about financial savvy? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites @ErikaRobuck A combination. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

sharifwrites @ErikaRobuck Fidelity because the writers believe in the characters and that their stories are not done. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

kashicat I think writer of a sequel can be either sane/insane, depending on whether it seems to "milk" the franchise, or is really needed. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ficwriter @ErikaRobuck Q3 I would imagine it's simply a story that begs to be told. Though money probably slithers it's way into it. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @sharifwrites Yes, yes. Updike one of the better and earliest to do well with literary sequels - the Rabbit series, you mean? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock @sharifwrites Like Updike's "Rabbit" series, which mirrored what he experienced through the decades? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

gstickle RT @GLHancock: e.g., Lauren Belfer is writing about New York through time. Her first, "City of Light," was fascinating. Now "A Fierce Radiance" #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck So intelligence, too. :) RT @GLHancock: @ErikaRobuck Q3: How about financial savvy? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

gstickle RT @DebraMarrs: @ficwriter @sharifwrites Sad that there are few literary fiction sequels. Always want more, more, more of good fiction #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites @GLHancock Yes, I'm very fond of that series. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ficwriter I've definitely read sequels that should not have been written. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

sharifwrites @DebraMarrs Yes, that series. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ErikaRobuck RT @DebraMarrs: @ErikaRobuck A strong sense of place/setting often draws me to a sequel ie. Susan Howatch's Penmarric + earlier bks #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock @sharifwrites I guess a lot of people are. I detest it, but read two of them for my book club. Now that was a great discussion! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs Agree w/@ficwriter @GLHancock : Q3-More story to tell + a brand that's already alive w/\$\$ ala JK Rowling Harry Potter #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @ficwriter Oh, me too! A waste! RT: I've definitely read sequels that should not have been written. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ficwriter Sagas and sequels can remain in the same town, span several continents, or stretch through a history of 15,000 years (Dune). #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock @ErikaRobuck Why is it that successive sequels satisfy less and less? Or am I the only one who thinks that happens? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

gstickle RT @ficwriter: Sagas and sequels can remain in the same town, span several continents, or stretch through a history of 15,000 years (Dune). #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant Hi! Popping in at the 11th hr.I think sequels are difficult to pull off & a good many of them are written at the publisher's urging #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @GLHancock If they satisfy less, the writer must be losing his/her passion for the characters. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

DebraMarrs Best sequel = when writer is truly engaged w/and loves characters. Like family, wants to sho what else they are abt #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant @DebraMarrs Methinks when you have a successful book, the publisher and the public want more of the same. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock @ficwriter Good example. I'm rereading the Dune series, amazed at how different each book is, but still fascinating. My fave fic! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

BookEditorLM In one sense every book after the first one is a sequel for that author, as he/she develops and evolves over time. #litchat 1 day ago from web

ErikaRobuck Writers have to find the balance between staying true to their art/satisfying the reader. It's a dance. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

DebraMarrs @deberryandgrant Is too bad when publisher urging is abt \$\$ and becomes "work" for the writer #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

AnitaDiggs RT @ficwriter: Sagas and sequels can remain in the same town, span several continents, or stretch through a history of 15,000 years (Dune). #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck RT @BookEditorLM: In one sense every book after the first one is a sequel for that author, as he/she develops and evolves over time. #litchat 1 day ago from web

AnitaDiggs RT @deberryandgrant: Hi! Popping in at the 11th hr.I think sequels are difficult to pull off & a good many of them are written at the publisher's urging #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs RT @ficwriter: Sagas and sequels can remain in the same town, span several continents, or stretch through a history #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant @DebraMarrs yes it is too bad, but so much (everything)about publishing these days is bottom line oriented #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

kashicat RT @deberryandgrant: ...a good many ... written at the publisher's urging #litchat [They know author's name will sell; not unknown quantity] 1 day ago from TweetDeck

GLHancock One wonders how the first book gets written if sequels need there to be "more to be told" -- it's still creating. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant @ErikaRobuck Yes, definitely a dance. And you must watch your toes! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ficwriter @GLHancock And most who read the Dune series, reread it. A helluva testament to great writing. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @ficwriter RE: same town/multiple time periods, PILLARS OF THE EARTH and WORLD W/O END seemed to keep the same intensity. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

DebraMarrs @BumbyScott LOL You are so funny! RT: @DebraMarrs Best sequel ever The Sears and Roebuck Catalog #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

DebraMarrs I know writers who hold back on 1st bk in anticipation of a sequel #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant @kashicat Yes. Some books are conceived as a series. But sequels are of necessity, more derivative from another, earlier work and #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant @kashicat and not necessarily as "inspired" as the original. At least not inspired by the same thing! \$\$\$ LOL #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

GLHancock @ErikaRobuck New novelists might be better off if they write a book, a sequel, throw away the first one, include backstory in 2nd #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

SujathaHampton hi everyone, truly tuning in as the bell gongs #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @GLHancock Probably a good idea. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

SujathaHampton writing a sequel is very very tempting, I think, sometimes... #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @SujathaHampton Welcome at any time! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

ficwriter @ErikaRobuck Yes, good example. I enjoyed Pillars and World equally. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @SujathaHampton Hi girl. Sorry missed your #litchat. Heard gr8 things and read the transcript #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck Wow--51 minutes and no one mentioned the TWILIGHT saga. I just had to say it. I'm not sure why. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

SujathaHampton @ErikaRobuck thank you. Nice talk here... writing a sequel is very tempting I think, sometimes. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

SujathaHampton @DebraMarrs we had a lot of fun, I want to come back some time. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @SujathaHampton Have you been drawn to writing a sequel? Would like to hear more abt being "very tempting" #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs LOL RT @ErikaRobuck: Wow--51 minutes and no one mentioned the TWILIGHT saga. I just had to say it. Im not sure why. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @ficwriter Maybe the use of new characters kept it fresh for Follett, and thus, his readers. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

SujathaHampton @DebraMarrs I was not at all drawn when I finished, but now, nearly every day someone writes begging me to... it begins to tempt #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @SujathaHampton Could be fun to "play" with your characters again in imagining where they are now #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

SujathaHampton @DebraMarrs very tempting in that I truly loved these characters, like they were my own people, and I have lots of thoughts #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ErikaRobuck @SujathaHampton If your readers are begging for a sequel, I think that's a pretty good reason to write one! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck

SujathaHampton @DebraMarrs Well, that and the ending of my book demands further address. I never meet with a group that doesn't ask what happens #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

deberryandgrant @DebraMarrs We waited 11 years to write a sequel. Revisiting the characters that many years later as well... #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

SujathaHampton @ErikaRobuck bless your heart, but the thing is that I have 4 projects in mind and am working on a book now, so...it'd have to wait #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

SujathaHampton @deberryandgrant Wow, 11 years, was everyone still fresh for you? My book just released so its all relatively new. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

ficwriter Thank you @ErikaRobuck for hosting a wonderful chat today. Does the saga continue on Wednesday? #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @deberryandgrant Wow, 11 yrs. That is a decade of catching up. Good for you! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck @SujathaHampton Of course, you have to write where your heart is calling you. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
GLHancock @SujathaHampton How very European of you to not wrap it all up in a neat package with a bow to finish! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @SujathaHampton Seems you have many reasons to write a sequel. All good ones and not abt the \$\$ as mentioned earlier #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck @ficwriter Thank you! And thanks to everyone for participating! Yes, the discussion continues on Wednesday with specific titles. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
SujathaHampton @GLHancock Very European, haha, I wish I'd known, I'd've started talking fancy. I can say that I really wanted to leave it open #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs Pls join me Wed. when I guest host #litchat. We'll talk abt specific titles/series that work/don't work as sequels/sagas #litchat #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton @DebraMarrs shoot, if it was about the money...I'd just go get a real job. But true, I do love these people. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck Friday guest host @KathrynMagendie will be here to complete the discussion. Visit the #LitChat website: http://bit.ly/6rvjzD for more info. 1 day ago from TweetDeck
SujathaHampton @ErikaRobuck Fun fun topic. I am so glad I ran in here to find you guys, even for ten minutes. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @SujathaHampton Your position is refreshing :) #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
GLHancock @ficwriter Do you wish someone would make more Dune movies? I surely do. I watch the first & remake repeatedly. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @ErikaRobuck Great job guest hosting today. Enjoyed the lively convo w/ everyone! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton @DebraMarrs I will def try to make it in the Wed. and my position is more necessity than refreshing. Its the only thing I wanna do #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
MarDixon RT @DebraMarrs Pls join me Wed. when I guest host #litchat. We'll talk abt specific titles/series that work/don't work as sequels/sagas 1 day ago from web
SujathaHampton @GLHancock DUNE. FREAKS. ME. OUT. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
GLHancock @ErikaRobuck Thank you for the thought-provoking questions. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
GLHancock @SujathaHampton Yes! I'm also a Peaks Freak, and an X-Phile! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs Looking forward to Fri. w/ @KathrynMagendie. #LitChat website: http://bit.ly/6rvjzD for more info. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
marisabirns @DebraMarrs Sorry to have missed #litchat today, but look forward to spending time with you on Wednesday! 1 day ago from web
SujathaHampton @GLHancock Peaks one thing DUNE an ENTIRELY differen thing! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ficwriter @GLHancock I rarely watch movies and have never seen the Dune movie. Guess I have that to look forward to. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ficwriter Me, too! RT @DebraMarrs: Looking forward to Fri. w/ @KathrynMagendie. #LitChat website: http://bit.ly/6rvjzD for more info. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat

DebraMarrs @SujathaHampton @marisabirns I hope you and others will join me on Wed. More on Sequels and Sagas, the best/worst of them #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton @marisabirns hi there! or should I write hi tehre #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
ErikaRobuck Thanks, again, everyone! #litchat 1 day ago from TweetDeck
CaptainNola @ficwriter Hiya. Good to see you back from #JazzFest and back to talking books #litchat: @ficwriter ... http://bit.ly/c2KFew via @NOLAfests 1 day ago from twitterfeed
SujathaHampton @ErikaRobuck and thank you, I'm out! Bye all. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
GLHancock @SujathaHampton OK, so what do you mean by "freaks me out"? They are all mind-bending bizarre unrealities. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @ErikaRobuck did a fab job. Let's send {{applause}} to her. Bye everyone - thanks for the great convo today. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
GLHancock Claps @ErikaRobuck #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton @GLHancock I can not bear, really, any apocalyptic depictions of the world, worse in movies. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton {{applause}} @ErikaRobuck, nice work. #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton @GLHancock Meaning, I still haven't recovered from The Road, Cormac McCarthy and likely never will, but Dune...shivvvverrrrs #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
marisabirns @SujathaHampton Hey, you! #litchat Don't forget the taquitos date! 1 day ago from web
GLHancock @SujathaHampton Hmm. I'll have to think on that interpretation. The Tyrant's Golden Path was to ensure human survival... #litchat 1 day ago from TweetChat
JSLion did I miss all of #litchat? about 24 hours ago from TweetDeck
deberryandgrant @SujathaHampton Sorry got called away. No they were not fresh. Had to re-read the original book & let them soak in all over again #litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetChat
JSLion @SujathaHampton Hey! Thats Mr. Goof! I was stuck in a meeting. :(#litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetDeck
deberryandgrant @DebraMarrs Readers had been asking for sequel for the entire 11yrs...so it was a daunting challenge to undertake--lots of pressure #litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetChat
SujathaHampton @deberryandgrant Oh wow, that must have been a challenge. What made you think of doing it after so long? #litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetDeck
DebraMarrs @JSLion It looks like you did miss it all. Come back on Wed. when I'll be the guest host to continue convo on Sequels and Sagas #litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetChat
DebraMarrs @deberryandgrant Yes, I'll bet. When peeps know what they want, pressure to deliver. Yikes! #litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetChat
JSLion @DebraMarrs I will plan on it! Thanks! #litchat about 24 hours ago from TweetDeck
ErikaRobuck @DebraMarrs *blushes* Thx ladies! #litchat. about 23 hours ago from Echofon