



LitChat July 2, 2010

Topic of the Week: Write What You Love

Guest Host: Alexander Campion

The transcripts below cover the #litchat conversation noted above. The order appears sequentially from opening post to the closing post within the #litchat published chat time.

Guest host: @AlexCampion

LitChat Ready for #litchat? Joining us today is @AlexCampion, food writer and author of brand new mystery novel, THE GRAVE GOURMET. Welcome, Alex! -1:00 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion I'm delighted to be here! #litchat -1:01 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion LOVE that cover! like a little painting - gorgeous colors. #litchat -1:01 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @GLHancock Not at all. We can always find common ground. #litchat #scifichat -1:01 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat Easy way to follow chat is through <http://bit.ly/MH5Qs>. Login w/Twitter info and you're in the studio. #litchat -1:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

GLHancock @AlexCampion Hello! Welcome. Tell us about your book and your work. #litchat -1:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion It is a painting. The same painter will be do the next cover. #litchat -1:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion Ah! So it is a painting. Lovely lovely. #litchat -1:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

TessDickenson @katmagendie From 110 degree Phoenix, I'm not sure that was a nice thing to say -> "... it's that nice and cool here" #litchat -1:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion The book is a story about a Paris police detective married to a food critic. Its all about the French food world. #litchat -1:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis How y'all doing? Cathryn Louis, randomly lurking. Sorry about all the great replies I missed last time. Was on my cell then too... #litchat -1:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Actually, the cover went to committee and they insisted on adding the little Eiffel tower. #litchat -1:04 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie RT @AlexCampion: The book is a story about a Paris police detective married to a food critic. Its all about the French food world. #litchat -1:04 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @CathrynLouis Hello 'athryn with a C :) #litchat -1:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose RT @katmagendie: RT @AlexCampion: The book is a story about a Paris police detective married to a food critic. Its all about the French food world. #litchat -1:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Hi, Cathryn. Glad to have you here. #litchat -1:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion It's not intrusive - love the little outdoor cafe setting; almost Van Goghish #litchat -1:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Actually, I'm dying to see the next cover. I'm usually the last to get a glimpse. #litchat -1:06 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

JMoncktonSmith @AuthorWilliam but you're missing #litchat -1:07 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @TessDickenson lawd! 110! But I lived n South Louisiana many years-now that's muggy hot! This is heaven...ahhhh *grinning* #litchat -1:07 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat Our topic this week has been WRITE WHAT YOU LOVE. You created a food critic in GRAVE GOURMET. Tell us about that. #litchat -1:08 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis @AlexCampion thanks! #litchat -1:08 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion I just got back from New York and 92 in that humidity was more than enough. 110! Wow! #litchat - 1:08 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion I know the feeling! (re:covers). #litchat -1:08 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

JMoncktonSmith can love and obsession be the same thing? #litchat -1:09 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion I was a food critic for years and when I decided to write a mystery it just had to be about food. #litchat -1:09 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion So, for people who do not usually read mysteries, will the food draw them in! :) #litchat -1:09 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Of course, I also wanted it to be about the seamy side of the restaurant business. #litchat -1:10 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

GLHancock @JMoncktonSmith A person can love and obsess at the same time, yes, but love and obsession are different. #litchat -1:10 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion And naturally it had to be in Paris where I've lived most of my life. #litchat -1:10 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CEMcKenzie1 @AlexCampion like Kitchen Confidential/ Bone in the Throat? #litchat -1:10 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion I also wanted it to be about the seamy side of the restaurant business>>>>oh! Sold! *laughing* I've wkd in restaurants #litchat -1:11 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Let me put it this way, the launch party dinner was at Anthony Bourdain's old restaurant. #litchat - 1:11 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion French kitchens are just as tough, but in a very different way, as Bourdain's. #litchat -1:12 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion Let me put it this way, the launch party dinner was at Anthony Bourdain's old restaurant>>>very very cool! #litchat -1:12 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion Are signed copies available? #litchat -1:12 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LiaKeys @dosankodebbie GREAT title! THE GRAVE GOURMET by @AlexCampion, food writer and author of new mystery novel. :) #litchat -1:13 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @JMoncktonSmith I'll be there shortly. Promised my son I'd watch it with him. #litchat -1:13 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

dosankodebbie My 2 passions: mystery and cuisine!! RT @AlexCampion: The book is a story about a Paris police detective married to a food critic. #litchat -1:13 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Signed copies are definitely available. I'm just figuring out with the publisher how to get them out there. #litchat -1:13 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

MuseInks @JMoncktonSmith Love = "What can I do 4 U?" Obsession = "What U do for/to me." Flip sides of same coin, but very diff. motivators. #litchat -1:14 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

TessDickenson @katmagendie Spent decades in South...definitely prefer desert hot to humid hot! But mercy! South makes for better writing tho! #litchat -1:14 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @katmagendie: @AlexCampion Let me put it this way, the launch party dinner was at Anthony Bourdain's old restaurant>>>very very cool! #litchat -1:14 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat You talk about the process of food and have a few recipes on your website from dishes in the book. Are you a cook, as well? #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion The title was my editor's idea. I didn't like it at first, but now I think it's way better than mine was. #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AuthorWilliam I'm reading your book! See how twitter/@litchat connects! :-D I'd may never have found your book otherwise. #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @MuseInks: @JMoncktonSmith Love = "What can I do 4 U?" Obsession = "What U do for/to me." Flip sides of same coin, but very diff. motivators. #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion Let me know, though it's not a requirement. I send signed bookplates sometimes to readers :) #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

GLHancock @MuseInks The opposite side of love is ... no, not obsession or hate ... indifference. #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Actually, my wife is the professional cook. I'm just an amateur, but I do love my time in the kitchen. #litchat -1:15 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LiaKeyes @AlexCampion It takes a while to adjust when you've lived with a previous title for ages. This one makes me focus on character. #litchat -1:16 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @TessDickenson Yup, when I went to Vegas I didn't feel the 110 as much as South Louisiana's 85! yorp! Nice & dry here at 3400 feet #litchat -1:16 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion I'm delighted you're reading the book. Readers are magical for authors. The greatest joy was meeting the first person to buy it. #litchat -1:16 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis @AlexCampion I have 2 ask...what was your title? #litchat -1:17 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat We're talking with @AlexCampion during this hour. Please, let's keep the convo and questions directed to him. Thanks! #litchat -1:17 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: I'm delighted you're reading the book. Readers are magical for authors. The greatest joy was meeting the first person to buy it. #litchat -1:18 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion You're so right about the title. I was in love with mine. Thank goodness my editor stuck to his guns. #litchat -1:18 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

GLHancock @AlexCampion And the publisher is ... ? #litchat -1:18 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat Where did you get the idea of writing in the POV of a female detective? #litchat -1:19 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion My title was awful. The Rooster's Commitment. It's a silly joke that came up in the last chapter. Unbelievably I loved it! #litchat -1:19 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

Gale_Martin RT @CEMcKenzie1: The suspense is killing me - who will be 800th member of Author Effect? <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=113149048727107> #litchat -1:19 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion The female POV was a natural. I grew up in a matriarchal family and had three daughter. Women, somehow, make sense to me. #litchat -1:20 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

MuseInks @GLHancock I respectfully disagree. Indifference is the opposite of passion. Still maintain love & obsession are polars. #litchat -1:20 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion The Rooster's Commitment - okay, I like your editor's better; he/she was wise *LAUGHING* - *grin* #litchat -1:21 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion The publisher is Kensington. They were kind enough to sign a two-book deal right from the getgo. #litchat -1:21 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion PS - I am horrid at titles, so hope you don't mind my teasing you on your original title - you should see some of mine #litchat -1:21 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat @AlexCampion What was your working title, before the last chapter's ROOSTER crowed? #litchat -1:22 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion About the title. You can't imagine how upset I got. I learned my lesson. #litchat -1:22 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Titles: Think of Fitzgerald's awful titles for The Great Gatsby. #litchat -1:22 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

EarthsDivide @AlexCampion - what is the hardest thing, for you, when editing conversation - how do you make it work??? #litchat -1:22 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @LitChat What was your working title, before the last chapter's ROOSTER crowed?>>>>*laughing!* :-D #litchat -1:22 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion My working titles are all the same Capucine (the heroine). I'm now working on Capucine Three. #litchat -1:23 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

JMoncktonSmith @Muselinks I like that perspective #litchat -1:24 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion And there's even an outline for Capucine Four. #litchat -1:24 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion So then, you work from outlines instead of "seat of pants" ? #litchat -1:24 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @katmagendie: @AuthorWilliam I'm reading your book! See how twitter/@litchat connects! :-D I'd may never have found your book otherwise. #litchat -1:25 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Conversation: The hardest thing to do. I read it to my dog. (Actually, I'm reading to myself but he doesn't know.) #litchat -1:25 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

dosankodebbie @AlexCampion So book 2 is already finished? Ready to publish? When? #litchat -1:25 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Yes. I do a very long outline. About fifty pages and then crank out a quick first draft. And then spend months rewriting it. #litchat -1:26 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @katmagendie Thanks for your kind words! I totally agree. I've been #blessed to have a number of readers find my book via twitter & #litchat -1:26 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Book two is done and has been edited by the publisher. It's called The Game Hunter. #litchat -1:26 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion It takes place half in a country chateau and half in Paris. #litchat -1:27 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat How long did it take you to land an agent and then for the book to sell? #litchat -1:27 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis @AlexCampion do you find that sometimes convo takes on a life of its own? #litchat -1:27 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion It will be out in June of 2011 at the same time the trade paperback of The Grave Gourmet comes out. #litchat -1:27 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

thatgalkiki Great Q! @LitChat How long did it take you to land an agent and then for the book to sell? #litchat -1:28 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @AlexCampion: Yes. I do a very long outline. About fifty pages and then crank out a quick first draft. And then spend months rewriting it. #litchat -1:28 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion It's very tough to get an agent for a first novel. I think I contacted over 60 before I figured out something was wrong. #litchat -1:28 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Then I found a wonderful mystery author who critiqued it. And I completely rewrote the book. #litchat -1:29 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @AlexCampion Sounds like two perfect halves... #litchat -1:29 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose Sorry I'm so late. Was stuck in traffic! #litchat -1:29 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Miraculously, once I'd done that, I sent it to ten agents and three immediately came back to me. I picked the one I liked most. #litchat -1:30 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

GeneDoucette @AlexCampion interesting you say that abt agents. I'm holding off on looking (again) until my 1st novel comes out at this point. #litchat -1:30 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam I'm lurking in #litchat still keeping my #WorldCup promise to my son. Though I believe our guest is a plotter! Yay plotters! :-)-1:30 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion That was an absolutely fabulous week. And now I have a very warm and supportive relationship with my agent. #litchat -1:30 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
Moribundy I completely forgot about #litchat today! -1:31 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat @AlexCampion: Did you get full or partial requests from the original query? #litchat -1:31 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat Welcome. You're Alex's daughter, right? RT @kikarose: Sorry Im so late. Was stuck in traffic! #litchat -1:31 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Finding the right agent is vital. It's about far more than just selling the first book. #litchat -1:31 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Hi Jess. Welcome aboard. Jess is indeed my daughter and a novelist in her own right! #litchat -1:32 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
WriterCLKelly RT @AlexCampion: Yes. I do a very long outline. About fifty pages and then crank out a quick first draft. And then spend months rewriting it. #litchat -1:33 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
kikarose @AlexCampion Well one day I will be! Aspiring for now! #litchat -1:33 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion On the first go around of 60 agents I got a handful of requests for partials and one for a full. All turndowns. #litchat -1:33 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @kikarose Welcome, Alex's daughter Jess! :) #litchat -1:33 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion In retrospect that was a very weak book. There were far too many points of view. #litchat -1:34 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
dosankodebbie @AlexCampion So how does one find the right agent? Any tips? #litchat -1:34 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion The second time around I just started the story at A and told it simply until it got to B. That worked. #litchat -1:34 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
kikarose @katmagendie Thank you! #litchat -1:34 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
deberryandgrant RT @AlexCampion: Finding the right agent is vital. It's abt far more than just selling 1st book.#litchat <-IMO Ur most imp pub relationship -1:34 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion The right agent: Query a lot. Research carefully. Write a killer query. And then have a good book to send. Easy, right? #litchat -1:35 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: The right agent: Query a lot. Research carefully. Write a killer query. And then have a good book to send. Easy, right? #litchat -1:36 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
dosankodebbie RT @AlexCampion: The right agent: Query a lot. Research carefully. Write a killer query. Have a good book to send. Easy, right? #litchat -1:36 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
kikarose Seems to me like you have to remember that the agent hunt is also about finding a good fit. It's like dating. #litchat -1:36 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @AlexCampion: Sounds you had query problems at beginning also. But even if a great query, if the ms isn't ready, it's not ready. #litchat -1:37 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @kikarose: Seems to me like you have to remember that the agent hunt is also about finding a good fit. It's like dating. #litchat -1:37 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion That very true. There are really two battles in finding a agent. The right query and then the right book. #litchat -1:38 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
katrinalantzov RT @kikarose: Seems to me like you have to remember that the agent hunt is also about finding a good fit. It's like dating. #litchat -1:38 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Also you have to find someone who understand what you're trying to do. #litchat -1:38 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @AlexCampion What did you do when you first received your newly pub'd book(s) -author copies - in the mail? :) #litchat -1:38 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @AlexCampion Kudos on making the revisions. Many raw writers don't take the effort to learn why their ms isn't selling. #litchat -1:38 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CathrynLouis I also have multiple povs. How do you find out how many are too many? #litchat -1:39 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
deberryandgrant Many new writers don't want criticism. If you don't like their ms, it's you, not the book. #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
dosankodebbie @AlexCampion Does that mean that if you have two very different types of books, you need two dif agents? #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
JAScribbles #kindleauthors RT @LitChat Easy way to follow chat is through http://bit.ly/MH5Qs . Login w/Twitter info and you're in the studio. #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Authors' copies: Mine just arrived this afternoon. The first time I saw my book was at the initial signing. #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat In GRAVE GOURMET you killed of president of a major corporation. Did you run into legal or ethical issues using corporate name? #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion POV: tricky. Ideally, one one. Makes it easier for the reader to identify with the protagonist. #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @deberryandgrant: Many new writers don't want criticism. If you don't like their ms, it's you, not the book. #litchat -1:40 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LindaKay_astray I queried 83 agents before I found mine! #litchat -1:41 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
deberryandgrant Don't let desire to be pubbed make you sign with an agent that you don't like, trust and respect #litchat -1:41 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion POV: I think it has a lot to do with the writer's skill. Right now I can't handle more than one plus the narrator. #litchat -1:41 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
kikarose RT @deberryandgrant: Dont let desire to be pubbed make you sign with an agent that you dont like, trust and respect #litchat -1:41 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre So maybe the secret to getting a mainstream hit is to write for extroverted nonreaders? #litchat -1:42 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
write12b RT @deberryandgrant: Don't let desire to be pubbed make you sign with an agent that you don't like, trust and respect #litchat -1:42 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Legal: I let the publisher worry about that stuff. BTW. I didn't get a free car. But I'm hoping. #litchat -1:42 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @kikarose: RT @deberryandgrant: Dont let desire to be pubbed make you sign with an agent that you dont like, trust and respect #litchat -1:43 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion So right about the agent: they're going to be your best friend. Pick carefully. Very carefully. #litchat -1:43 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LizaWiemer @AlexCampion loving your comments on #litchat Back to writing, just saw them on my feed :) -1:44 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
ProfessorofPlay RT @deberryandgrant: Dont let desire to be pubbed make you sign with an agent that you dont like, trust and respect #litchat (via @kikarose) -1:44 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Criticism: It's unbelievable how thick skinned writers have to be. #litchat -1:44 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

alc417 I agree with @bederryandgrant. I've found an agent I like, trust, and respect. I just hope she likes, trusts, and respects my work! #litchat -1:45 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Criticism: the other day the owner of a bookshop I wanted to do a signing at told me my book was the worst mystery ever. #litchat -1:45 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion It's unbelievable how thick skinned writers have to be.>>So true. But I don't read reviews unless my publicist sends #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @AlexCampion It's good that you're placing this kind of focus on selecting a member of your team. Very important for artists. #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: Criticism: It's unbelievable how thick skinned writers have to be. #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Hi Liza. So good to see you here. #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass If she didn't she wouldn't have signed you. RT @alc417: I just hope she likes, trusts, and respects my work! #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion to do a signing at told me my book was the worst mystery ever. >>>how rude! good lord! So sorry you had to hear that! #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose @AlexCampion The right answer to that (to quote a famous movie) is "Mistake. Big, big mistake." #litchat -1:46 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @AlexCampion I always say "Books are not like Sara Lee." There's always somebody who doesn't like yours... #litchat -1:47 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

alc417 RT @AlexCampion: The right agent: Query a lot. Research carefully. Write a killer query. And then have a good book to send. Easy, right? #litchat -1:47 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion ALC: How nice for you. Have a great agent is one of the good things in life. It really is. #litchat -1:47 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @deberryandgrant I always say "Books are not like Sara Lee." There's always somebody who doesn't like yours... *laugh* so TRUE! #litchat -1:47 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant That is if anybody remembers the old Sara Lee commercials... #litchat -1:48 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis @AlexCampion must be hard 2 find balance between being thick-skinned & taking criticism #litchat -1:48 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Maybe there's always someone who doesn't like your book, but do they really have to tell you? #litchat -1:48 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @CathrynLouis: @AlexCampion must be hard 2 find balance between being thick-skinned & taking criticism #litchat -1:48 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @deberryandgrant I do, with it's double sounded meaning "nobody doesn't like/nobody does it like" sara lee #litchat -1:48 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @CathrynLouis Great point. I was going to make the same one: We have to know when to have our guard down as well. #litchat -1:49 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion When you get right down to it there are so few people who offer constructive criticism. #litchat -1:49 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass I remember Sara Lee...and on that arc, I'll add there's not a Mikey who likes every book he reads. @deberryandgrant #litchat -1:49 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion Exactly-to tell you that to you face as you stand there...good lord. #litchat -1:49 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

alc417 I can't get too excited yet @AlexCampion. She's got my full and we've emailed a lot, but I'm afraid to hope, honestly. #litchat -1:50 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion But even being severely dissed is better than those awful "not for us right now" notes. #litchat -1:50 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @AlexCampion 1 of the problems w/the democratic forum of the internet/ soc networks."They" find ways to tell u all kinds of stuff #litchat -1:50 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion But constructive crit after the book is out is kind of ...well...! what can you do about it :-D #litchat -1:50 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AuthorWilliam: @CathrynLouis Great point. I was going to make the same one: We have to know when to have our guard down as well. #litchat -1:50 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose @AlexCampion At least she read the book. #litchat -1:50 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @AlexCampion When people go out of the way to criticize in such a way, it's not about the book, or even you. It's about THEM. #litchat -1:51 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion ALC: Hope! Getting someone to read a full is a big, big deal. It's a big commitment on their part. #litchat -1:51 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

SesshasWorld @AlexCampion yes - because it makes THEM feel good #litchat -1:51 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @katmagendie Whew! Glad I'm not the only one who remembers the vintage ad #litchat -1:51 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @kikarose @AlexCampion At least she read the book. >>>for free, I bet...harumph. Okay, off my harumph horse now *laugh* #litchat -1:52 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis @AlexCampion that makes it hard 4 new writer to find a good critique #litchat -1:52 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose @katmagendie I like the harumph horse! #litchat -1:52 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @deberryandgrant I remember it well! :-) now i want cake. dang. #litchat -1:52 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @kikarose I like the harumph horse! *laughing!* -- :-D #litchat -1:53 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @CarolyBurnsBass so true! #litchat -1:53 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @katmagendie oops! Sorry. #litchat -1:53 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Actually, I'm blessed that I've had excellent reviews. I don't know how I'd take something scathing. #litchat -1:54 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion i suppose that's why so many authors refuse to read reviews. #litchat -1:54 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

alc417 Thanks @AlexCampion. I guess I'm moving past realism into pessimism out of fear. That doesn't do me any good. Thanks for the hope.#litchat -1:55 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @AlexCampion And/or reviews from those who clearly have not read the book...that happens a lot. #litchat -1:55 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat In these waning minutes, what advice would you offer not-yet-published writers? #litchat -1:55 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @CarolyBurnsBass What is it about that? That spirit is in many of the arts but I see it the heaviest in the writing community. #litchat -1:55 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion ALC: If one agent want a full, others will, and it's because the book is a good one. Chill. #litchat -1:56 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion I quit lookng while ahead -have no idea what's out there. If we b'lieve good ones, gotta blieve bad ones, too? dilemma #litchat -1:56 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @deberryandgrant @AlexCampion And/or reviews from those who clearly have not read the book...that happens a lot.>>>kidding! really? #litchat -1:56 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Advice: Write as well and as simply as you can and when you've got it right, market the hell out of it. #litchat -1:57 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie RT @AlexCampion: Advice: Write as well and as simply as you can and when youve got it right, market the hell out of it. #litchat -1:57 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion I think, having done it myself, the main problem of debut novelists is that they try to do too much. #litchat -1:57 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose @katmagendie @AlexCampion A review is just a person's opinion. Everyone is entitled to their own taste. Doesn't make them right. #litchat -1:57 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose RT @AlexCampion: Advice: Write as well and as simply as you can and when youve got it right, market the hell out of it. #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @AuthorWilliam You mean the mean-spirited criticism? I don't see it often in the writing community. I've found writers supportive. #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant RT @AlexCampion: Advice: Write as well and as simply as you can and when youve got it right, market the hell out of it. #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @AlexCampion I think, having done it myself, the main problem of debut novelists is that they try to do too much>>>this is true #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

ShaliniBoland RT @AlexCampion: Advice: Write as well and as simply as you can and when you've got it right, market the hell out of it. #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat Elaborate? RT @AlexCampion: I think, having done it myself, the main problem of debut novelists is that they try to do too much. #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @kikarose A review is just a person's opinion. Everyone is entitled to their own taste. Doesn't make them right>>>Yes! true! :-) #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: Advice: Write as well and as simply as you can and when you've got it right, market the hell out of it. #litchat -1:58 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Simple: I thing we all want to put a little of every good book we've ever read into our work. #litchat -1:59 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

katmagendie RT @CarolyBurnsBass: @AuthorWilliam mean-spirited criticism? dont see it often in writing community. Ive found writers supportive. #litchat -1:59 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Simple: The novel depends on the narrative transfer. The reader has to identify with the protagonist. #litchat -2:00 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: Simple: I thing we all want to put a little of every good book we've ever read into our work. #litchat -2:00 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

AlexCampion Simple: That just can't happen if there are too many POV's, too many voices driving the story. #litchat -2:00 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: Simple: The novel depends on the narrative transfer. The reader has to identify with the protagonist. #litchat -2:01 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @kikarose By virtue of expression, an opinion can't be right or wrong, anyway. #litchat -2:01 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @AlexCampion Friends of mine have a great radio show:
<http://www.restaurantguysradio.com/sle/rg/about/contact/> Send a review copy #litchat -2:01 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

CathrynLouis RT @AlexCampion: Simple: That just can't happen if there are too many POV's, too many voices driving the story. #litchat -2:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

deberryandgrant @AlexCampion They love food and books and books about food. Show has over 100k listeners all over the world. #litchat -2:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

kikarose @CarolyBurnsBass Exactly! #litchat -2:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Reviews might not be right or wrong but the New York Times sells books. Actually, a bad NYT review is better than none. #litchat -2:02 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat Here we are at the top of the hour @AlexCampion promised. He's welcome to stick around, but we must let him go if he must. #litchat -2:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
kikarose @AlexCampion If the NYT deems your book worthy of a write up, any write up, who cares what they actually have to say? ;-) #litchat -2:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Thanks for the advice. A review copy is on the way! #litchat -2:03 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat @deberryandgrant RT @AlexCampion: Thanks for the advice. A review copy is on the way! #litchat -2:04 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CarolyBurnsBass Yes, & not so much the writing community but in the process of critiquing writing, verses acting or visual design. #litchat -2:04 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Carolyn, that was the most fun I've had in a very long time. Thanks for the opportunity. Sadly, I have to run. #litchat -2:04 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
Writers_Life Writers,"Head out on the highway" and come to the Born to be Wild Party http://ow.ly/26fvN #Writers_Life #amwriting #litchat -2:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @AlexCampion Thank you for the great chat, et cetera - good luck with your books, Alex! #litchat -2:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
deberryandgrant @AlexCampion I shall tell them to look for it. #litchat -2:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @AlexCampion Thanks for being a part of #litchat today. I'm glad I got to at least lurk for part of it. Bravo to you! -2:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
AlexCampion Thank you all. This was great. Good luck with all your writing. #litchat -2:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
CathrynLouis @AlexCampion thanks 4 the chat. Bye everyone - enjoy the weekend! #litchat -2:05 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
kikarose That was fun! Thanks for letting me crash the party everyone! #litchat -2:06 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat Looks like @AlexCampion must head out. Let's all give him a big round of {{{APPLAUSE}}} for joining us today. #litchat -2:06 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
Doublelattemama RT @LitChat: Looks like @AlexCampion must head out. Lets all give him a big round of {{{APPLAUSE}}} for joining us today. #litchat -2:06 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
dosankodebbie @AlexCampion Thanks for being here today! #litchat -2:06 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
deberryandgrant Have a happy and safe 4th weekend everyone! #litchat -2:06 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
worldblee .@AlexCampion is on fire in #litchat today. Good stuff! -2:07 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat I wish I'd had a Monkey Brains in my hand during the chat. If you don't know what that is, go to www.alexandercampion.com/monkey . #litchat -2:07 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
so_you_know RT @Writers_Life: Writers,"Head out on the highway" to the Born to be Wild Party http://ow.ly/26fvN #Writers_Life #amwriting #litchat -2:07 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
deberryandgrant @katmagendie About half the time you can tell the review read the press materials only. Never cracked a page... #litchat -2:08 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat Many thanks to all of the regular #litchattics and those who stopped in for the first time today. Hope you'll return for more #litchat -2:08 PM Jul 2nd, 2010
LitChat Chatscripts of this week's WRITE WHAT YOU LOVE and today with @AlexCampion will be posted this weekend. #litchat -2:09 PM Jul 2nd, 2010

LitChat Be sure to come back for next week's topic, REINVENTION, and Friday's guest host @ClaireCookBooks, author of SEVEN YEAR SWITCH. #litchat -2:10 PM Jul 2nd, 2010