



LitChat August 6, 2010

Topic of the Week: Men in Love

Guest Host: Jeffrey Stepakoff, author

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: @JeffStepakoff

LitChat More MEN IN LOVE. Join us in 15 minutes to talk with @JeffStepakoff, author of FIREWORKS OVER TOCCOA. #litchat 4pmET. -12:45 PM Aug 6th, 2010

homeconfessions Saying hello before Friday starts. #litchat -12:52 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff jeffrey stepakoff is here! #litchat -12:56 PM Aug 6th, 2010

asiajane Hi everyone! I am a newcomer to #litchat and Twitter chats in general! Looking forward to this. -12:57 PM Aug 6th, 2010

ficwriter So glad to be here. Read the first few pages of Fireworks on Website. It looks great. #litchat -12:59 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette Hi Jeff! Just wanted to say I truly enjoyed Fireworks Over Toccoa! #litchat -12:59 PM Aug 6th, 2010

asiajane Interesting re: Negrofonte's article. What does @JeffStepakoff think? #litchat -12:59 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LitChat Welcome to Friday's #litchat with guest host @JeffStepakoff. Just got off the phone with him and he's ready to go! #litchat -1:01 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Hi everyone! #litchat -1:01 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Thanks for the nice words Write Wilette & Ficwriter #litchat -1:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LitChat Make #litchat easier by using <http://bit.ly/MH5Qs>. Login w/ Twitter and you're in the studio. Join us now. -1:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LitChat While everyone is gathering, take a moment to introduce yourself and give @JeffStepakoff a big #litchat welcome. -1:03 PM Aug 6th, 2010

NathanCarriker Hey everybody...supposed to be taking my 9 year old to the hobby store, but... #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette Jeff, did you base Jake off anyone in particular, or was he a figment of your imagination? #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 6th, 2010

AuthorWilliam William, published indie author. Welcoming @JeffStepakoff to #litchat today! -1:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010

NathanCarriker ...why hog all that guilt to myself? ;-) #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Jake is a bit of a figment. #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LitChat @JeffStepakoff This is your first novel, can you tell us a bit about your background prior to writing long-form fiction? #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Lily and Honey are based more on real characters. #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010

ficwriter @JeffStepakoff Love the way Lily and Jake meet. "It was animal. Visceral." Great writing and Southern voice. Can't wait to read. #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I'm actually trained as a playwright. MFA from CMU... #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Went to Hollywood when I was in my early twenties and wrote for TV and movies. #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 6th, 2010

lacarrington1 Hello, I'm Lori. Just had my book picked up by Night Publishing to be in paperback around end of year. Welcome @JeffStepakoff ! #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Wrote for The Wonder Years and Sisters and Dawson's Crk, among others. #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Hi everyone joining!!! #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam *raises roof for the theatre* RT @JeffStepakoff I'm actually trained as a playwright. MFA from CMU... #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker Loved, LOVED Wonder Years! #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Nice to meet you all, and thank you so much for the nice words about the book. REALLY means a lot to me. #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 Impressive credentials! RT @JeffStepakoff I'm actually trained as a playwright. MFA from CMU... #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @lacarrington1 Congrats on the book sale. Keep us updated on its progress. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Thanks guys. TV training in many ways can be good for story development. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ficwriter @lacarrington1 Congratulations, Lori. :) #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @lacarrington1 [whispered] *congrats!* #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @LitChat saying hello late. My intro? If you're obsessed with home and what that means check out my blog. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 RT @ficwriter: @lacarrington1 Congratulations, Lori. :) #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 RT @AuthorWilliam: @lacarrington1 [whispered] *congrats!* #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ficwriter RT @NathanCarriker: Loved, LOVED Wonder Years! #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CathrynLouis Happy Friday! Mostly lurking 2day... #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @ficwriter You will love all of the southernisms in FIREWORKS OVER TOCCOA. #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 Thanks! Still excited. RT LitChat @lacarrington1 Congrats on the book sale. Keep us updated on its progress #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @JeffStepakoff I agree, in what ways do you feel TV training can be good for story development? #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
suzannehatton Don't think I'll be in #litchat again today. Have fun without me! -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @JeffStepakoff Loved Wonder Years! #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CathrynLouis We'll find a way to rope you out of the lurker shadows! :) #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff WYears was a lot of fun to write. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Sitting in story rooms under pressure of production gives you a set of tools. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ErikaRobuck You had me at The Wonder Years. One of my all time favorite shows. Hi all! *waves* (lurks) #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @JeffStepakoff What challenges did you encounter writing a novel, as opposed to screenplays? #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @suzannehatton Oh no! Will miss your input. Will get counseling. May never get over it tho. ;-) (have a great weekend!) #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions Do you see the shape of your story before you begin writing? #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 6th, 2010

NathanCarriker From your perspective and experience, how "bleak" is the publishing picture for new, uncredentialed writers? #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 What's easier to write...screenplays or novels? #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @ErikaRobuck *waves to the lurker shadows* #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff With fiction you have only prose to tell a story. You are the actors, the director, the designer... #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @AuthorWilliam :) #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff In some ways, of course, that's more challenging... but #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 Hey talented authors tweeting in the shadows...#litchat is happening right now! Come on in! -1:12 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions In other words, you feel in total control with fiction? or no? #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff What's esp great about fiction is the opp to get it right. Get it just the way you want it. #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Lindzbinz_H is there a makeup #fantasytalk happening today? if so i'm game. #scifichat #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @JeffStepakoff: "What's esp great about fiction is the opp to get it right. Get it just the way you want it. #litchat" -1:13 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff So I think you use a lot of the same muscles. Wouldn't say one is easier than another. #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 RT @JeffStepakoff: "What's esp great about fiction is the opp to get it right. Get it just the way you want it. #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette The novel seemed shorter than average... did you have a hard time getting it published? #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AustinMullen @Lindzbinz_H Hadn't planned on it but we certainly can #fantasytalk #scifichat #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Hi to you all that have just come in! #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 RT @JeffStepakoff So I think you use a lot of the same muscles. Wouldn't say one is easier than another #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @JeffStepakoff: Whats esp great about fiction is the opp to get it right. Get it just the way you want it. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff It was a bit shorter than usual, but that wasn't an obstacle. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 6th, 2010
asiajane @JeffStepakoff having control over all of those aspects must give U more freedom, though. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff fiction u have only prose to tell a story. You are the actors, the director, the designer. #litchat <<Love this about fic -1:15 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker RT @WriteWilette: The novel seemed shorter than average... could we get a rough word count? 60K? #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff What's esp great about fiction is the opp to get it right. Get it just the way you want it. #litchat <<AMEN & AMEN :) -1:16 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff These are all such good questions! #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CathrynLouis @JeffStepakoff How would you compare dialogue in a script vs a novel? PS - loved WY #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker Hey kids, @jeffstepakoff is in the #litchat room. -1:16 PM Aug 6th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @JeffStepakoff The little town of Toccoa, Georgia is a character within the novel. Was this intended or developed with the story? #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette @NathanCarriker I'm not sure. @JeffStepakoff? #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I think the dialogue is basically the same in a novel and a screenplay, what's diff is... #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AustinMullen Okay, who wants a makeup #fantasytalk this afternoon? #scifichat #litchat #flitchat -1:17 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff The use of prose in a novel to express how the dialogue should be delivered. #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Speaking from the POV of a theatre/film director, I love what you have to say about fiction's emboldening of our individual voice. #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ErikaRobuck Poe was all for short fiction. He advocated reading a story in one sitting to get the full meaning. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff And again, in a novel, you are free -- in fact it's your job, I think -- to use prose to explain how the dialogue is to be heard. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @JeffStepakoff say more about "use of prose to express how dial should be delivered..." #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff: The use of prose in a novel to express how the dialogue should be delivered. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel RT @LitChat: Visit with @JeffStepakoff, author of FIREWORKS OVER TOCCOA, today in #litchat. Join us at 4pmET: http://bit.ly/MH5Qs -1:18 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Lindzbinz_H RT @AustinMullen: Okay, who wants a makeup #fantasytalk this afternoon? #scifichat #litchat #flitchat -1:18 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @AustinMullen I hate to be a baddie, but we have a topic chat going with a guest author. Would you hold your request until after #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @ErikaRobuck Interesting! That Poe always up to something. #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 What's your take on the "show vs. tell" issue? #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Again, use of prose to explain the delivery of dialogue is writer as actor, writer as director. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel RT @JeffStepakoff: With fiction you have only prose to tell a story. You are the actors, the director, the designer... #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CathrynLouis @JeffStepakoff Oh! I see. Thank you. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker @LitChat scanned the chat and can't find the topic, but the guest is great! Can you clarify topic really quick? #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Big advocate of Show vs. Tell. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel RT @JeffStepakoff: What's esp great about fiction is the opp to get it right. Get it just the way you want it. #litchat #fb -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Dramatize, whenever possible! #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff: Again, use of prose to explain the delivery of dialogue is writer as actor, writer as director. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @NathanCarriker Topic is men who pen love stories. FIREWORKS OVER TOCCOA is a love story set in WWII-era Georgia. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 Excellent! RT @JeffStepakoff Big advocate of Show vs. Tell #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 6th, 2010

ficwriter @JeffStepakoff Mary Karr recently said that much fiction today lacks warmth and sense of connection. Not the case w/ your writing. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 6th, 2010

CathrynLouis via @JeffStepakoff: "& again, in novel, u're free -in fact it's ur job, I think-2 use prose 2 explain how dialogue is 2 be heard. #litchat" -1:22 PM Aug 6th, 2010

deegospel RT @JeffStepakoff: ... -- in fact it's your job, I think -- to use prose to explain how the dialogue is to be heard. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 6th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @JeffStepakoff Do you employ screenwriting techniques (3-acts, for instance) into your novel writing? #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette But the trend in fiction nowadays is restrained writing. Do you agree with this? (I don't, mostly) #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I think there's a place for telling, again, esp with emotion. But dramatization should, I think, be the first impulse. #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 6th, 2010

asiajane @JeffStepakoff Must be hard to "show" in a new way... how do you avoid cliches in language? (Aside from the obvious ones!)#litchat -1:23 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I know what you mean about restrained writing... #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 6th, 2010

homeconfessions @WriteWilette I think this trend for restrained is an old one. There's also the opposite, I think. #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff Interesting.....Drama is useless without believability. #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 6th, 2010

AuthorWilliam @WriteWilette What do you mean by "restrained writing" I think I get a feel but elaborate. Love the question. Interested in answer #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I believe in full storytelling. Subtext, character, action, all well told. #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

editorStet If people are on #litchat today, they should be. @JeffStepakoff has some great advice and insights I've been writing down so I remember! #FF -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LitChat Adding #litchat RT @degarmo2911: @LitChat Hi, I'm Jessica Degarmo, and I'll be publishing my first book with Night Publishing in October. -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Hi Jessica! #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

ficwriter RT @JeffStepakoff: I believe in full storytelling. Subtext, character, action, all well told. #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Jeff__Emmerson I eat #TraditionalPublishing firms and #LiteraryAgents for breakfast....Wow. #INDIEPUBLISHING = FUTURE #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 6th, 2010

NathanCarriker @LitChat Fantastic topic. My mantra is "Reality has a heart, romance has a brain." Love when guys/gals write the beautiful & real! #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 6th, 2010

deegospel @JeffStepakoff why did you pick Toccoa at WWII (i'm a georgia resident & ga history buff?) #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette @homeconfessions: the books I'm discovering lately are all about restraint and lack of character details #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff Hi right back, Jeff. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I think the culture of film has led to or perhaps enabled a "restraint" of storytelling on the page. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette @AuthorWilliam Restrained as in bare bones description, allowing the reader decipher the scene on their own. Case in point, Wake. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Sophronia Mine too! RT @ErikaRobuck: You had me at The Wonder Years. One of my all time favorite shows. Hi all! *waves* (lurks) #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff How so, Jeff? #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @WriteWilette want to name some titles? I love writing that is "sparse" but that doesn't mean they lack drama and emotion. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Again, I think you lay out your structure, but then you use the strengths of prose to tell the story fully. #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 6th, 2010
MsALWalker Thanks WriteWilette for explaining restraint #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 Hi there! RT @degarmo2911 Hi, I'm Jessica Degarmo, and I'll be publishing my first book with Night Publishing in October. #litchat. -1:27 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette @homeconfessions The Wake, Fade, Gone trilogy for one. Didn't say it was bad necessarily, just that I don't like to write that way. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I like The Road, McCarthy's book. I think he's able to be not sparse, but precise. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff Did you #IndiePublish, Jeff? #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @WriteWilette Cool. Just wondered. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 6th, 2010
MsALWalker Precision takes skill. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Hi Jeff! My publisher is St. Martin's Press. #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 6th, 2010
asiajane @homeconfessions re: restraint: Thinking of Best Amer. Short Stories collections of the 90s & the common pared-down language. #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions My editor at the Boston Globe had a saying: "If I had more time, I'd write shorter." It's often true, but not always. #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @WriteWilette Understood. Thanks for clarifying. I imagine the thinking is that "over-description" can gridlock the read... #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff Self or Traditional? #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AmyBonaccorso RT @ErikaRobuck: Poe was all for short fiction. He advocated reading a story in one sitting to get the full meaning. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette @AuthorWilliam Agreed with that, but sometimes it'd be nice to know the protagonist's name or even the color of their hair. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @asiajane Ray Carver? Ann Beatty and those types? Also loved Cold Mountain, which I wouldn't describe as restrained. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Traditional. SMP will also be releasing FIREWORKS OVER TOCCOA in Trade Paperback in March and... #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff Hopefully not #Traditional, Jeff....#IndiePublishing is the way of the future. #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions @WriteWilette Wow. That is restraint! #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette Jeff: Have you had any negative comments from military families, considering that cheating on a deployed spouse is a big issue? #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff My next novel which is due out in May. #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @JeffStepakoff How long did it take you to write FIREWORKS? #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @JeffStepakoff Don't think anyone's asked yet but I saw traces of plotter there in your comments. Are you a "plotter" or "panster"? #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 RT @Jeff__Emmerson: @JeffStepakoff Hopefully not #Traditional, Jeff....#IndiePublishing is the way of the future. #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ficwriter @JeffStepakoff Do you have to write a proposal for every novel? #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff About a year it took to write. Longer to develop. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I very much believe in working from outline... #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @WriteWilette An improv teacher once said to me "you can 'break' the rules so long as you know them very, very well." #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Again, storyroom training! #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass What do you mean by "develop"? RT @JeffStepakoff: About a year it took to write. Longer to develop. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 6th, 2010
asiajane @homeconfessions yes, those authors & some others I can't remember! Cold Mt was great & ur right, did not tend towards that trend #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson @JeffStepakoff Aargh, I see. ;) I detest #TraditionalPublishing, and #IndiePublishing will surpass it in time. Power to the author! #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Aha... @AuthorWilliam... another plotter for you. RT @JeffStepakoff: I very much believe in working from outline... #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette @AuthorWilliam So very true! #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 6th, 2010
danish_novelist @homeconfessions I love novels that aren't too wordy. On Chesil Beach by McEwan is a masterly example of efficient beautiful prose #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @WriteWilette So I think once you know the reasons for a trend you can empower yourself even more to follow your instinct. #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff My exp was to write the novel and then set that up. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 6th, 2010
joswartz Can't help myself - must ask: getting characters individual voices - any tips? #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass This is what you must mean by develop: Plotting is like storyroom. RT @JeffStepakoff: Again, storyroom training! #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson RT @lacarrington1: RT @Jeff__Emmerson: @JeffStepakoff Hopefully not #Traditional, Jeff...#IndiePublishing is the way of the future. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 6th, 2010
homeconfessions Thanks, Jeff and #litchat. Have to leave early today. Great thoughts. Congrats to Jeff on this and forthcoming work! #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Yes, danish novelist, I think it's our job to be precise with language. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Nice to mt you home conf! #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 6th, 2010
danish_novelist @JeffStepakoff I believe in outlines but they don't believe in me, so I make up by rewriting all the time #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette @AuthorWilliam My instincts were always to write a little more, I guess. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff I very much believe in working from outline... #litchat <<Hooray! Another plotter! :-) #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 6th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson @JoLynneValerie Are you seeing me give hell to #TraditionalPublishing today??!! #IndiePublishing all the way! #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @homeconfessions Thanks again for your terrific comments and questions. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker Last novel I read was @amygreenebr's BLOODROOT. Any1 care to school me on whether that was "sparse" or "rich"? Not a LitProf. ;-) #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CarolyBurnsBass :-)) #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I think an outline should be like a map. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Clear enough to get you where you need to go, but vague enough to make discoveries along the way. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 RT @JeffStepakoff: Clear enough to get you where you need to go, but vague enough to make discoveries along the way. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @NathanCarriker How about we save your question about BLOODROOT for later, after our topical chat/guest author departs. Thanks. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff: I think an outline should be like a map. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff: Clear enough to get you where you need to go, but vague enough to make discoveries along the way. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette RT @JeffStepakoff: Clear enough to get you where you need to go, but vague enough to make discoveries along the way. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker @LitChat Sorry, didn't mean to be irrelevant, just trying to understand discussion. #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @JeffStepakoff I understand you were a journalism major (UNC). Do any of those skills inform your fiction? #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 6th, 2010
asiajane @JeffStepakoff Read lots of McCullers and other Southern writers when living in MS. Do you/did you read them for inspiration? #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 6th, 2010
novhill I'm not an outliner, but I love the notion of outline as map. #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @WriteWilette For me it depends on the narrative approach. If you're writing in the 1st person. That character heavily impacts this #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel @JeffStepakoff my 1st novel releases next July, now I'm writing the 2nd & now my editor wants outline for 3rd. how do you manage? #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette Were you involved in the cover design process at all? Because I have to admit, it's partly why I picked it up. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @NathanCarriker No apologies necessary. Just trying to keep the discussion directed to our guest. Thanks for understanding. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Yes, I find investigative skills to be incredibly helpful for fiction, esp character dev and world construction. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JoLynneValerie @Jeff__Emmerson That said, you know I wholeheartedly believe, and advocate that I N D I E ☆ i S ☆ A R T << #FirstFILMThenMUSICNowBOOKS... ☺♥ #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Wasn't the cover gorgeous!? #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel @WriteWilette the book does have a pretty cover :) #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I knew enough to shut up and let smarter people do that work, WriteWilette! #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010
lacarrington1 I never outlined...I just jotted down a list of ideas and went from there o.O #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010
danish_novelist @Bookgirl96 But blockbusters always become a concentrate camp of merchandise. Look for Eat, Love, Pray diarrhea pills soon #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010
joswartz Hi Jeff, Any tips on developing unique character voices? #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette @AuthorWilliam Very true. I've tried to write a novel 1st person from 10 different people. With varied results. :) #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JoLynneValerie Lovely #twee hearts are chatting and sharing... I miss you, #litchat... and I feel you. But #AmWriting. The name of the game is #focus. ☺♥ -1:41 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Jeff__Emmerson RT @JoLynneValerie: @Jeff__Emmerson That said, you know I wholeheartedly believe, and advocate that **I N D I E** ☆ **i S** ☆ **A R T** << #FirstFILMThenMUSICNowBOOKS... 〕♥ #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 6th, 2010

ficwriter No wonder danish_novelist doesn't outline. He doesn't drive. RT @JeffStepakoff: I think an outline should be like a map. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 6th, 2010

lacarrington1 I still have #editing to do this weekend if my book's going to be done on time =) #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Joswartz, when I dev character, I start with people I know, and then branch out. That's where Jake came from. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 6th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass ★ @NathanCarriker Fantastic topic. ... "Reality has a heart, romance has a brain." Love when guys/gals write the beautiful & real! #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 6th, 2010

MsALWalker RT @JeffStepakoff: Joswartz, when I dev character, I start with people I know, and then branch out. Thats where Jake came from. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Love that too!!! #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 6th, 2010

MsALWalker @JeffStepakoff Great tip! #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 6th, 2010

natashaneagle @AuthorWilliam @JeffStepakoff very true! My outline starts off vague and as the surprises come they are added in #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Thanks, MsAlWalker! #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 6th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @natashaneagle: @AuthorWilliam @JeffStepakoff very true! My outline starts off vague and as the surprises come they are added in #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff My outlines change and develop, but I always have my tentpole scenes. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 6th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Yes. Absolutely atmospheric. RT @JeffStepakoff: Wasnt the cover gorgeous!? #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 6th, 2010

MsALWalker RT @JeffStepakoff: Thanks, MsAlWalker! #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette Jeff: Are you able to tell us a bit about your next novel? (Which I'm looking forward to reading!) #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I might move the tentpoles around, usually up, as the story gets better. But I'd never start writing without a support structure. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LindseyOConnor Great writing tip. RT @JeffStepakoff: My outlines change and develop, but I always have my tentpole scenes. #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff Thank you so much for askign about my next novel, WriteWil. #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 6th, 2010

deegospel @JeffStepakoff Fireworks over Toccoa begins with fireworks & huge sparks between Lily & Jake. i liked how you began this story. #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 6th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @JeffStepakoff Can you give us a glimpse of your next novel? Is it also a love story? #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff It's another love story, bigger in length and scope, and it has a contemporary setting. #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 6th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @JeffStepakoff: My outlines change and develop, but I always have my tentpole scenes. #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 6th, 2010

deegospel @litchat perhaps i'm using the hashtag, because not one of my questions were answered. am i off topic? #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 6th, 2010

JeffStepakoff I'm actually at the final scenes right about now! Have been working like crazy over the last couple weeks to finish the 2nd Draft. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette @JeffStepakoff When should we expect to see it? #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Again, will be out next spring. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 6th, 2010
latta #litchat just always have to be cautious that "plotting" doesn't devolve to "plodding." [disclaimer: i am a plotter] -1:50 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Did I miss your questions, Dee? #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 6th, 2010
IntermittentR Do make an effort to have women review your work? To make sure it speaks to women? #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Yes! Must avoid plodding. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat If you've asked a question, like @deegospel, and @JeffStepakoff hasn't responded, RT the Q. Sometimes hard for guest to see all Qs. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Dee, I saw what you said about fireworks starting the story. Thanks for that! #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff My wife reads everything I write and she's a very hard critic. #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I spend a lot of time LISTENING to her, which seems to help the writing. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 6th, 2010
ficwriter Must run. Thanks @LitChat & @JeffStepakoff. I look forward to reading your novels. Love discovering and chatting w/ writers on --> #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Nice to meet you ficwriter. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @ficwriter Great to have you here this week. Super comments and questions, too. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CathrynLouis @JeffStepakoff @LitChat TY! Esp dialogue - I'm from La., so chars tend 2 talk a lot. & outline/map - 4 navigating the bayous ;) #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker I asked re:FIREWORKS' wordcount and Jeff's opinion on the industry's "depression" as it applies to new uncredentialed writers. #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @ficwriter Good to see you here, Darrelyn :) #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Nathan... #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel @LitChat ok. i didn't know if there was a queue or whether i was off topic. this novel is great. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat RT @NathanCarriker: FIREWORKS wordcount and Jeffs opinion on industrys "depression" as it applies to new uncredentialed writers. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 6th, 2010
IntermittentR Good idea, not just for the writing :) RT @JeffStepakoff: I spend a lot of time LISTENING to her, which seems to help the writing. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 6th, 2010
MsALWalker RT deegospel @LitChat ok. i didn't know if there was a queue or whether i was off topic. this novel is great YES think I'll buy it. #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 6th, 2010
deegospel i have to go. i was on here and missing emails from my editor about my own book. i will read the tweet stream later. great chat! #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Not entirely sure of final word count. The final pg count I know is 263 pages. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Good to meet you dee!! #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 6th, 2010
MsALWalker Can I get it on iPad? #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Take care, Dee! #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff You can get the book on iPad and all the major digital platforms. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 6th, 2010

MsALWalker @JeffStepakoff Thanks! and thanks for taking the time to #litchat with us. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam I'm heading out also. Must feed the offspring. Great chat today and BRAVO to @JeffStepakoff. Continued success to you, sir. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @deegospel Always enjoy when you're here. Keep us informed of your pub date. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I think even uncredentialed writers should just keep at it. I'm a passionate believer in the power of good story. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Great chatting with you all too! #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat @AuthorWilliam Great questions and comments, as usual. See you next week. #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette Is the chat up? #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I'll be leaving shortly. Any final questions? #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Sorry if I missed anyone. #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat We're at the end of the hour that @JeffStepakoff promised us. He's welcome to stay, but we need to let him go if he needs to scoot. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette If the book was made into a movie, would you write the screenplay? #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010
CathrynLouis @AuthorWilliam I did manage a question - listened mostly & learned a lot #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010
NathanCarriker @JeffStepakoff thanks, and also for stopping by today, Jeff. Best wishes and will def. pick up some FIREWORKS soon! ;-) #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Great question, WriteWilette... #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Thanks, Nathan! #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette Thank you for answering our questions, @JeffStepakoff! Continued success to you!! #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff We're having a lot of conversations about the film rights. I would consider doing the screenplay, but I'm open to other options. #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 6th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @LitChat Thanks! You know I'll be there! :-) #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff I am very happy writing fiction these days. :) #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Great to meet you, WriteWilette. #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette I hope you do, to make sure the movie captures Jake and Lily's real essence. #litchat -2:05 PM Aug 6th, 2010
JeffStepakoff Thank you so much for having me to #litchat today. It's been really fun! #litchat -2:05 PM Aug 6th, 2010
marirandomities @deberryandgrant hello! I had to try about 10 times to RT that. BIG whale on the way, heh. I'm good, although I miss #litchat too. :) -2:05 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat Miss you two. RT @marirandomities: @deberryandgrant hello!.... BIG whale on the way, heh. Im good, although I miss #litchat too. :) #litchat -2:07 PM Aug 6th, 2010
WriteWilette My first Twitter chat with author @JeffStepakoff at #litchat. Fun and very informative! -2:08 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat Let's give @JeffStepakoff a HUGE round of applause for joining us today {{{APPLAUSE}}}. Thank you, Jeff. #litchat -2:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010
LitChat Enjoyed your comments. RT @WriteWilette: My first Twitter chat with author @JeffStepakoff at #litchat. Fun and very informative! #litchat -2:09 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Sophronia Yes! RT @ErikaRobuck: Poe was all for short fiction. He advocated reading a story in one sitting to get the full meaning. #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010

Jeff__Emmerson @LitChat Now to switch him to #INDIE publishing. ;) #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 6th, 2010

LitChat Many thanks also to all of you who joined us today. You are the words on the page and the subtext in between. You make #litchat FLY. -2:11 PM Aug 6th, 2010

WriteWilette @LitChat Thank you, LitChat. That was very cool. I'm secretly squeeing like a fangirl because he answered my questions. :) #litchat -2:13 PM Aug 6th, 2010