LitChat August 9 & 11, 2010
Topic of the Week: Gripping Grief
Open Chat

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.

MONDAY: August 9, 2010
LitChat Welcome to a new week in #litchat. This week we're discussing books that feature characters crippled and marred by grief. Join us now! -1:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Sidney_Williams RT @LitChat: A new week of #litchat begins in 15 minutes. This week's topic is GRIPPING GRIEF. Join us at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs -1:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM RT @LitChat: Welcome to a new week in #litchat. This week were discussing books that feature characters crippled & marred by grief. #litchat -1:01 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Easiest way to follow #litchat is at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs. Enter Twitter login and you're here. #litchat. -1:01 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Sidney_Williams Oop,s #litchat is beginning now at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs -1:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat This week's #litchat inspired by Friday's guest host @Lynne_Griffin, who's novel SEA ESCAPE features a mom/dauty handling grief in own way. -1:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton waving hello to litchatters #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bypetal @LitChat hope no one mentions anything Twilight related ;) Hi all #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler Hi, Lynne! #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel Sarah Waters' Affinity could be seen as being about grief; the grief at the end of a relationship #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Introduce yourself while everyone's gathering, but please save off-topic pitches, questions and links for after chat. Thanks. #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
girlfrombim Hi everyone! Been swamped the past few litchats! Glad to be here! #litchat -1:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
girlfrombim LOL RT @bypetal: @LitChat hope no one mentions anything Twilight related ;) Hi all #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler *waving back* #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Locked and loaded. Looking forward to today's #Litchat -1:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Hello, all. Fun to be back. #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton 2 excellent novels come 2 mind on grief, both by @michellerichmond. No One You Know - one sisters grief at loss of another, esp. #litchat -1:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis Hi all #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat @buffysquirrel That is definitely a type of grief, but in terms of this week's discussion we're talking about grief from death. #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Sidney_Williams Hi, been a while since I've been able to drop in. #litchat #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow Oooh, excited by this topic. My bk THE LOCAL NEWS is all about grief for a lost sibling, though the grief is ambivalent. #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @LitChat *shuts up* :) #litchat -1:05 PM Aug 9th, 2010
FountainBkstore RT @LitChat: Easiest way to follow #litchat is at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs. Enter Twitter login and you're here. #litchat. -1:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010

katmagendie RT @LitChat: #litchat. This week were discussing books that feature characters crippled and marred by grief. Join us now! #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Ah, please don't. We know you have much to offer. RT @buffysquirrel: @LitChat *shuts up* :) #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton My first novel, The Language of Light, is grief of young widow/mom - but grief is a complicated thing in it (and everywhere) #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette was there a contest for "Most Depressing LitChat Subject" that I missed? #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie I'm here, too -glad to be back! #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird Ooh, very interesting topic for my first litchat! #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow @GeneDoucette Ha! I love "depressing" subjects. In my chats and my fiction reading/writing. #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt I'm hovering, thinking about death and literature. #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton @GeneDoucette maybe should change to "grief and redemption"? #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @miriamgershow I lost a sibling, my brother - intrigued by how you say "ambilvalence"-there must be a break btwn sibs ? #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler The World According to Garp comes to mind, and The Pilot's Wife... #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @CathrynLouis Hi Cathryn with a C! #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat @GeneDoucette Not today... but on Friday we're have a copy of SEA ESCAPE to give away during #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @GeneDoucette Yes. Runner-up topic was State of the Publishing Industry. Death is easier to grasp. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM Glad to be back - the girls holidays are playing havoc with my #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie RT @FountainBkstore: RT @LitChat: Easiest way to follow #litchat is at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs. Enter Twitter login and youre here. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @miriamgershow @megwaiteclayton I do enough death pondering IRL; writing and reading are escapist. #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton @JulieBritt and less depressing! ;-) #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette RT @JulieBritt: @GeneDoucette Yes. Runner-up topic was State of the Publishing Industry. Death is easier to grasp.// LOL #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow @katmagendie Exactly. Narrator didnt get along with brother, but loss of sibling is still a great loss. Hence, ambivalence. #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel how about Yossarian in Catch-22? he keeps going back to Snowden's death but can't quite get to it until the end, nearly #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam The thing about Grief of death in fict is that it can be a powerful catalyst that sends a character on their way or imprisons them. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis Grief that brings tears 2 the reader must also bring tears 2 the writer. I'm having a hard time writing about it. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler In fiction, how is grief elevated to art? #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt Did anyone read Good Grief by Lolly Winston? That's the first one that comes to mind. Woman dealing with widowhood. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010

megwaiteclayton @buffysquirrel how about Yossarian in Catch-22? Such an amazing book! #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @GeneDoucette: RT @JulieBritt: @GeneDoucette Yes. Runner-up topic was State of the Publishing Industry. Death is easier to grasp.// LOL #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @buffysquirrel So weird. Just watched that movie yesterday. Excellent example IMHO. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LitChat: Easiest way to follow #litchat is at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs. Enter Twitter login and you're here. #litchat. -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @miriamgershow yes, losing a sibling is a ripping away--even if only of a shared past. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LitChat: This week's #litchat inspired by Friday's guest host @Lynne_Griffin, who's novel SEA ESCAPE features a mom/dauty handling grief in own way. -1:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CathrynLouis Right with you. #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LitChat: Introduce yourself while everyone's gathering, but please save off-topic pitches, questions and links for after chat. Thanks. #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow @GeneDoucette Depends on yr flavor of escapism. I like confronting the hard stuff via fiction. But whatever floats yr boat... #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton Perhaps best book ever on Grief: The Year of Magical Thinking #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Q1: It's often said that grief is a journey. How can reading about the grief of fictional characters help the grieving process? #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam This is the second week in a row where the topic in #litchat hits square at the center of something I'm currently working on. #yikes -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
cynditefft #litchat Grief is powerful and most everyone has experienced it, so it can be a dramatic tool to connect with the reader. -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow @katmagendie Yes, yes, the loss of a shared past is a great way of putting it. And the loss of potentially more peaceable future. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @IreneZiegler The grief I find most interesting is the sort that leads the character to doubt how they see the world. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
cynditefft #litchat Latest blog post is about grief, coincidentally: http://ctefft.blogspot.com -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Saffy I like LEM's stories for grief crippled characters - it's often the drive of the story i.e Solaris #litchat it's stronger in the shorts tho -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt This has nothing to do with lit, but I'm suddenly thinking of George Jones' He Stopped Loving Her Today. Grief aplenty. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr Here for the first time. Ann Beattie's short stories often dealt with grief and its aftermath. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @AuthorWilliam Are you bribing our host? #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @cynditefft: #litchat Grief is powerful and most everyone has experienced it, so it can be a dramatic tool to connect with the reader. -1:13 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @AuthorWilliam Hmm... wonder if the great muse is speaking to you through #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @robertjbennett That is indeed a powerful use of grief in fiction. #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 9th, 2010

katmagendie @LitChat I never read anything that helped me w/my grief over losing my brother so suddenly-grief is such a "self" thing. It's mine #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler Stages of grief may come into play. First comes denial, etc. Then does one turn inward, or act out? Acting out more interesting...? #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat @elizabethkarr Welcome. Thank you for joining right in. #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Grief is interesting because in a way it's a reassembling - the character has to rebuild themselves to go on. #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @megwaiteclayton: Perhaps best book ever on Grief: The Year of Magical Thinking>>>excellent example. #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton Only people who are capable of loving strongly can also suffer great sorrow, but this same necessity of loving serves to... #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton ...counteract their grief and heals them."- Leo Tolstoy #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @miriamgershow yes . . . what was/would could be -one tangible, one never to be #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg Actually, in my first award winner, Unto Zeor, Forever, I explored the deep, life-wrenching scarring from grief. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CarolyBurnsBass I know, right. That piece is kicking my butt around though. The great muse must be into tough love, lol #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr Grief can paralyze and the character's inability to process is journey that readers can root for. Think Conroy's Prince of Tides. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt If the character doesn't start to recover soon in book, will readers stick with it? #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg There is a state where it's only human to wonder why Ur alive, and wish you weren't #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird @IreneZiegler Depends on the person, and thus the character. And there are so many other factors: can you deal with your own grief- #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton (with apologies for 2-part tweet. I'm not one to edit Tolstoy down to 140 characters) #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow HA! I hear you. RT @AuthorWilliam: The great muse must be into tough love, lol #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @robertjbennett Grief as catalyst for crisis? Yes! #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @cynditefft so sorry about Mow - :-(#litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Sidney_Williams I've been reading Her Fearful Symmetry by A. Niffenegger, about death, loss and looking back at Victorian-era practices. #litchat #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird @IreneZiegler -- on your own terms, or are others pushing you, such as a child you have to help understand for themselves? #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @katmagendie: -grief is such a "self" thing. Its mine #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Jeff__Emmerson #SelfPublishing vs. #IndiePublishing? #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010
twistedjamie #litchat One of my readers emailed me in disgust that I had dared to kill off a character. -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton I do think the question of how long a reader will stay with unmitigated grief is a good one. Will have to look at Yr of Magical agn #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @JulieBritt I'd imagine it depends on the story concept. But I'd imagine most of the time the readers wants to see some "progress" #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010

JLichtenberg The question usually comes to "How Can I Go On?" & the answer is, "U don't." A bereavement is a new beginning. #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @robertjbennett In the rebuilding there is always that weak point, the hollowed out place, so "structure" will always be flawed #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Lindzbinz_H may i ask, does grief have any place in horror fiction? i feel like it's in the best horror (The Raven, Poe) #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr Year of Magical Thinking was great book about Joan Didion's personal struggle with the death of her husband. Very moving. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @twistedjamie I am always amazed to find how much the characters in my head are seen as real by people not in my head. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg But the principle in helping the grieving is not to offer comfort too soon in their process #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @megwaiteclayton I stayed with Didion thruout. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt Are we talking fiction and nonfiction? #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @Lindzbinz_H King uses it a lot too. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM People deal with grief differently and therefore will want to read it differently too #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Lindzbinz_H Horror genre usually focuses on interval B4 grieving process sets in, but at point of LOSS #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @JulieBritt Will stick until they hit bottom; then it's time for them to at least locate the direction of "up." #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton @elizabethkarr I stayed with Didion thruout. #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 9th, 2010 - me too! And wept & wept. And thought it was amazing #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @JLichtenberg Or wonder why it wasn't you instead of them! #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow @megwaiteclayton Depends on how 'unmitigated.' Any rays of hope? With Didion, the writing is so clean its anathema to the topic. #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird I'm wondering -- what do you think about delayed grief? Where you do not have time to grieve, such as in a do-or-die situation? #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @JLichtenberg interesting. In fiction, yes, but in real life comfort to griever is 1 of few things we can offer. #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat @JulieBritt We are primarily talking fiction, but can include memoirs with grief as central theme. #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Lindzbinz_H I think "grieving" usually refers to the healing process after a life-altering loss. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt I enjoyed Didion's book. Not everyone could pull that off. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM Children can change the way grief is handled - can delay or alter it? #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @LitChat OK. Wondering because Didion books seem to have struck a chord. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @JLichtenberg: The question usually comes to "How Can I Go On?" & the answer is, "U dont." A bereavement is a new beginning. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @megwaiteclayton I'm with you and the weeping over YOMT. Beautiful testament to the power of love. Grief & Redemption. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010

JLichtenberg @elizabethkarr On comforting - "thin" fiction offers comfort too soon. "Deep" fiction offers at right point in cycle #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @katmagendie I think, from the character's point of view, the structure is a success if they're just able to go on w/their lives. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Exactly. RT @JulieBritt: @LitChat OK. Wondering because Didion books seem to have struck a chord. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Lindzbinz_H @GeneDoucette I was just going to say, Pet Cemetery, even the Shinning to an extent, both use grief as a stepping stone to horror #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @JLichtenberg: But the principle in helping the grieving is not to offer comfort too soon in their process #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Hayley_DM Oh, yes, I would think "bucking up in front of kids" delays grieving process. Slows it. But it's inevitable #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow @Lindzbinz_H Lisey's Story too #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @bdbhaird I think in these situations, the reader sees function in crisis as "progress" #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @JLichtenberg Boy, you're offering up some major pith, here. Loving it! #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Grief works well in horror because it unbalances the character, leading them to horrific acts. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @JLichtenberg Exactly #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @AuthorWilliam: @bdbhaird I think in these situations, the reader sees function in crisis as "progress" #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @JLichtenberg You r absolutely right on that point. I would also add that in thin fiction, char accepts comfort 2 soon. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton There is nothing we can do with suffering except to suffer it" - C.S. Lewis #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @robertjbennett That's true! Rebuilt structures can be just as strong and beautifully made #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @elizabethkarr: @JLichtenberg You r absolutely right on that point. I would also add that in thin fiction, char accepts comfort 2 soon. #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird @AuthorWilliam Will readers then feel it rings false, when the character gets to a place where they can grieve and do? #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @JLichtenberg: @elizabethkarr - "thin" fiction offers comfort too soon. "Deep" fiction offers at right point in cycle #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robertjbennett plus, isn't "disembowelment" like the fourth step of grief? #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt What is thin fiction? I take it we're not talking page count. #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @robertjbennett I think it's important that an action follows grief. "What happens next?" #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette thin fiction? This is a term I have not encountered. #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @miriamgershow @Lindzbinz_H Lisey's Story too>>>King really knows how to manipulate the power of powerful emotions! #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @bdbhaird In my opinion, no, not if it's handled with care and authenticity. #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 9th, 2010

sharifwrites RT @Hayley_DM: People deal with grief differently and therefore will want to read it differently too #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @IreneZiegler I agree. A lot of the time, grief is a journey of re-examination. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @GeneDoucette I just made up term "thin fiction" -- it's gotta be a twitterism? #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @megwaiteclayton: There is nothing we can do with suffering except to suffer it" - C.S. Lewis>>>He would know. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @sharifwrites: RT @Hayley_DM: People deal with grief differently and therefore will want to read it differently too #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @GeneDoucette It's somewhere after unhealthy shrines and consulting dark powers to deal with your loss, etc #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Lindzbinz_H @miriamgershow i completely forgot about Lisey's Story. & i agree with @robertjbennett that grief helps make characters unsettling #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 9th, 2010
sharifwrites @AuthorWilliam I'd also want to see a recovery/progress arc when reading about grief. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @JulieBritt: What is thin fiction? I take it were not talking page count. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton important that an action follows grief-thinking of this in context of YOMT What action does Didion take? 1 step + another=action? #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @JLichtenberg hah, okay. So as opposed to "deep" fiction. What you mean is "crappy, shallow fiction" #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM I want book where it feels real but I also want an element of recovery #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 9th, 2010
susanmpls @LitChat Have found fict is great source for working thru grief; key for me was finding characters at same grief stage as self. #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 9th, 2010
smallswiftbirds @JulieBritt I think as long as character is actually doing something & not just in their head constantly. Otherwise, no. #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @JulieBritt - editors often reject (or reviewers pan) a work because it's "thin" (maybe corny or cheesy) - characs not plausible #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr my def of thin fiction would be unsatisfying journey of protag that gives short shrift or easy answers. Like a lot of Romancenovels #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @susanmpls Have found fict is great source for working thru grief; key for me was finding characters at same grief stage as self #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @sharifwrites I think that arc is needed to be authentic. Agreed. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @JLichtenberg Not often enough, unfortunately. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett I was interpreting "thin" as only touching the surface of things, not attempting any examination. "Superficial," maybe. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis me 2. RT @Hayley_DM: "I want book where it feels real but I also want an element of recovery #litchat" -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @susanmpls I think that's KEY - to understand grieving as a cycle with stages. Like crawling b4 walking. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @GeneDoucette @Jlitchenberg I write romances intended for e-book, so try to keep zippy and streamlined. Prefer "svelt" to "thin." #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010

katmagendie @AuthorWilliam Your book deals with grief, William . . . the decisions it "forces" the character into that are beyond his usual #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @robertjbennett yes, "thin" is superficial, touching only surface. Writer whose SELF is maybe in fear of grief won't delve into it #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Louise0210 @elizabethkarr Argh but Romance Novels are Lovely!!! :)) #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel but grieving is a cycle with lots of two steps forward, one step back, stages, too #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette I don't think I would ever attempt to write about grief while in the grieving process. At least not for anyone else to read. #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt Are there fiction examples besides King? Haven't read his work. I know, I'm the only one. #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
smallswiftbirds @Hayley_DM Recovery is real. A novel about grief should put the character in the darkest time/place and then bring them out of it. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Lindzbinz_H @Hayley_DM would you say there are fewer novels featuring grief or grieving characters where there's a recovery element? #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM I want to understand how the prot. got to this point in their grief process and really feel it with them #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
smallswiftbirds Otherwise, there's no change #litchat (-1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @thedaisyharris: @GeneDoucette @Jlitchenberg I write romances for e-book, so try to keep streamlined.Prefer "svelt" 2 "thin." #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @GeneDoucette Tried that. Hasn't worked yet. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
susanmpls @JLichtenberg Takes a while to emotionally understand cycle. Also, fiction less threatening, less boring than NF bks abt grief. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @Hayley_DM: I want to understand how the prot. got to this point in their grief process and really feel it with them #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @smallswiftbirds Agreed #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett I would be surprised if I could do anything productive at all while grieving. Certainly nothing as intensive as writing. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan Hi All! Late to the chat. Lunch had to happen. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel ah, but that's how grief feels--a state with no change #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @buffysquirrel: "but grieving is a cycle with lots of two steps forward, one step back, stages, too #litchat" -1:31 PM Aug 9th, 2010
4evermore #litchat BEST book ever read about grieving, hands down: Transitions, by WIlliam Bridges. I've never written about loss the same way since. -1:31 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Yes. RT @buffysquirrel: but grieving is a cycle with lots of two steps forward, one step back, stages, too #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @IreneZiegler Romance is opportunity to delve DEEP into grief, and provide true healing thru LOVE - true transformative process #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris I like to think my books are like my personality. Shallow on first glance, but deep under the surface. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @4evermore: #litchat BEST book ever read about grieving, hands down: Transitions, by WIlliam Bridges. ... #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @robertjbennett I escaped to writing while grieving. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @katmagendie I agree, Kat. Death can deconstruct one's world view. I actually dove into the major rewrite weeks after my dad passed #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010

Hayley_DM We will never understand someone elses grief as we all feel it differently but I awant the writer to show me thir prot. journey #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
smallswiftbirds @robertjbennett Depends on how long it lasts. 1 can appear to go on w/ life and still be deeply hurt. So, 1 must DO something #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Q2: Have you ever sought out a novel featuring death/grief after losing a loved one? #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Interesting idea w/passing thru grief - are they seeing the world in a new way at end, or adapting to a hole in their lives? Both? #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @thedaisyharris: I like to think my books are like my personality. Shallow on first glance, but deep under the surface. #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge Fiction helps us hear and process our own grief story, and realize what we experience might be normal, not nutty #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan Russell Banks' The Sweet Hereafter is another phenom book about a community's grieving process. #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @thedaisyharris Best kind of writing is like quicksand, innocent surface sucks you down then supports you if you let it #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @thedaisyharris Sometimes a Jack Sprat novel is just the thing when u aren't in the mood for his wife's novels :-D #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @IreneZiegler You may be a much stronger person than I, then. #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @thedaisyharris I'm not dissing romance novels. I've read many and they have their readership. Simply used as an example of 'thin' #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @Pegge: Fiction helps us hear and process our own grief story, and realize what we experience might be normal, not nutty #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton I sometimes think writing is my ESCAPE from grieving. Or way to make something good from something not #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Louise0210 @thedaisyharris #litchat i would nt assume someone writing a romance novel was shallow, in fact is grief not associated a little with love? -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
emmapetersen RT @thedaisyharris: I like to think my books are like my personality. Shallow on first glance, but deep under the surface. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler RT @AuthorWilliam: @katmagendie Death can deconstruct ones world view. I dove into the major rewrite weeks after my dad passed #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @katmagendie So it was multilayered: My father's death propelled me to finish what I'd started - reevaluate my career path. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
smallswiftbirds @robertjbennett I think both, definitely. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bouldengal @KaylaCagan LOVE that book. And the film. Simply beautiful! #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis what about how women handle grief vs men? important or not? #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel i think real grief has helped me understand literary grief, in retrospect #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @robertjbennett I think everyone is strong - but each in a different component of personality #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @JLichtenberg hah. I'm not sure I like the quicksand analogy. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010

twistedjamie #litchat It is all I am surrounded by on a daily basis so I tend to 'get used' to it -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
TheNewAuthor To answer your question, No. I began to write in earnest after my dad passed away. That grief sparked something buried within. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @LitChat There's also a lot of books about grief not about death. Lots of thinks can be grieved- even loss of certain perspective. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @CathrynLouis: what about how women handle grief vs men? important or not? #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @AuthorWilliam Seeing the world from another universe where Planet Earth is the same, yet somehow so very different #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM I am not sure I would want to read another story on grief while I myself was grieving #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bouldengal RT @JLichtenberg: @thedaisyharris Best kind of writing is like quicksand, innocent surface sucks you down then supports you if you let it #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM RT @JLichtenberg: RT @CathrynLouis: what about how women handle grief vs men? important or not? - I think so #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
danish_novelist @AuthorWilliam Death should alter our world view. That's why it was "invented", I believe #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie RT @CathrynLouis: what about how women handle grief vs men? important or not? #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
latta #litchat isabel allende's book abt the loss of her daughter dealt w/grief squarely but beautifully. -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @Hayley_DM i could not. nor on anything that reminded me. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @Hayley_DM Agreed! When I grieve, I want LIGHT!! like, American Pie light! #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @robertjbennett Not strong at all. Wrote to escape! A stronger person would have stayed in the moment. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge @LitChat Yes, after my teenage son died by suicide. To help me, and other teens. A favorite: Belle Prater's Boy, Ruth White #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan @LitChat Q2: Sought out grief based memoirs/nf while grieving. I wonder if fiction was too "pretty" a connection for me personally. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam A. to @LitChat's Q. No but it has propelled me to write about it. I think it would've been hard to read about it shortly after loss #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @Hayley_DM the power of literature is that reading it could open a window of a way to greater understanding of your own loss. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @Hayley_DM I'm like that, too,-want to read something that I am not experiencing acutely ... #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge RT @LitChat: Q2: Have you ever sought out a novel featuring death/grief after losing a loved one? #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @thedaisyharris Exactly - running in the complete other way from more sadness #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler @KaylaCagan The Sweet Hereafter a great example! #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @Pegge nope! on the contrary. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010

thedaisyharris @elizabethkarr @Louise0210 Oh- I didn't take offense! I know my stuff is fluffy. I prefer light romances to serious ones. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @latta: "#litchat isabel allende's book abt the loss of her daughter dealt w/grief squarely but beautifully." -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @Pegge: RT @LitChat: Q2: Have you ever sought out a novel featuring death/grief after losing a loved one? #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @Pegge Bless your heart. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird When I was depressed, I avoided books with grief; I didn't like seeing chars get out of it when I couldn't. Felt like a failure. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
TheNewAuthor I enjoy books that dig deep into a character through emotions such as grief because it often leads to new discovery. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan @bouldengal Me too. I saw the movie first, then read the book. I had to. I wanted to stay with the characters. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett What about denial? That's a not uncommon reaction to grief. How is that often depicted in fiction? #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
susanmpls @LitChat Instead of seeking stories of others dealing w/ grief, sought stories of characters who reminded me of my mother. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette A2: oh, good god no. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @elizabethkarr Maybe but personally I would need to deal with and understand my loss first before I contemplate someone elses #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: What about denial? Thats a not uncommon reaction to grief. How is that often depicted in fiction? #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 9th, 2010
twistedjamie Q2 #litchat I am surrounded by death and grieving on a daily basis so I tend to 'get used' to it. Makes it easier to write about it. -1:38 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris In critique of depth... Sometimes with Oprah books and "women's fiction" I'm like must someone ALWAYS have cancer? #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @danish_novelist That may be. If so than the "invention" has been effective both times I have lost someone very close to me. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Is denial - lying to one's self - any less legitimate than seeing the world in a new light, after your loss? #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 9th, 2010
girlfrombim *alarmed face* RT @GeneDoucette: A2: oh, good god no. #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @thedaisyharris Ditto Lifetime channel. Cancer or stolen babies or abusive hubbies. #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg A2 usually ppl go for non-fiction while in emotional-shock such as grief. Stuff on religion, philosophy, history gives PURPOSE #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton For denial, Tim O'Brien comes to mind, though can't say why #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel i remember Hindley in Wuthering Heights denying that his wife was dying; made him less detestable #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie Q2: No. Even took at least a year before I'd even write about it myself. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @robertjbennett Denial is a recognized stage of grieving - it's actually like a bandaid on a wound, lets healing begin #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010

GeneDoucette The hardest thing I ever did in my life was write and read my father's eulogy. Why would I want to go find a novel about it? #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @JulieBritt @Pegge Bless your heart. >>>>yes . . . yes.... #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM As I said I think we all handle and approach grief differently and whatever works for you has to be a good thing #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan After losing my gm, I read Lisa See & Amy Tan's fiction. Wanted to read ancestor-"ghost" characters. Actually helped me cope. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett I tend to seek out stuff that's more innocent when in a state of grief. Did go to American Gods after 1 loss, though. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel i don't feel much healing; maybe a scab over the wound, but so easily torn afresh. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
susanmpls @litchat Re Q2, also sought happily ever afters, thrillers & travel bks. In depths of grief, fiction was way to escape sadness. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @JulieBritt @thedaisyharris Ditto Lifetime channel. Cancer or stolen babies or abusive hubbies.>>don't forget serial killers! #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis @robertjbennett no, it's just a different response, but I think valid #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @JulieBritt LOL Why I don't watch Lifetime. Prefer Spike. Less cancer, more aliens. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM RT @katmagendie: @JulieBritt @Pegge Bless your heart. >>>>yes . . . yes....(Amen to that) #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Hayley_DM There are variations on the theme, but psychologists and spiritual counsellors have found the pattern under theme #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
latta #litchat ppl deal w/all manner of things in different ways. surely how we handle grief, publicly and privately, is very personal. -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JLichtenberg How common is maintained denial, though? Just asking, b/c I don't quite know. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan @GeneDoucette Written so many eulogies I should start an Eulogy Anthology. (LOL. I couldn't resist.) Laughter = Getting through it? #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @Hayley_DM: RT @katmagendie: @JulieBritt @Pegge Bless your heart. >>>>yes . . . yes....(Amen to that) #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Q3: For writers: Has the death of a loved one been the inspiration for any of your writing, published or un-published? #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel or laughter, another form of denial? #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @robertjbennett I don't know, but I bet long-years-of-denial are fairly common, esp if bereaved in childhood #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 9th, 2010
latta #litchat and by "personal" i don't mean it should be kept w/in oneself; rather, i mean that it is individual-specific. -1:42 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @KaylaCagan Eulanthology? #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @LitChat A3 actually, I only wrote about grief b4 being bereaved. Afterward, it lost fascination for me #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @KaylaCagan Antheulogy? #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam A3: YES. and YES. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan A friend, YA writer, was told by an editor that she didn't want protag to "grieve" & try & move on - just grieve. Boring, right? #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010

buffysquirrel @LitChat if you count my dog :) after her loss, i produced a 500k novel. no, not a typo! #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie Q3: I did have an essay published about losing my brother-wrote it a year or so later, when I could write w/o ...stuff in the way #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr The Lovely Bones was a primer on different responses to grief. That book keeps popping in my head during this chat. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Saffy @LitChat I write most intensively when in grief - I can't say things often for days but will fill not books and paint endlessly #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JLichtenberg Hmm... Would that be any different than someone who felt they had a new perspective on life that lets them go on? #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @LitChat My mother is slooowly dying from Alzheimer's. I expect to write about it someday, but can't even read much about that now. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton I don't think laughter is a form of denial. I think it's a way to get through without streaking one's mascara in public. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge I think grief process is individual & unique. Some days want a comedy, a character companion, other days not. Like life. #litchat #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan @GeneDoucette Indeed. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @GeneDoucette @kaylaCagan Eulanthology - like a novel made of diary entries, it could be engrossing #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @latta Yes, individual specific - exactly . . . #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird RT @megwaiteclayton: I don't think laughter is a form of denial. I think it's a way to get through without streaking one's mascara in public. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette A3: no. not in any direct sense #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @Pegge Absoultely. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
miriamgershow Q3: I think part of what allowed me to delve so deeply into major grief was that I hadn't experienced it IRL. Was safe topic. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @LitChat Death (or serious illness) of loved one always effects who we r, which effects r writing-whether or not we write abt it. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @megwaiteclayton: I dont think laughter is a form of denial. I think its a way to get through without streaking ones mascara ... #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @megwaiteclayton Did you see the Mary Tyler Moore episode about Chuckles the Clown's funeral? #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette @KaylaCagan Eulanthology >>>:-) ! #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett It is an interesting idea. RT @GeneDoucette @kaylaCagan Eulanthology - like a novel made of diary entries, it could be engrossing #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam I had put DARK PROVINCE down for about a year and a half. Picked it back up in the weeks after my father passed away in Nov 2008 #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Q3: I lost my sister 20 years ago and her death has been a major influence in much of my writing. #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @megwaiteclayton but that IS a kind of denial--it's hiding the face of grief #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton @JulieBritt I loved MTM! #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
latta #litchat Q3 certainly loss been catalyst for a couple of pieces, but also allows for a new lens through which to interpret old. -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010

Saffy @LitChat One bit I wrote just as my memories of the person sent to my friends mother got read at the funeral #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
4evermore #litchat I guess I see death and grieving as processes at play beyond losing a loved one, so I write about grief in that bigger box. -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg But when creating a character who has "depth" - we consider scars of past losses. Loss shapes us all. #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr q3-Death has been inspiration for journal writing. And as a way of keeping the person with me. #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett It's that old axiom that if you can't laugh at life, you'd cry. #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @megwaiteclayton: I don't think laughter is a form of denial. I think it's a way to get through without streaking one's mascara in public. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Also, lost a friend from a rare disease 8 years ago. Have been starting and stopping a piece about our friendship for 7.... #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @elizabethkarr: q3-Death has been inspiration for journal writing. And as a way of keeping the person with me. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Committing to finishing it this year. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
4evermore #litchat A3: but no, I haven't written about grief in the shadow of an actual death. I think that's too personal 4 me to write commercially. -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: Its that old axiom that if you cant laugh at life, youd cry. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @robertjbennett what did Michael Herr write? that everyone cried at least once in Vietnam. and after that they laughed. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @JLichtenberg: But when creating a character who has "depth" - we consider scars of past losses. Loss shapes us all. <yes! #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass I like that. RT @robertjbennett: Its that old axiom that if you cant laugh at life, youd cry. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan I write about death-related-grief in my journals so I can write more freely creatively- whether about grief or not, for my stories. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge Yes, inspiration. Working on book now. Wrote article on son's death by suicide, many people replied, grateful for it. #litchat #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @CarolyBurnsBass U knw, you made me think how there hs been a "lost sibling" in many of my wrks-I forget smetmes where it came from #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @elizabethkarr: RT @JLichtenberg: But when creating a character who has "depth" - we consider scars of past losses. Loss shapes us all. <yes! #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @robertjbennett You hit it! "If can't laugh, you'd cry" CHARAC has one thing going on outside, another inside! Depth! #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
latta @katmagendie and you can rest assured that no matter how you handle your grief, there will be ppl who said you did it "wrong" #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
susanmpls @litchat SAVING CEECEE HONEYCUTT is novel abt 12 yr old who's mom dies, goes to live w/ her aunt. Is abt grief, hope, starting over #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette My MC has seen everyone he ever knew die. He drinks a lot, unsurprisingly. #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel well if loss was going to shape me, i could've at least lost weight! #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010

bdbhaird @buffysquirrel @megwaiteclayton I think pretending that you are better sometimes jumpstarts feeling better. #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Wow. RT @Pegge: Yes, inspiration. Working on book now. Wrote article on sons death by suicide, many people replied, grateful for it #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
PIBarrington @LitChat ~ All too deep for me. I write thrillers with characters who carry major guilt frm being responsible for luv'd 1s deaths #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge Laughter--seek it all the time. Not denial, keeps me sane. #litchat #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 9th, 2010
4evermore #litchat as a writer, I've read up on thanatology, the study of grief/grieving. It spawns solid ideas about human dynamics in those sits. -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @buffysquirrel: well if loss was going to shape me, i could've at least lost weight! #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @bdbhaird so i have heard #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett I didn't lose someone when I was young, but my mother did - her friend had kids my age. I knew then how vulnerable we all are. #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton bdbhaird @buffysquirrel @megwaiteclayton I think pretending that you are better sometimes jumpstarts feeling better. >I like this #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Wow. RT @Pegge: Yes, inspiration. Working on book now. Wrote article on sons death by suicide, many people replied, grateful for it #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @PIBarrington All too deep 4 me I write thrillers with characters who carry major guilt frm being responsible 4 luvd 1s deaths #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge There's no "right" way to do grief. It is a personal process, and it is what it is. Period. #litchat #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
imagechaos @GeneDoucette my MC has seen the same, yet he's never touched the booze. #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @Pegge: Laughter--seek it all the time. Not denial, keeps me sane. #litchat #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @elizabethkarr: RT @JLichtenberg: But when creating a character who has "depth" - we consider scars of past losses. Loss shapes us all. <yes! #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg Hmm... Would that be any different than someone who felt they had a new perspective on life that lets them go on? #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @PIBarrington One of the darkest stories I've ever written ws about guilt over causing death of the MC entire family- #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM RT @Pegge: I think grief process is individual & unique. Some days want a comedy, a character companion, other days not. Like life #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @buffysquirrel @megwaiteclayton fake it til you make it, I suppose. #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan Was asked to write a funny mg fiction set in a funeral home. Guess what? It wasn't that funny. #bookfail #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @Pegge: There's no "right" way to do grief. It is a personal process, and it is what it is. Period. #litchat #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @Pegge Laughter--seek it all the time. Not denial, keeps me sane. #litchat <<Amen to that. I came back to #improv for health and sanity -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010

elizabethkarr @bdbhaird Yes, and acting as if you are healed/better/whatever can be our and character's taking next step after denial. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @susanmpls #litchat might not read non-fic abt grief per se, but about the meaning of life -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
PIBarrington @LitChat ~this subject almost lends itself to literary fiction. Not my fave. Sorry. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette @imagechaos my MC would probably find your MC difficult to be around...:-) #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM RT @Pegge: Theres no "right" way to do grief. It is a personal process, and it is what it is. Period. (Here here) #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis Blogged about getting lost in the bayou of grief exploring 2 deep for a character. Did it @ a bad time. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @Pegge: There's no "right" way to do grief. It is a personal process, and it is what it is. Period. #litchat #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @PIBarrington: @LitChat ~this subject almost lends itself to literary fiction. Not my fave. Sorry. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan @Pegge Agreed! #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt I've read that agents/publishers want lighter hearted fare now because the world is so crappy. Are sad/grief books selling? #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton Wrote gallows humor story set in Neonatal Intensive Care - 1st ink I got from New Yorker #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Its why so many books can feature death as character and it's a whole different story. RT @Pegge: Theres no"right"way to do grief. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 9th, 2010
PIBarrington @katmagendie Yeah, I have a character who has the same situation. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @KaylaCagan Alan Ball via Six Feet Under mined funereal comedy pretty well. :) #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt I don't think anyone ever knows for sure what will sell and what won't. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @CathrynLouis yes, blogging, or journaling during grieving, WRITING even 4 non-prof writer is best therapy #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @elizabethkarr @JLichtenberg True losses shape us, but so does other stuff. Check out character creation Q's. http://bit.ly/dkPBDG #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @JulieBritt Interesting Question, worth posing. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg On men vs women in grief, WOMEN TALK, (sometimes dear diary), men sometimes not so much verbally #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bouldengal RT @KaylaCagan: Was asked to write a funny mg fiction set in a funeral home. Guess what? It wasn't that funny. #bookfail #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @PIBarrington It's still in my word files-maybe I need to revisit this guy some day. Poor b*****d. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Once read gallows humor is the only kind, since we all metaphorically stand on the gallows. This is gallows humor in itself, tho. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
thedaisyharris @JLichtenberg Men fish? #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
4evermore #litchat that said, I think there is space for humor in telling stories about grief. It doesn't have to be heavy. -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010

megwaiteclayton @JulieBritt Sadly, short answer is that very little is selling. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan Elegy for Iris, by her husband John Bayley was beautifully done. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @bouldengal Six Feet Under??? #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @thedaisyharris Oh, yes, most of our "shaping" is by events other than loss, but don't forget inherent traits define us #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bigreader101 RT @robertjbennett: Once read gallows humor is the only kind, since we all metaphorically stand on the gallows. This is gallows humor in itself, tho. #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel grief will always out, sometimes in odd ways. anyone know a book where character grieved strangely? #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @thedaisyharris thank u. look forward to reading about character creation link. #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @4evermore some of the most uproarious laughter I've heard has been at wakes or after-burial family gatherings #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @megwaiteclayton @JulieBritt Sadly, short answer is that very little is selling >>>yeah, pubs/agents a bit skittish right now #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan Did anyone read the book or see the play The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion about John Dunne's passing? I just couldn't. #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bouldengal @Hayley_DM Six Feet Under was (usually) brilliant. A fave of mine. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg If a person LIVES with zest and joy, how can we do nothing but cry at their death? Life is to be celebrated. But pain acknowledged #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis That's depressing... RT @megwaiteclayton: "@JulieBritt Sadly, short answer is that very little is selling. #litchat" -1:54 PM Aug 9th, 2010
GeneDoucette <---out. See you all later. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @KaylaCagan Yes. Several tweets about Didion's book earlier in chat. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @KaylaCagan Loved the book. See earlier part of the chat. Many of us impacted by it. #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @buffysquirrel where character grieved strangely?>>>All I can think of is the 1 we were talkng earlier: SK's Pet Cemetary #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
kriheli chiming in, a bit late. how is everyone? #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan I don't know if this is more gossip than grief, but wanted to read Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir by Christopher Buckley. Thoughts? #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton @CathrynLouis apologies. Forgot that was the topic we nixed for 2day! #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
bdbhaird @buffysquirrel Denethor, in Tolkien's Return of the King. He loses it in a big way. #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette Bye! later! #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @megwaiteclayton Except all those books about vampires and zombies. Everyone is dead, or undead in them, and they're selling. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
danish_novelist @AuthorWilliam My own mother died 6 years ago today, but even death and grief have a strange beauty. And the dead are still with us #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010

KaylaCagan @elizabethkarr @JulieBritt Ah yes, I arrived late today. Thanks! #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @bdbhaird ah, excellent example! #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @GeneDoucette See ya. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr Slightly off topic but S King's book 'On Writing', I highly recommend. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
CathrynLouis Been great! See y'all Wednesday. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge @JLichtenberg Thank you! We celebrate, we remember, we laugh, we grieve. It's all normal, wacky, messy & real life. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @katmagendie have not read that, unfortunately #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @megwaiteclayton LOL #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 9th, 2010
megwaiteclayton GTG, else someone will have to write gallows piece about my editor killing me for litchatting when I should be writing! Nice chat. #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @Pegge: @JLichtenberg Thank you! We celebrate, we remember, we laugh, we grieve. It's all normal, wacky, messy & real life. #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @CathrynLouis Bye Cathryn with a C! #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt Maybe that's a way of dealing w/death, darkness? Imagine it as sexy, pouty, covered in glitter? #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan @JulieBritt @megwaiteclayton I want to write a book called ZOMBIE EDITOR about the editor who is green-lighting all of these books. #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Pegge #litchat sometimes "real" life doesn't work so well as "fiction." -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
latta @litchat this topic is a little poignant as my family is currently discussing interment dates and times. #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @megwaiteclayton I'm in the same boat. #looksovershoulder #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @robertjbennett now i feel very weird #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @bouldengal Me too - loved it #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
danish_novelist @JLichtenberg Death should be celebrated, too. Not in a New Age way, but with deep appreciation, tears, laughter, anger & joy #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @buffysquirrel Pet Semetary dealt with a sort of "taboo"--horrible death of a child & the aftermath of that -*shudder* #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JLichtenberg @Pegge Maybe that's why we write fiction. To enforce a structure where there isn't one. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @thedaisyharris #litchat -- well, yes, grieving men might go fishing where a grieving woman might go next door for coffee with the neighbor -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
IreneZiegler Best to all of you and your important work. Hasta luego. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @katmagendie ah. does not sound fun! #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge @JLichtenberg Yes, indeed. This is true. I know by experience. It can hurt a bit more. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg @Pegge Maybe that's why we write fiction. To enforce a structure where there isn't one. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Apparently. Bella is begging to be undead, or whatever. Must have some appeal. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010

elizabethkarr RT @JLichtenberg: @Pegge #litchat sometimes "real" life doesnt work so well as "fiction."< and visvers too. When it does its heaven #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Gint_Aras RT @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg @Pegge Maybe that's why we write fiction. To enforce a structure where there isn't one. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @JulieBritt i suspect it's metaphorical #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @latta I'm sorry . . . #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM Thanks for a great chat all #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg @danish_novelist #litchat just as in good fiction, or stage comedy, it's all in the timing whether to celebrate or cry -2:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @buffysquirrel Yeah, love never dies. It just glistens. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @buffysquirrel It is a disturbing novel-but a poignancy there-made it more powerful, but still horrifying: King is master at that #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Pegge @robertjbennett I think so -- fiction can help with a road map or compass when one doesn't yet exist for someone #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie @Hayley_DM See you next time! #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Thanks for the great chat everyone! Must feed the offspring. See you Wednesday! #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @robertjbennett And why we read it, too. #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 9th, 2010
katmagendie Bye y'all - always a pleasure. Nice to be back after missing almost 2 weeks! #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg And then there's the subject of AGING, burying those most beloved one at a time. Repeated bereavement changes everything #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr This was terrific. Great insights. Thank u all. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JLichtenberg This is a great chat, and this particular one spectacularly productive #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett Maybe writing is similar to grief - it attempts to make sense out of what appears to be senseless. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
KaylaCagan See ya next time, #litchatters! Great discussion topic today, thanks. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 9th, 2010
kriheli before i forget, a quick plug: started a new lit mag @splitquarterly & we are looking for awesome submissions: http://bit.ly/9UfGdv #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
susanmpls @Pegge that's it exactly, thank you! RT "fiction can help with a road map or compass when one doesn't yet exist for someone" #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt I recommend Kings of the Earth by Jon Clinch. Men grieving in unique ways. #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @JLichtenberg oh, don't. place i'm in; place i hate #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett My novel actually deals w/grief - it actually starts with the MC losing his daughter. Check it out if you're interested. #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett His reaction is probably not the best one, though. #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett I suspect he causes more deaths. #litchat -2:05 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt Possibly. But with the best of intentions, if so! #litchat -2:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
Hayley_DM @katmagendie You sure will #litchat -2:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr the comments from this group make me want to read all your writing. V. inspiring. #litchat -2:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010

kriheli @robertjbennett where can we check your novel? #litchat -2:06 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt I would say that when the world refuses to make sense, he tries to force it to. #litchat -2:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Well, there is that overpopulation/dying planet problem. Your MC is green! #litchat -2:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Great chat today. It seems grief strikes a chord in everyone. Keep the convo going as you will, but do return for more on Weds. #litchat -2:07 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr That says it all. RT @robertjbennett: @JulieBritt I would say that when the world refuses to make sense, he tries to force it to. #litchat -2:08 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Now is your time to post links, pitches, plugs or other #hashtag promos. Thanks for staying on topic. #litchattics are awesome. #litchat -2:09 PM Aug 9th, 2010
twistedjamie #litchat http://thealtruistsprey.wordpress.com First 6 chapters and my synopsis. -2:10 PM Aug 9th, 2
JulieBritt Gotta run. Good chat. Here's my work. http://tinyurl.com/JulieBritt http://tinyurl.com/JulieBritt2 http://tinyurl.com/JulieBritt3 #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
LitChat Mark your calendars for Friday for guest host @Lynne_Griffin, author of SEA ESCAPE and LOSING SUMMER. Grief counselor in real life. #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt Follow me and I'll follow you. #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
janetsomerville RUSH drummer/lyricist buried his only child Selena & wife Jacquie within a year. Read #GhostRider about his grief journey. @LitChat #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel issue 6 of #gudmagazine coming soon! issue 5 now on sale! http://www.gudmagazine.com :D #litcha
Pegge Thank you, good one! RT@LitChat Great chat today. It seems grief strikes a chord in everyone...but do return for more on Weds. #litchat -2:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
robertjbennett @kriheli Here you go. http://tinyurl.com/25zufwk Comes out in paperback in September. #litchat -
amymackinnon RT @LitChat Friday's guest host @Lynne_Griffin, author of SEA ESCAPE & LIFE WITHOUT SUMMER. Grief counselor in real life. #litchat -2:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr http://www.radiofreealbemuth.com Movie I co-produced. Adaptation of Philip K Dick novel. @rfam
BrooksSigler RT @AmyMacKinnon: RT @LitChat Fri.'s guest host @Lynne_Griffin, author of SEA ESCAPE & LIFE WITHOUT SUMMER. Grief counselor irl. #litchat -2:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt http://www.facebook.com/JulieBritt #litchat -2:13 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt http://www.linkedin.com/in/juliebritt #litchat -2:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @elizabethkarr ooh oooh oooh must see that! must must must! #litchat -2:14 PM Aug 9th, 2010
kriheli @litchat what exactly is 'real life' ? :) #litchat -2:15 PM Aug 9th, 2010
buffysquirrel @kriheli that thing you can't close the pages on #litchat -2:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
elizabethkarr @buffysquirrel That's what I like to hear! V proud of Radio Free Albemuth. 1st feature as producer. Trailer will be coming soon. #litchat -2:16 PM Aug 9th, 2010
janetsomerville @LitChat Have a piece called "Cormorant" about my brother's death coming out in next issue of TORONTO QUARTERLY. #litchat -2:20 PM Aug 9th, 2010
SPIEGELandGRAU RT @miriamgershow: Oooh, excited by this topic. My bk THE LOCAL NEWS is all about grief for a lost sibling, though the grief is ambivalent. #litchat -2:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
kriheli @buffysquirrel oh, you can close the pages on anything. everyone has choices and paths. #litchat -2:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010
JulieBritt RT @janetsomerville: @LitChat Have a piece called "Cormorant" about my brother's death coming out in next issue of TORONTO QUARTERLY. #litchat -2:21 PM Aug 9th, 2010

jaelmchenry RT @LitChat: Mark your calendars for Friday for guest host @Lynne_Griffin, author of SEA ESCAPE and LOSING SUMMER. Grief counselor in real life. #litchat -2:22 PM Aug 9th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @danish_novelist Powerful words, thank you. #litchat -2:29 PM Aug 9th, 2010
WEDNESDAY: August 11, 2010
LitChat Welcome to #litchat. Today we're continuing convo on GRIPPING GRIEF. Please join us. -1:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock It's time for #litchat where I am, where are you, my friends? We are discussing novels about characters in grief. Sob along with me. -1:05 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes for many of Murakami's women, grief instantly transforms them, then almost supernaturally freezes them forever #LitChat -1:05 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes it's a fascinating way of showing how grife creates absolute discontinuity but also preserves you in time at the moment of change #litchat -1:06 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @LitChat: Welcome to #litchat. Today we're continuing convo on GRIPPING GRIEF. Please join us. -1:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @GLHancock I'm here! #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks Hello, #litchat! Ready to (sniff) sob along (boohoo). -1:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Pat Conroy's Prince of Tides. Grief and loss woven thruought. #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock As usual, I'm reminded of Bridges of Madison County. Yeah, I know it's not high lit, but I bawled through most of it. Both MCs sad #litchat -1:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr #litchat. is there a link for this chat so i'm in the room? please send. thanks. new member. -1:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs RT excellent example! @elizabethkarr: Pat Conroy's Prince of Tides. Grief and loss woven thruought. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett The Road is basically weapons-grade grief, as it's grief for an entire world and way of life. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks :') There's some grief in your books ... right? #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett But then, if there's a dark emotion of some kind, McCarthy usually tries for it. #litchat -1:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @GLHancock i'm here, my first twitter chat! #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
bigreader101 RT @robertjbennett: The Road is basically weapons-grade grief, as it's grief for an entire world and way of life. #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks Grief and sorrow are difficult to do without arousing laughter from readers. #litchat Like Dickens w/ the death of Little Nell. -1:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM The Sea - John Banville #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @kiandrajimenez Woo hoo! Welcome! Glad you saw my tweet and came long for the ride. #litchat -1:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis Hi all, lurking 2day #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett It's the smallest and most reduced displays of grief that I find are the most affecting. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @elizabethkarr I just use the #litchat hashtag @LitChat will sort you out with the tech wizardry :) -1:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010

LitChat Let's begin discussion with specific novels that feature characters on the grip of grief. #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sticky_t Hey, guys! Here today for @LitChat. :) #litchat -1:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @CarolBMTbooks #litchat. Good example. Pip in Dickens GREAT EXPECTATIONS, too. -1:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM Hi all - glad to see you #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @robertjbennett Like the classified ad: "Baby shoes. Never worn." #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm RT @elizabethkarr: Pat Conroy's Prince of Tides. Grief and loss woven throughout.<< gorgeous book #litchat -1:11 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr #litchat Mr. Rochester in Bronte's Jane Eyre. Grief turned inward so it paralyzed him until Jane came along and he started to thaw. -1:11 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @elizabethkarr Easiest way to follow #litchat is at http://bit.ly/MH5Qs. Enter Twitter login and you're here. #litchat. -1:11 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @elizabethkarr http://tweetchat.com/room/litchat #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @GLHancock Right. Or setting a place at the table for someone who's never going to come anymore. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @elizabethkarr Pip, too! Audiences are so varied that not everyone cries over the same onion. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs The Deep End of the Ocean ...about losing a child. Also...The Shack. Same subject, different approach. #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @LitChat my last book was about a teenager's quest to piece together the life of her mysterious lover after she witnessed her death #litchat -1:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
PitchMyNovel RT @LitChat: Let's begin discussion with specific novels that feature characters on the grip of grief. #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Now that's sad. "Baby shoes." #litchat -1:13 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm I'm going to say "The Count of Monte Cristo" though not spelled out, and appears more a revenge story... Edmund's grief drives all #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @GLHancock @LitChat "used" "Never used" - in the Hemingway version :) #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock That was a Hemingway one, wasn't it? #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @LitChat just read two novels by #litchat guest authors that deal with grief. "THE GIRL WHO FELL FROM THE SKY" and "THE MURDER'S DAUGHTERS" -1:14 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TonyNoland #litchat House of Mirth has lots of remorse, but perhaps that's different than grief? -1:14 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @LitChat We're talking about grief from death, right, not other kinds of losses? #litchat -1:14 PM Aug 11th, 2010
MarDixon @agnieszkasshoes And a brilliant, gripping book it is! Still in my mind 2 weeks after I read it! #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Yes, Hemingway. Master of brevity. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @robertjbennett Yes, and being an editor, I like my version best. Pithy and to the point. #litchat -1:15 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @JulieBritt grief could be from anything if it's transformative. Lost innocence. Er, the smell of madeleines... #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 11th, 2010

elizabethkarr @TonyNoland in the same family. Grief even greater when coupled with remorse. And regret. #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 11th, 2010
PitchMyNovel RT @AuthorWilliam: @LitChat just read two novels by #litchat guest authors that deal with grief. "THE GIRL WHO FELL FROM THE SKY" and "THE MURDER'S DAUGHTERS" -1:16 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam The 2 books i mentioned deal with the loss of a mother by young children& follows how it effects them in other times of their life. #litchat -1:16 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette wow tweetchat's being a real bitch today. #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @kiandrajimenez Here, sit by me. I'll hold your hand ... be sure to add #litchat to your tweets so they show up. -1:17 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum Passing On, Penelope Lively, bout the mother's death.Mother had a controlling personality & her disapproval lingers among her kids #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett If we view grief as a tool to use in shaping characters, what are the most effective ways of using it? #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TonyNoland @elizabethkarr The remorse over past mistakes got so intense, it was like grief for a life lost... her own. #litchat -1:17 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @GLHancock thank you! @AuthorWilliam shared a great link to help ease me in! thanks! #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @AuthorWilliam I haven't read either of them, but that puts me in mind of "Where The Lillies Bloom" #litchat -1:18 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @vickigundrum Penelope Lively. One of my favorite authors. Tiger Moon excellent read and grief and loss figure heavily. #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @robertjbennett Use grief as a tool for character change. Make him/her do things he/she would never have done before (pos or neg). #litchat -1:19 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa Speaking of grief in novels hits home. My UGLY WAYS & TAKING AFTER MUDEAR deal with death of a non-nuturing mother #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 11th, 2010
ErikaRobuck Remorse and grief--can't help but think of THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Ice Storm. Grieving over lost innocence. Intersting when reader is more aware than the character is. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs what about "A Child Called It" the true story about the worse case of child abuse... it's told from grief...and from healing. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 11th, 2010
ErikaRobuck BTW, Hello all--just stopping in. #litchat -1:20 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock Important to understand that expressions of grief are all over the map. Individual. But they must still conform to the character's #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette I apparently don't read any books that fulfill this category. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam In DAUGHTERS the two sisters deal with their grief by taking very different paths in life, yet maintaining a close relationship. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @geardrops Prolly true. Like @agnieszkasshoes said, it's transformative. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock basic personality. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett Characters revealed/changed by their grief. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam This made for ongoing tension between them #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010

robertjbennett @geardrops But I do think that the effects of those transformations are best viewed in small ways. A slight change shows a big one. #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CEMcKenzie1 Try "After You" by @juliebux #litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum The Cement Garden, McEwan, children's grief over mother's death is "denied"--modern grief stage--as they bury her. Quite a metaphor.#litchat -1:21 PM Aug 11th, 2010
orbitbooks RT @robertjbennett: The Road is basically weapons-grade grief, as it's grief for an entire world and way of life. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 11th, 2010
SpiderGriffin #litchat via @LitChat "Characters in the grip of grief" Donald Filbert in Filbert's Mindrooms. Yes, I know you've never heard of it! -1:22 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @robertjbennett @geardrops the classic case I can think like that is TV - "To Be a Somebody" (most famous episode of Cracker #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @robertjbennett Agree, but I'm more interested in actions unrelated to the source of grief. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @robertjbennett Very true re effects of transforms best viewed in small ways. #litchat -1:22 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @robertjbennett #litchat Love the "setting an extra plate" thing. But sufficient grief will shape one's reality, beyond focusing on the src -1:23 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @ErikaRobuck I was just about to suggest that book, excellent choice for grief #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Good question. My WIP involves grief over loss of innocence and faith and it's humorous. Trying to get MC thru it. #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @geardrops Definitely. A book about sitting in a room depressed all day would be very hard to pull off. #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa death and grief in a novel are rich fields to sow in writing. because your chars. are so open,raw. All that inside stuff comes up #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @agnieszkasshoes that was seriously wicked (but then, so was most of Cracker) #litchat -1:23 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @orbitbooks The Road is wall to wall grief. Almost unreadable for its bleakness, but prose is beautiful. #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock I'll bet we don't find much grief in chicklit, right? I mean, teardrops would ruin my Manolos or my silk Prada purse! #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @robertjbennett #litchat If abandoned, do they now shun others, or cherish them more? If loss through death, how do they treat mortality? -1:24 PM Aug 11th, 2010
marirandomities Lurking at #litchat. Been away for too long and am not a good source for naming books. (or whatever else) #litchat -1:24 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @TinaMcElroyAnsa Great point, I think it is a rich field to write in. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Grief is almost fairy dust for a writer. You can make your characters do almost anything because of it. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @GLHancock How 'bout Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks More effective to let the reader share a character's grief than to try to rouse that grief directly. As always, a little goes far. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt Avoiding cliches is hard, too. Like a mother not changing a dead child's room for years. Says a lot, but said often. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010

ErikaRobuck @kiandrajimenez Heartbreaking the way Lily carried her grief over accidental death of her mother, & how May took on others' grief. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @geardrops Yeah, reactions to it are the most interesting part of grief. Journey it takes them on, etc. #litchat -1:25 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @laurelrusswurm several marvellous series. Cracker, Friends, Frasier & Ally MacBeal were what I stayed in for as a student #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @CarolBMTbooks: More effective to let the reader share a character's grief than to try to rouse that grief directly. As always, a little goes far. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @laurelrusswurm Hmm. Is that chicklit? I thought it was more middle-aged ladies book. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr 4 how grief motivates characters actions, you can't do much better than Shakespeare...R & J, Othello, Hamlet... #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @ErikaRobuck I think about May's wailing wall and is there any other more poignant view on grief? I was so moved by it! #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett UP is one of the few pieces of fiction I've known that makes us directly experience grief after knowing a char for only 10 mins. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Yes, because grief can make u crazy, brave, question your existence, question faith, family, everything. #litchat -1:26 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @robertjbennett: @geardrops Yeah, reactions to it are the most interesting part of grief. Journey it takes them on, etc. #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorKhyrra RT @TinaMcElroyAnsa: death and grief in a novel are rich fields to sow in writing. because your chars. are so open,raw. All that inside stuff comes up #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @laurelrusswurm jimmy mcgovern 1 of our greatest living writers - Cracker in 90s &The Street was the best show of the noughties #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @GLHancock sorry, i;m a middle aged lady. i have trouble with labelling. #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 11th, 2010
RSBrzoska RT @orbitbooks: RT @robertjbennett: The Road is basically weapons-grade grief, as it's grief for an entire world and way of life. #litchat -1:27 PM Aug 11th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @kiandrajimenez Yes--so beautiful. So tragic. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett That said, grief can't be used just to turn a character into a bag of quirks. They need to go somewhere or do something w/it. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @laurelrusswurm LOL! And I'm an old one, but "tomatoes" is on my bookshelf, too! #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Play The Rabbit Hole was excellent study on grief. effect of losing a child on parents and family. Pullitzer prize winner. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM Jimmy McGovern is a legend #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @robertjbennett: Grief is almost fairy dust for a writer. You can make your characters do almost anything because of it. #litchat -1:28 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette I can't even remember the last book to make me cry. Kavalier and Clay? The Curious Incident of the Dog...? #litchat -1:29 PM Aug 11th, 2010
yongclee 1st exposure to #litchat, enjoying the feed. Reg day/time? -1:29 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa @kiandrajimenez death, grief in all my novels bec. there are ghost in them all. BTW, spirits are wonderful instru. in writing #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum Grief inspires action, seeking answers possibly vengence, The Lovely Bones. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks @agnieszkasshoes The noughties? As in o-2, o-3, etc? or nought-5, nought-6? I like it! #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @agnieszkasshoes Never saw "the street", cracker by accident (oh hagrid has a series... reduced prices from a&e... :) but awesome #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis @robertjbennett I'll have 2 read that one. My #wip opens with an MC experiencing grief. I need more viewpoints. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops Also, to share, an excellent story on grief/coping (esp in the face of the illogical) is Annie Dillard's Holy The Firm #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Agree. I think readers want some sort of journey, closure, redemption. Too bleak 2 say death ruined person forever. #litchat -1:30 PM Aug 11th, 2010
pussreboots The last book to make me tear up was Hate That Cat by Sharon Creech #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @Hayley_DM yes! Hillsborough as well. He is to grit what Russell T Davies is to glitz(both better than any of our feted novelists) #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM RT @robertjbennett: Grief is almost fairy dust for a writer. You can make your characters do almost anything because of it. #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Grief knocks a person out of their established orbit and forces them to see and experience things w/a new perspective. #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLITZANDBLITZ Decisions decisions #litchat or #troytalk? Too bad I'm not home to use tweetdeck ☹ -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
marirandomities RT @robertjbennett: Grief is almost fairy dust for a writer. You can make your characters do almost anything because of it. #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa "Only once I've wished for Heaven" by Dawn Turner Trice deals with a sister's death beautifully #litchat -1:31 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt Sometimes it may be worth it to show them not getting past it. Constant denial is a very real thing. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt Denying closure may be just as important as giving it to the reader. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @vickigundrum Lovely Bones showed v diff reactions to death of child. & the diff stages of grief playing out. V good example. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @laurelrusswurm The Street is such great writing about a different character each episode - fantastic - so worth watching #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JulieBritt I don't like the idea that someone -thing ruined someone's life. There's always a way back. #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett I think we all learned that with 9/11. Grief changed our world (mixed with fear, of course). #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @GLHancock the FGT back story w/chicks (tho endpapered in old ladies) i felt that was the heart of it, relationship forged by grief #litchat -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops I'll venture to say that a char has 3 options when faced w/ grief: deny it, accept it, or be destroyed by it. #litchat IMO all interesting -1:32 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs diff perspective. The Lovely Bones. We walk the mc's journey & watch the father's grief as he alienates famiy & looks for killer. #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette For me not a book but a play. "A Piece of my Heart" by Shirley Lauro. About women who served in 'nam. Talk about hell #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 11th, 2010

Hayley_DM @agnieszkasshoes One of my favourites - Robert Carlyle was fab in it! #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @laurelrusswurm "Hagrid has a series" wonderful! Robbie Coltrane is a brilliant actor. #litchat -1:33 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett A ruined life is in one's own power to ruin it. The character who will not yield to the healing of time? #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @CarolBMTbooks In fiction there can be a way back. Not always so in real life. The challenge is 2 make that story satisfying. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette Ended up directing a production of it a few years later. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @Hayley_DM worth a look... sometimes hard to find UK drama in Canada #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @geardrops Limited repertoire? Reactions can be anything. They don't make logical sense, but emotional sense for particular charac #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam I have cried over a LOT of plays. Cyrano got me when I was still in HS. #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt RT @geardrops: a char has 3 options when faced w/ grief: deny it, accept it, or be destroyed by it. #litchat IMO all interesting #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa oops! I meant "Only Twice I've Wished for Heaven" #litchat -1:34 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolBMTbooks Probably true. I do think some people allow grief and despair to devour them from the inside out. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @geardrops And all three options are within the character's choice. Choosing to be destroyed or choosing not to be. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Hugo's Les Miserables. Jean Val Jean besieged by grief amongst many maladies, but strong force thruout book. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam In theater? I would love to take something less obviously heart-breaking, and direct. A Lesson from Aloes, say. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @laurelrusswurm Try Amazon? #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
ErikaRobuck Must mention THE KITE RUNNER in our grief discussion. Grief/remorse catalyst for the protagonist's confession through story, etc. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @agnieszkasshoes Well yeah, but that was the appeal. 'Course Hagrid wld have a heart attack if he saw it... hagrid & lily P in bed? #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolBMTbooks But it's possible that accepting what happened feels worse to them than moving on. #litchat -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @GLHancock #litchat I don't see it as limited. Each reaction can be expressed uniquely, infinitely, and even simultaneously. -1:35 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @yongclee 4 p.m. every MWF #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JulieBritt Even in real life there are ways back. People (& characters) can choose. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @Hayley_DM yes, it was what really launched him. The anger just beneath the surface wonderfully done. Like Begbie in Trainspotting #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette Yup Yup..."For Colored Girls..." got me when I was in college. #litchat Amazing play. -1:36 PM Aug 11th, 2010

TinaMcElroyAnsa How often do we read about death, grief and find ourselves lost in our own grief. The writer has done her/his job when that happens #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @ErikaRobuck Yes! re Kiterunner. Remorse, regret and grief woven together. #litchat -1:36 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @geardrops Why limit possibilities to those three? Can also bargain, express anger, unlimited reactions are possible. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett Am I not understanding? If it feels worse, why choose it? #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @ErikaRobuck Good example. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Perhaps we shld do a litchat on characters in plays experiencing grief. so many great examples. #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @geardrops: "@GLHancock #litchat I don't see it as limited. Each reaction can be expressed uniquely, infinitely, & even simultaneously." -1:37 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette Sounds awesome. I directed Godot here in LA, very memorable experience. It's great to direct pieces I haven't written #litchat -1:37 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette I guess that's my out, here. I don't read books abt grief, but I'm all over stage plays that feature them. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolBMTbooks Well... right. If accepting what happens is worse, they won't, and let grief get the better of them. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock As in the seven stages of grief, which even the dying go through? (Elizabeth Kuhbler-Ross) #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs Secret Graces by @katmagendie deals with grief of all kinds. Death, loss, fear, abandonment...all from a child's persp. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr And plays have the challenge of revealing all thru dialogue, not an easy feat. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
laurelrusswurm @Hayley_DM (this is seriously off topic for #litchat :D -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam it is VERY hard to put on a successful Godot. A deceptively difficult production. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum Christopher Isherwood's A Single Man--Tom Ford turned into a movie. Didn't read but wonder if he dressed well in book, in mourning. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa @AuthorWilliam It is amazing how much "For Colored Girl.." touched viewers. Then, Shange turned to a novel. #litchat -1:38 PM Aug 11th, 2010
ErikaRobuck Thanks, ladies! @JulieBritt @elizabethkarr #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam I wrote a 20 min parody called Waiting To Go, abt Pipi and Nogo waiting for Godot to come out of the bathroom. #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett I'm confused. #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks Exactly what I was thinking of, except I couldn't remember them all... #litchat -1:39 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @GLHancock #litchat Are we going into the Kubler-Ross model? If so, that is a framework for transition from denial to acceptance. -1:40 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette <--was a playwright first, everything else later. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock I can't remember them all, either. Bargaining is one, as you said. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs RT (typo) Tender Graces by @katmagendie deals with grief of all kinds. Death, loss, fear, abandonment...all from a child's persp. #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 11th, 2010

Hayley_DM Anything that provokes an emotion for me has been well written, making me think about an issue differently is a plus #litchat -1:40 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa Think how often Toni Morrison's works, for instance, deal with death, grief, loss. And how many ways her chars. deal with them. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette Oh yes. I'd like to say ours was effective. My Estragon was nominated for a Garland award. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @geardrops Yes, and in real life people can get stuck at any stage, not experience all of them, and skip one or some, do out of ord #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette Night, Mother; Buried Child; Long Day's Journey...; The Glass Menagerie; It's almost harder to name a play w/o grief in it. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @vickigundrum just got that movie from Netflix. Haven't watched yet. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis I just don't like grief - anything sad. Ironic I should find myself writing about it. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette ROFL #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @TinaMcElroyAnsa I love Toni Morrison #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @Hayley_DM My definition too of good reading material. #litchat -1:41 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GeneDoucette Sounds hilarious! Your Pipi is obviously a pun, right? #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks Denial, bargaining, anger, depression ... acceptance. What's missing? #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam it's hysterical. I should show it to you; only someone who knows the play can really appreciate it. #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam "We could get an infection!" "An infection?!!" #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GeneDoucette Very true. I've seen & read so much theatre where grief is transformative. #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CathrynLouis Maybe that's why. Perhaps you are in a place where you need to express what's in you and not add new like exp's #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM I want to be taken to the edge and back again and feel a real affinity with the prot. #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GLHancock acceptance! :) #litchat -1:42 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie RT @sharlascroggs: Secret Graces by @katmagendie deals with grief of all kinds. >>>I hear that writer is a genius! (laughing :-D) #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette heehee :-D #litchat #LOVEgodot -1:43 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @CarolBMTbooks yes, and his friend Nogo. I imagine it with a port-a-john right onstage. Never been staged tho. #litchat -1:43 PM Aug 11th, 2010
BryanThomasS @robertjbennett wht's fascinating abt grief is the many levels & stages which R such gr8 fodder 4 writing & char development. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs @katmagendie :)))))))) #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @TinaMcElroyAnsa I've never read book or seena tv/film adaptation. Just the play. It was awesome #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Another of Pat Conroy's books, The Great Santini, where grief was a thin veneer covering the lives in that story. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010

BryanThomasS I think how people deal with tragedy and loss tells us more about them than almost anything else. #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie @sharlascroggs Thnk U; I'd forgotten all about the grief in my book(s) - and hello Sharla, glad to see you here - I'm late. :-) #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops @GLHancock If you are "stuck" at anger or bargaining, how is that not heading for self-destruction? #litchat Anger is often destructive -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @TinaMcElroyAnsa Yes--Toni Morrison's the master of dealing with grief & loss! #litchat -1:44 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance. Wikipedia lists only 5. #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock "Kübler-Ross model, commonly known as the five stages of grief," I think I got 'em all. #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 11th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes RT @Hayley_DM I want 2b taken 2 the edge & back again & feel a real affinity with the prot #litchat [yes, but sometimes good 2b left at edge -1:45 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum What are some examples of grief not triggered by death--as in a big disappointment, not accepting a disabled child, for example. ?? #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa I bet novels dealing with death, grief over mothers top the list of chars grappling w/ those issues.seems so natural. I did for me #litchat -1:45 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @geardrops Anger is probably always destructive. Turned inward, it is depression. Turned out, anger can hurt others. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Yup. I thought there were 7. Now I know. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Kübler-Ross notably omits the "drinking" stage. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks Great minds .... 8-) #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette RT @vickigundrum: What are some examples of grief not triggered by death //Death of a Salesman #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @vickigundrum Grief over loss of way of life in Gone With the Wind. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie RT @robertjbennett: Kübler-Ross notably omits the "drinking" stage. .>>>> TRUE! #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis RT @BryanThomasS: "I think how people deal with tragedy and loss tells us more about them than almost anything else. #litchat" -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks Knowing the 5 stages of grief can help us shape our characters' responses. #litchat (novels or plays) -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette see I can totally participate if I stick to scripts. #litchat -1:46 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @vickigundrum How about grief of a sibling that is separated from another by the divorce of their parents? Caucasia does this well #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @agnieszkasshoes Of course #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Grief can come at the char's recognition that their own life has passed them by. What is sadder than that? Or frightening? #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett That's an expression of one of the 5, perhaps? #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @vickigundrum Gatsby's loss of Daisy #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @robertjbennett I hope you're joking. Drinking is a behavior in reaction to emotions...unless it's just for fun! #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010

katmagendie Yes, grief can be more than abt death: grieving one's youth, grieving for a life not lived as expected or wanted; et cetera #litchat -1:47 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @CarolBMTbooks I want to see a special Action Hero Stage Six, where the hero goes out and kills everybody with his bare hands. #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
sharlascroggs Old Yeller (nod to @billycoffey) #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @vickigundrum The Color Purple deals with the physical loss of a sister, a great book written about loss and grief #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam I think books that feature grief from death...their effectiveness with a reader can be greatly influenced by timing of the read. #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks James Lee Burke uses characters' alcoholism in contrasting ways to show their responses to events. Both grieve #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Slightly OT but P Mazursky's movies deal with grief at ones own failings in an insightful and humorous way. #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis @vickigundrum all examples I have I realize is guilt. Makes me wonder - how much of grief is guilt? #litchat -1:48 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Great minds? You betcha! #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie RT @sharlascroggs Old Yeller (nod to @billycoffey) >>>>yes! #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @kiandrajimenez Also loss of children. #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @vickigundrum The Color Purple deals with the physical loss of a sister, a great book written about loss and grief - love it #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 11th, 2010
inkhaven RT @robertjbennett: Kübler-Ross notably omits the "drinking" stage. #litchat -1:49 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @JulieBritt Yes, so many levels of grief and loss, I think each character experienced some level. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock Sadly, most events make me cry, so for me, almost all novels involve grief. But it is always about a loss, not necessarily of life. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr There's a reason that Walt Disney's Bambi viewed generation after generation. My 1st experience as child with loss & grief. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat I think it's good for books to delve into heavy material like grief, but they have to have light moments, too. -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CathrynLouis :-) I think the same way. There are certain themes that are too close to home for me to want to read. #litchat Others I crave. -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Saffy Tentatively peeking at #litchat though had to run away on Mon due to getting sad :/ -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa @ ErikaRobuck @Haley_DM love Morrison, 2, But she does make u work! Not a bad thing. Would like to think my readers are thinkin, 2 #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM Grief can remind one of the guilt of things that were left unsaid #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CathrynLouis And it depends on the timing. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GeneDoucette So does the response manifest the emotion, the stage of grief? #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette All I want to know his how you people got an umlaut to appear in a tweet. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010

katmagendie Books that drive me crazy: when the grief's tossed off lke last year's sweater so the author can get on w/it-doesn't wk IRL either #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @sharlascroggs OMG and The Yearling. Both loss of pets and innocence. #litchat -1:50 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CathrynLouis @AuthorWilliam *kicking,screaming,throwing a tantrum* maybe you're right... #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett What was our first interaction with well-done fictional grief? Mine was Tom Robinson. It just wasn't *fair*. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @katmagendie Or so the character can get it on. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat what interests me as a writer isn't the grief itself, but what it drives chars to do & how they have to deal with grief to recover. -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks So far as dying is concerned, grief is experienced by both the dying and the bereaved. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @CarolBMTbooks I believe in most action films the act of revenge satisfies the needs of the grief. Which is why they're silly. #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Saffy @GLHancock loss is key to grief weather it is a way of life, a limb or a loved one you simply can no longer reach #litchat -1:51 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks RT @katmagendie: Books that drive me crazy: when the grief's tossed off lke last year's sweater so the author can get on w/it-doesn't wk IRL either #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 11th, 2010
caseylybrand RT @sleehadley: ♥ Writer/Lists? Check some out @caseylybrand @RCMurphy @Madison Woods @Kidpoet @Writequill @RenegadePoet22 @Kjhatch #WW #litchat #amwriting -1:52 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat a dying friend told me the thing she was most pissed about was not getting to see how The Young & The Restless Ended. I loved that. -1:52 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GeneDoucette Umlaut magic. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @Hayley_DM You got that right. Part of the inspiration for something I'm working on. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @katmagendie Perfect example of being stuck in the denial phase. #litchat -1:52 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @CarolBMTbooks Oh so very true, my grandmother said "I'm not ready on her deathbed." she was devastated by her reality #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa Oh! BB Moore Campbell's "Your Blues Ain't Like Mine." Rest her soul and thanks for the works #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat so perhaps I like to see grief at its oddest and least expected angles. that's where I start exploring. -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @4evermore S King got letters from terminally ill patients begging to learn what happened at the end of The Dark Tower. #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @robertjbennett Mine was Gone With The Wind in 6th grade. Prob other scholastic books I dont recall, but GWTW had impact. #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @TinaMcElroyAnsa Loved BB's BROTHERS AND SISTERS #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Saffy @GeneDoucette revenge as a thing to keep the person going during the initial wham does work though but is beyond most film scope #litchat -1:53 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GeneDoucette Action films? Like the ones that are all computer-generated effects and filmed in black except for explosions? #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010

JulieBritt @4evermore Ironically, I thought 'Lord let me live to see the #Lost series finale.' #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat I also think disenfranchised grief is fascinating, e.g., "my son the murder was executed last night, and nobody cares but me" -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette Oops, about to turn into a pumpkin. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Saffy @GeneDoucette as you have to have the follow up of the fact the grief is still there and needs to be tackled after revenge is taken #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @TinaMcElroyAnsa @AuthorWilliam Oh Yes! she wrote great books, loved them all. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @kiandrajimenez How sad. Not everyone completes all 5 stages. #litchat -1:54 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette yeahhhh, see the action film comment was a joke. Sixth stage of grief= killing everybody? People, seriously. #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat another ex. of disenfranchised grief: If These Walls Could Talk 2, when one lesbian partner dies and the other one is thrown out. -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Similarly, TPratchett got letters saying they hoped his Death would be the one who greeted them in the end. #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie @4evermore Yes! I need some hope, some light-if the novel is too heavy, I am exhausted when I put it down #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @4evermore For me, it's "Days of Our Lives" (listening now) but I hear it may end this fall ... death of my family! #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore @JulieBritt nice! #litchat now that's a true devotee. -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Saffy @4evermore I'm not sure what you mean by disenfranchised there? #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie @JulieBritt Yes - just read one like that not long ago and it pulled me out of the book #litchat -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @JulieBritt @4evermore Ironically, I thought 'Lord let me live to see the #Lost series finale.' #litchat <<HILARIOUS! I'm watching it now -1:55 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @JulieBritt It took me a lot to get into it but I just finished season 5 on hului and have season six on the way via netflix. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie @GLHancock Or in the "I need to get this danged novel written and my word count is close . .. rush rush" ... bleah #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Saffy @GeneDoucette you need more emot-a-cons to stop the confusion! #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GeneDoucette Films like that are a joke, but they make pots of $$. Not from me, though. #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum All these good examples of books about grief in response to hardships other than death just made me think of Philip Roth.Good grief #litchat -1:56 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore @GLHancock #litchat same lady read my unpub bk & told me to see it thru. why should I give that more meaning? but I do. grief is like that. -1:57 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore @AuthorWilliam #litchat "I'm watching it now." haha, you soap addict. that's fantastic. -1:57 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @Saffy I need a "dry humor" emoticon or something. #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TinaMcElroyAnsa @AuthorWilliam Humph, loved BB. Funny how often books reflect spirit of author and just as often they don't #litchat -1:57 PM Aug 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette @CarolBMTbooks good for you. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @kiandrajimenez Dying cut short? One doesn't often think of that. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat I've also thought more than once that shows like Hoarding and Intervention are abt ppl stuck in some stage of grief. so damaging. -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette out. later. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GLHancock LOL I've done that show. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie RT @GeneDoucette: @Saffy I need a "dry humor" emoticon or something. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock Unremitting grief is difficult for the reader to sustain for an entire book. I agree, we need some comic relief. #litchat -1:58 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @TinaMcElroyAnsa Favorite examples of both situations? #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @CarolBMTbooks it was sad to see her suffer at knowing she was loosing the life she loved. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr As a producer, I hate 'dramady'. seems silly. all tragedy has to have elements of humor or it is unwatchable/unreadable. #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock RT @elizabethkarr: @GLHancock LOL Ive done that show. || You mean the TV as family? 'strue for me! #litchat -1:59 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt @GLHancock I usually have to follow a dark book with a lighter one. Or at least a funny movie or something. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat also saw a great movie a few yrs ago about a girl who'd crashed a car drunk and killed her little brother. great family dynamics. -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @AuthorWilliam Sounds intriguing #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @elizabethkarr Most categorizations are useless. There is only talent and originality, or parts of both. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Pencil_to_Paper RT @AuthorWilliam: I think books that feature grief from death...their effectiveness with a reader can be greatly influenced by timing of the read. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GLHancock was one of my first acting jobs. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @JulieBritt That's what I try to do, too. My book club was stuck on books w/violence. I had to quit it. #litchat -2:00 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie Glad I peeked in even if just for a little while. ALways a pleasure & I always learn something. See y'all later! #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @4evermore I gave up on it midway through season two (watching them back to back to back on hulu to see what fuss was about). #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @katmagendie Y'all come back, y'heah? #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 11th, 2010
TonyNoland Mixed grief/humor, as in, "My best friend died in a car crash. I still owed him $20." #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @kiandrajimenez It happens to all of us, eventually. Writers work with that part of the human condition, with hope, preferably. #litchat -2:01 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @4evermore Then gave up again during Season 3. Was wondering what the pull was. Indeed the soapy qualities must have helped. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 11th, 2010
LitChat Can't believe the hour has passed already. Seems everyone connects with topic of grief. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 11th, 2010

JulieBritt @GLHancock My DVR is full of episodes of Criminal Minds and Big Bang Theory. Have to balance deranged killers with geeky silliness. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @elizabethkarr Ooo! Cant resist--who were you? I've watched since the beginning. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat @authorwilliam agreed on the timing of a read. good bks that deal with grief will leave an impression no matter the timing, tho. -2:02 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock My first book had plenty of violence, but that seemed to go over w/ you OK. #litchat -2:02 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kiandrajimenez @CarolBMTbooks so true! #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @Hayley_DM Thanks, its a memoir style story about a friend I lost in 2002 to a rare disease. Was loaded with regrets when she died. #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
LitChat Do continue as you wish, but do return on Friday for guest host @Lynne_Griffin, whose novels SEA ESCAPE and LIFE WITHOUT SUMMER. #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore #litchat thanks for the chat! sorry I could only pop in at the end. still doing rewrites on a novel...busy bee! -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
katmagendie RT @sharlascroggs: RT (typo) Tender Graces by @katmagendie deals with grief of all kinds. Death, loss, fear, abandonment...all from a child's persp. #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @kiandrajimenez My sister has terminal cancer, yet says "I'm so blessed." #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum Famous last word: "Rosebud" Citizen Kane #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks It is tempered by the love story, scenes with children, family, too. #litchat -2:03 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @4evermore Agree, just there are moments when it can have even greater impact on reader if loss is fresh...or turn them away. #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GLHancock I'd have to look back. Think it was a french doctor. Guest actor. Can't remember the story line. :) #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock @LitChat TY for your modding, and for the mentions today! #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Some great minds on here. Enjoyed listening. #litchat -2:04 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Ah, yes. Unrelieved grief or violence can be very wearing on a reader, let alone the writer. :-) #litchat -2:05 PM Aug 11th, 2010
Hayley_DM @AuthorWilliam Let us all know when it is published - first in the queue! #litchat -2:05 PM Aug 11th, 2010
robertjbennett My novel deals w/grief. MC can't accept what the world has done, and chooses to change it instead. http://tinyurl.com/25zufwk #litchat -2:06 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @elizabethkarr Thank you for being with us. Enjoyed your presence greatly. #litchat -2:06 PM Aug 11th, 2010
kriheli aw man, missed another #litchat -2:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
vickigundrum @GlHancock @elizabethkarr I'd love to know what TV show you are talking about. "Lost"? I'm lost. #litchat -2:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
4evermore @Saffy #litchat it's a term grief counselors use: when someone isn't "allowed" to grieve for their loss, for some reason. -2:07 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @Hayley_DM @AuthorWilliam Let us all know when it is published - first in the queue! #litchat <<< Will do!!! Thanks :-) -2:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
AuthorWilliam Great chat all! Must go feed the offspring! #litchat -2:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010

JulieBritt @vickigundrum I think they're talking about Days of our Lives. #litchat -2:08 PM Aug 11th, 2010
GLHancock Gotta go -- went for a hike this a.m. and my email inbox is overflowing. Damn! I hate when that happens. And sad when it doesn't! #litchat -2:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @LitChat Thanks for another excellent discussion. Participants here are so cool! #litchat -2:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
jameyhatley @kiandrajimenez i missed #litchat. i wrote & edited my way through it. -2:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt Back to work. Enjoyed the chat. Follow me and I'll follow you. #litchat -2:09 PM Aug 11th, 2010
LitChat Thank you everyone for another great chat. Hope to see you all back on Friday. #litchat -2:10 PM Aug 11th, 2010
JulieBritt Lots of terrific writers at #litchat. #WW -2:11 PM Aug 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @vickigundrum Days of Our Lives. GLH said she never misses it and I told her one of my 1st acting jobs. :) OT, I know! #litchat -2:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
lynne_griffin @LitChat Really looking forward to Friday's chat. #litchat -2:12 PM Aug 11th, 2010
geardrops This was my first #litchat and I really enjoyed it. Might participate again. Thanks, everyone! -2:13 PM Aug 11th, 2010

2010

at -2:10 PM Aug 9th, 2010

-2:11 PM Aug 9th, 2010

ovie. Just finished in June. #litchat -2:12 PM Aug 9th, 2010