



## LitChat September 27 & 29, 2010

Topic of the Week: Ambiguity

Topic Chat moderated by @LitChat

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: September 27, 2010

LitChat A hearty welcome to #litchat. This week we're discussing novels with AMBIGUITY. Please join us in the #litchat salon now. -12:59 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ErikaRobuck RT @LitChat: A hearty welcome to #litchat. This week we're discussing novels with AMBIGUITY. Please join us in the #litchat salon now. -1:01 PM Sep 27th, 2010

sticky\_t Here for @LitChat. :) #litchat -1:01 PM Sep 27th, 2010

LitChat The easiest way to follow #litchat is at [www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat](http://www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat). Sign in with Twitter and you're in the salon. -1:02 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ficwriter RT @LitChat: Topic in #litchat is AMBIGUITY. Guest host Fri. is @thomashcook, award-winning author of 20 books: [www.litchat.net](http://www.litchat.net). #litchat -1:02 PM Sep 27th, 2010

GeneDoucette Ambiguity? Let me be the first of 20 to say "hmm, kind of a vague topic." #litchat -1:03 PM Sep 27th, 2010

J\_GriffinB <pokes his head in> #litchat -1:03 PM Sep 27th, 2010

LitChat Please introduce yourself, but save all URLs, hashtags, links and other off-topic chatter for after our moderated hour. #litchat -1:03 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ERMurray RT @LitChat: A hearty welcome to #litchat. This week we're discussing novels with AMBIGUITY. Please join us in the #litchat salon now. -1:03 PM Sep 27th, 2010

elizabethkarr Hey everyone, in the writing room & ready to discuss ambiguity in novels. #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 27th, 2010

LitChat Brilliant. RT @GeneDoucette: Ambiguity? Let me be the first of 20 to say "hmm, kind of a vague topic." #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 27th, 2010

GeneDoucette hello, I'm Gene, my book Immortal is/should be available Friday, my head is imploding right now. #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 27th, 2010

sticky\_t Heh-heh. @GeneDoucette: Ambiguity? Let me be the first of 20 to say "hmm, kind of a vague topic." #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010

deberryandgrant RT @LitChat: This weeks topic chat, AMBIGUITY, begins in #litchat in 15 minutes. Join us at [www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat](http://www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat). #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010

LitChat Q1 Let's begin by discussing how AMBIGUITY is used in novels. Characters, settings, plots, endings, etc. #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ErikaRobuck Historical fiction writer, book blogger, lurker, lover of any combination of chocolate and peanut butter. #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ficwriter Congratulations! RT @GeneDoucette: hello, I'm Gene, my book Immortal is/should be available Friday, my head is imploding right now. #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010

sticky\_t Hi, Tanya here. Freelancer, blogger, writer, beta-reader. #litchat -1:06 PM Sep 27th, 2010

GeneDoucette @LitChat I actually am perplexed by the topic. ambiguity of the kind noticeable by the reader is... bad? right? #litchat -1:07 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ficwriter Just completed memoir w/ world champion boxer Deirdre Gogarty. Now working on a proposal. And I guest blog for @JaneFriedman. #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ErikaRobuck Toni Morrison's BELOVED comes to mind, with the child-ghost haunting the house. Her presence is both benevolent and disturbing. #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010
sticky_t @GeneDoucette: Open to interpretation? (Thinking aloud.) #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010
J_GriffinB @GeneDoucette I can't think of any climax that doesn't clear up most, if not all of the ambiguous points cleared up. #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @J_GriffinB right, but... well, okay, I know each week we spend half the hour debating the definition of the topic... #litchat -1:09 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat RT @GeneDoucette: I actually am perplexed by the topic. ambiguity of the kind noticeable by the reader is... bad? right? > Is it? #litchat -1:09 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @J_GriffinB ...but "ambiguity" says to me "the writer can't find a better way to avoid showing their hand prematurely." #litchat -1:10 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Moral ambiguity interests me. When chars have elements of good & evil and reader is left to decide where they stand. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 27th, 2010
novhill Nice example. RT: Toni Morrisons BELOVED comes to mind, with the child-ghost haunting the house. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette like "we don't want you to see the smoke monster" in Lost, or "we won't show what godzilla looks like for 1/2 the movie" #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 27th, 2010
sticky_t @elizabethkarr: Yes, moral ambiguity interests me too. That inner war between good and evil, dark and light always fascinates me. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 27th, 2010
pussreboots @novhill Little Stranger has an ambiguous ending but I think it served the plot well. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 27th, 2010
gabielessa @GeneDoucette Maybe not climax ambiguity, but an ambiguity in feelings and characters. Good MCs are never 100% good or 100% bad. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @elizabethkarr MORAL ambiguity. Okay, I can get behind that. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 27th, 2010
pussreboots @GeneDoucette Pay no attention to the map behind the curtain. (Wizard of Oz) #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Road To Perdition-graphic novel & Tom Hanks movie what I'm talking about in 'moral ambiguity.' #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 27th, 2010
pussreboots @GeneDoucette that was obvious! "man" and not "map" #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 27th, 2010
mrchrn Why not mention Mishima's Sea of fertility every #litchat: the final scene casts doubt over the reincarnation theme that drove whole book -1:13 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter Citizen Kane by Orson Wells comes to mind. #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 27th, 2010
mrchrn #litchat or does it! ha ha... ha.... ok... -1:14 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @pussreboots yes. I interpreted it as such. I also ignored the map behind teh curtain. #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 27th, 2010
J_GriffinB @GeneDoucette Yes #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @elizabethkarr Moral ambiguity very intriguing. THE READER's Hanna Schmitz comes to mind. Nazi war guard, illiterate. #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 27th, 2010
gabielessa Joining the discussion on #litchat about ambiguity in novels. Ambiguous plots? Characters? Or novels that generally cause mixed reactions? -1:15 PM Sep 27th, 2010
J_GriffinB Dexter could be seen as ambiguous as well. #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 27th, 2010
mrchrn #litchat and it has the strange effect of making you ask if the novel needed the metaphysics. is it meaningful in a materialist context? -1:15 PM Sep 27th, 2010

elizabethkarr Anyone else moved by last lines of Road To Perdition like I was? Chilling. #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @gabilessa I can sign up for emotional or character ambiguity. It was plot ambiguity that had me going "um...." #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck Actually, I hated Hanna Schmitz. No ambiguity for me there. #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich I like ambiguity in novels - in fact I celebrate it in my WIP. Life is ambiguous. We need to accept that. #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette like the movie Donnie Darko. I watched it and learned I had to read all these other things to make sense of the film. #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette sorry, if the movie can't stand on its own, it's been poorly made. #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette vs., say, Mulholland Drive, which is a mind-f*ck of a movie, but all the things to understand it are IN the movie. #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @ErikaRobuck The Reader is excellent example of moral ambiguity. Ignorant girl w/ keen desire 2 learn & yet she did unspeakable acts #litchat -1:18 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Raw writers can produce unintentionally ambiguous work, but at the hand of a master, intentional ambiguity is brilliant. #litchat -1:18 PM Sep 27th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes RT @mrchrn: Why not mention Mishima's Sea of fertility every #litchat: the final scene casts doubt over the reincarnation theme that drove whole book -1:18 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich Mind fuck is my favorite genre. #litchat -1:18 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @samredlich mine too. #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich @CarolyBurnsBass bingo #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
sticky_t Yep. @samredlich: Mind fuck is my favorite genre. #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Raw writers can produce unintentionally ambiguous work, but at the hand of a master, intentional ambiguity is brilliant. #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Raw writers can produce unintentionally ambiguous work, but @ hand of a master, intentional ambiguity is brilliant #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
mrchrn @samredlich #litchat Love that genre for film. Ambivalent for novels since they take so long to read. Need it fast... so to speak -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes American Psycho is a great example of ambiguity. Is there a link between ambiguity & unreliable narration #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 27th, 2010
tadbo @GeneDoucette I disagree on Donnie Darko. The film is understandable by itself. The website is there for people who don't get it. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich @mrchrn understood - but beware of the novel that starts out conventional and pulls the ontological rug from underneath you. ;) #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat Q2 How does AMBIGUITY work in a novel? What affects does it have on the story and the reader? #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @ErikaRobuck The Road by Cormac McCarthy is an example of intentional, brilliant ambiguity. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010
tadbo @GeneDoucette You have to be paying attention to the entire movie. You blink you're screwed. Personally, I love movies like that. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich @agnieszkasshoes unreliable narration is one technique that can be used in order to convey ambiguity. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ErikaRobuck Yes! RT @ficwriter: @ErikaRobuck The Road by Cormac McCarthy is an example of intentional, brilliant ambiguity. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 27th, 2010
J_GriffinB @tadbo a bit harder to carry off in novels, I think. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass YES! RT @ficwriter: @ErikaRobuck The Road by Cormac McCarthy is an example of intentional, brilliant ambiguity. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 27th, 2010
sticky_t Still need to read that. @ficwriter: @ErikaRobuck The Road by Cormac McCarthy is an example of intentional, brilliant ambiguity. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @agnieszkasshoes "Is there link between ambiguity & unreliable narration"< gr8 2 explore-Chars defined by behavior.Thots cn temper #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette @tadbo I'll take your word for it. I was introduced to the untold narrative by my kids after seeing the film #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger ambiguity can be fun in novels. anti-heroes, or sympathy for the devil (antagonist) - I like a bit of grey, makes you think #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @ficwriter Q2 In the hands of a master, it fills readers with curiosity. If not, it's just frustrating. #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck What most disturbed me about THE ROAD was my reaction. Hard to elaborate without spoilers, but I disappointed myself. #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette I can accept ambiguity in characterization as a rejection of a manichaeian worldview. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 27th, 2010
sticky_t YES! @ficwriter: @ficwriter Q2 In the hands of a master, it fills readers with curiosity. If not, its just frustrating. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 27th, 2010
tadbo @J_GriffinB Ummm...I would not say its harder in any media. Its about your approach and how you shape the story. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Specific choices of words create ambiguity which creates tension in some novels. Tension leads to urgency. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @ErikaRobuck Didn't read book, but saw film The Road. Strong, bleak stuff. OMG that is world I do NOT want 2 leave in. #peacenow #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 27th, 2010
GeneDoucette I really just wrote that because I can't pass up an opportunity to type "manichaeian". #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger ambiguity in characters is easier than in plot, though. Harder to pull off well #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich A novel enjoyed by many who come to different conclusions about the premises of the work has achieved successful ambiguity. #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat BTW, if you have a question to pose to topic chat, please send it to @LitChat w/o hashtag and I will post to the feed in Q order. #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 27th, 2010
quietriot_girl Djuna Barnes' Nightwood is one of the most beguiling, ambiguous books I have read #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @elizabethkarr Absolutely. If nothing else, it convinced me to run toward the blast at the end, rather than away. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Styron's Sophie's Choice is example of moral ambiguity. When her choice is revealed at end, makes sense of what came be4. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @elizabethkarr Funny, I read THE ROAD, but chose not to see the film. Maybe for same reason as you didn't read. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 27th, 2010
tadbo @ErikaRobuck Don't think the road is ambiguous, per se. Is it ambiguous if the people involved honestly don't know what happened? #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 27th, 2010

sticky_t I just loved the ambiguous ending to Lois Lowry's THE GIVER. I remember my middle school English class got in a big debate over it. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @quietriot_girl I like how you use beguiling and ambiguous to describe NIGHTWOOD. Makes me want to read it. #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @ErikaRobuck I'll be running beside you toward the blast when apocalypse comes. Felt same way after reading On The Beach. #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LFreshwater @ficwriter It should be a way in for each individual's mind, not a brick wall. It should be a deep well, not a trick. #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 27th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @elizabethkarr @samredlich can also unreliable narration to convey the opposite - unreliability makes us judge against the narrator #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @CarolyBurnsBass Me too. Can not watch the movie. #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @CarolyBurnsBass I can only take inhumanity and despair in small doses. The Road was a great film. But it's bleakness casts a pall. #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EverettMaroon oops, I've been missing #litchat! but I couldn't pass up another opportunity for the once-a-week taco truck. -1:30 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @GeneDoucette Ambiguous characters are interesting when they slowly reveal themselves like a good stripper. #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger Do you think the ambiguity has to go away at end for story to work? or can it stay, without leaving the reader frustrated? #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat @techtigger Am adding your last post to the Question feed. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @tadbo Ambiguity regarding reader response. The question at the beginning regarding the bullets in the gun and can the father do it?#litchat -1:32 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger @LitChat thanks - tried to tweet to you directly, kept getting error messages :( #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat Q3 fm @techtigger Do you think ambiguity has to go away at end for story to work?Or can it stay, without leaving reader frustrated? #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ketan inner struggles within characters create compelling analysis and reflection and power a story - divide an audience. #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @techtigger IMHO ambiguity leaves room 4 reader 2 draw their own conclusions of RT or WRNG of chars actions. More involving #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter RT @LFreshwater: It should be a way for each individual's mind, not a brick wall. It should be a deep well, not a trick. #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 27th, 2010
tadbo @ErikaRobuck Oh ho. My mind shied away from that question for the entire read. Both options are beyond horrible. #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 27th, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @LitChat absolutely I think ambiguity can be left at the end - makes us THINK The Usual Suspects, for example #litchat -1:34 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @tadbo It still haunts me. I have a love/hate relationship with that book. Can't do any more post-apocalyptic fiction. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Road To Perdition-POV of son."Some called him a killer. Some called him a friend. I called him my father. <paraphrase #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck @elizabethkarr I've never read ON THE BEACH. #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger @agnieszkasshoes you know, that's the second time in two days someone has mentioned that movie. Must go see it now :) #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr #Worthwhile. I reread a few yrs ago. RT @ErikaRobuck: @elizabethkarr Ive never read ON THE BEACH. #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ErikaRobuck @elizabethkarr That line gave me the chills. #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 27th, 2010
samredlich okay, tweeps - thats it for me and #litchat today, lest you think I have opinions on literature in general. Back to the WIP. #amwriting -1:37 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EverettMaroon #litchat For readers who want ambiguity, those endings are great! We should just write what we want & know we'll have an audience. -1:38 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @ErikaRobuck The Road is a love story between a father and son. That is why I enjoyed it. Difficult to read but great. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 27th, 2010
latta @CarolyBurnsBass @elizabethkarr I couldn't get past pg 50 of The Road. Three times. Yawnfest for me. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @techtigger Usual Suspects is compelling, wellmade psychological thriller. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ErikaRobuck RT @ficwriter: The Road is a love story between a father and son. That is why I enjoyed it. Difficult to read but great. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 27th, 2010
gabilessa Ambiguity can be left at the end, I think. Wuthering Heights is a perfect example of ambiguous novel that works wonderfully. #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Satisfaction is important to me at the end of a book. Ending doesn't have to be tied neat and tidy, just satisfying. #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Me, too. And look how long stayed w/me. Human & heartbreaking RT @ErikaRobuck: @elizabethkarr That line gave me the chills. #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @CarolyBurnsBass As long as Mr. Darcy marries Elizabeth, I'm satisfied. :) #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Satisfaction is important at the end of a book. Ending doesnt have to be tied neat and tidy, just satisfying. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @latta @elizabethkarr THE ROAD was definitely a tough read. I could only do a couple of chapters a day. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EileenCColeman agree! @CarolyBurnsBass RT @ficwriter: @ErikaRobuck The Road by Cormac McCarthy is an example of intentional, brilliant ambiguity. #litchat -1:42 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Exactly how I read it. RT @ficwriter: The Road is a love story between a father and son.... Difficult to read but great. #litchat -1:42 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @CarolyBurnsBass I kept thinking McCarthy could never end The Road in a satisfying way, but he did so brilliantly. #litchat -1:43 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @CarolyBurnsBass We went 2opening nite of THE ROAD-it was all I cld do 2 stay in my seat.That powful & horrible 2 C humanity sink. #litchat -1:43 PM Sep 27th, 2010
Textfyre Hey #litchat folks. Have you ever tried reading/writing Interactive Fiction? Check out inform7.com and ifdb.tads.org. -1:44 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EileenCColeman @CarolyBurnsBass ah, yes but once that raw writing is honed, brilliance can emerge #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @elizabethkarr As much as I loved the book, I would not want to see the movie. #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr There's latitude what defines 'satisfying' end of book. Sometimes closing cover w/ unsettled feeling cn b satisfying 2. #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum Hi. I'm late and opinionated. No moral ambiguity for me in The Road because the father knew what he had to do and did it. #litchat #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @ficwriter I don't blame U-I don't wanna read the book.:) Case where film was so good it made me NOT wnt 2 read The Road. #litchat -1:46 PM Sep 27th, 2010

EileenCColeman @CarolyBurnsBass The Road still haunts me. I find myself thinking about it often. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat @EileenCColeman Thanks, you get the point about raw writing. We all begin somewhere. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @vickigundrum He killed 2 save son & revenge wife. But he did kill people 4 money & shake people down. No moral ambiguity in that? #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @EileenCColeman The book or the movie? #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ketan Waltz With Bashir was an amazing animation / reflection on a character's struggle with his own memory and war #litchat -1:48 PM Sep 27th, 2010
latta @CarolyBurnsBass @elizabethkarr not sure by what you mean by 'tough' read. I just didn't care enough to keep reading & I love bleak. #litchat -1:48 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Luvd film! RT @ketan: Waltz With Bashir was an amazing animation / reflection on a characters struggle with his own memory and war #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat @EileenCColeman THE ROAD may have resonated in you because you have young children. What wouldn't you do to protect your kids? #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @latta Tough read because it is so bleak. #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @latta I didnt read The Road.Only saw film.Appreciate how good a writer he is-but have no desire2 revisit that scenario. #nightmare #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat @latta I found it dry reading, though beautifully wrought. The prose sustained me through the bleak storyline. #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EileenCColeman @LitChat indeed. that book broke me down to tears. The interaction between the father and son..heartwrenching. #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum @elizabethkarr Not ambiguous from his POV, for his mission. Does give the reader much to consider-the point of today's topic? #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EileenCColeman @ficwriter the book. I saw the movie too. But man, the book...I can't forget it. #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Fathers love 4 son in ROAD strong&beautiful. What humanity had degenerated in2 was unbearably sad &distressing 4 me. #litchat -1:53 PM Sep 27th, 2010
latta @ficwriter I love bleak. Nearly everything I write is dark. I just have to admit I didn't care for particular book. #litchat @elizabethkarr -1:54 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum QUES: Anyone know a morally ambiguous memoir? I don't like how ea memoirist is an unquestionable hero. #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EileenCColeman another book which has stayed with me is Never Let Me Go. Just thinking about it breaks me. #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @vickigundrum Y I like ROAD TO PERDITION so much is becuz it leaves reader 2 reflect on her own values. & wht it means to b 'moral' #litchat -1:55 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger @vickigundrum machiavelli, the prince? ;) #litchat -1:55 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @vickigundrum "Anyone know a morally ambiguous memoir?" <Mine. That I haven't written yet. #litchat -1:56 PM Sep 27th, 2010
techtigger not sure if that counts as a memoir though :) #litchat -1:56 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum @elizabethkarr I loved R to P movie. Will have to read the graphic novel. #litchat -1:57 PM Sep 27th, 2010
journalchat My post: Whispers <a href="http://is.gd/f97M1">http://is.gd/f97M1</a> Your comment is welcome. :) #litchat #writechat -1:57 PM Sep 27th, 2010

DawnHerring My post: Whispers <a href="http://is.gd/f97M1">http://is.gd/f97M1</a> Your comment is welcome. :) #litchat #writechat -1:57 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @techtigger LOL-"Machiavelli, The Prince as morally ambiguous memoir" #litchat -1:58 PM Sep 27th, 2010
latta @LitChat rt now am reading Radio Free AlbemuthN which is morally ambiguous n its own way, right @elizabethkarr? #litchat -1:58 PM Sep 27th, 2010
ficwriter @vickigundrum Robert Goolrick's memoir The End of the World As We Know It. #litchat -1:58 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @EileenCColeman NEVER LET ME GO is still in my booklist. I may have to move it up. #litchat -1:59 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr YES! RT @latta: @LitChat rt now am reading Radio Free Albemuth which is morally ambiguous n its own way, right @elizabethkarr? #litchat -1:59 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @latta is reading #PDK novel RADIO FREE ALBEMUTH that movie I produced is based on @RFAMovie. #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EileenCColeman @CarolyBurnsBass yes, move it up! that book is brilliant and it will touch your soul. #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum Geoff Dyer manages to be a bit of an ass in Yoga for Ppl Who Can't Be Bothered to Do It. Those are essays. #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr Loved the book & film! RT @CarolyBurnsBass: @EileenCColeman NEVER LET ME GO is still in my booklist. I may have to move it up. #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 27th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Heh. RT @elizabethkarr: @vickigundrum "Anyone know a morally ambiguous memoir?" <Mine. That I haven't written yet. #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 27th, 2010
BookEditorLM The Incredible PERSISTENCE of AUTHORS of FIRST NOVELS <a href="http://tinyurl.com/32fva3u">http://tinyurl.com/32fva3u</a> #Authors #Novelists #Writers #LitChat #WriteChat -2:01 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum @ficwriter Thanks for rec of The End of the World as We Know It. #litchat -2:02 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat Looks like our moderated hour is up for today. It's time for pitches and posts and all kinds of writerly pokes. #litchat -2:02 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr @CarolyBurnsBass Glad U caught my reference to 'morally ambiguous memoir of mine that I haven't written yet. :) #storiesicouldtell #litchat -2:02 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat We had a terrific discussion of Cormac McCarthy's THE ROAD. Bring more titles with AMBIGUITY--especially endings--on Wednesday. #litchat -2:03 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat Get to know Friday's guest author, @thomashcook, a master of AMBIGUITY, at <a href="http://www.litchat.net">www.litchat.net</a> . #litchat -2:04 PM Sep 27th, 2010
elizabethkarr My film is having World Premiere in Oct.Details coming soon.Subscribe 2 newsletter @ <a href="http://www.radiofreealbemuth.com">http://www.radiofreealbemuth.com</a> . :) @RFAMovie #litchat -2:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010
EverettMaroon @LitChat Sorry I wasn't around for much of the #litchat today. I was busy getting a short collection up on Amazon <a href="http://tinyurl.com/352acv2">http://tinyurl.com/352acv2</a> -2:05 PM Sep 27th, 2010
LitChat In Cali, I hope? RT @elizabethkarr: My film is having World Premiere in Oct. <a href="http://www.radiofreealbemuth.com">http://www.radiofreealbemuth.com</a> . @RFAMovie #litchat -2:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010
vickigundrum It was very funny what @elizabethkarr wrote about her morally ambiguous memoir not yet written. I'm writing mine right now. #litchat -2:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010
Jesilea Review: BOLD SPIRIT by Linda Hunt. <a href="http://diaryofabibliophile-jesilea.blogspot.com/">http://diaryofabibliophile-jesilea.blogspot.com/</a> #amreading #amwriting #litchat #bookreview -2:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010



ficwriter Thanks, @LitChat. Hope to pop in for author @thomashcook on Friday. May be doing something ambiguous, but I'll try to make it. #litchat -2:08 PM Sep 27th, 2010

techtigger all right, dinner will not make itself, so I must go. Thanks for a great litchat everyone! Always look forward to it :) #litchat -2:11 PM Sep 27th, 2010

LitChat @ficwriter Congrats on finishing your memoir for Deirdre Gogarty. May the proposal fly with wings of gold into nest of publisher. #litchat -2:11 PM Sep 27th, 2010

elizabethkarr TY all 4 RTL of @RFAMovie's October Premiere. Details coming... she typed ambiguously. :) #litchat -2:11 PM Sep 27th, 2010

LitChat Have you seen #litchat schedule? Check it out at <http://bit.ly/d35aLw>. We have @LitPark @AS\_King @jhinnefeld @robertjbennet & @SaraGruen. -2:14 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ficwriter Thank you! RT @LitChat Congrats on finishing memoir w/ Deirdre Gogarty. May proposal fly w/ wings of gold into nest of publisher. #litchat -2:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010

latta @LitChat @ficwriter no wings of Icarus. #litchat -2:21 PM Sep 27th, 2010

ficwriter @latta I'll try not to fly to close to the sun. #litchat -2:27 PM Sep 27th, 2010

eeleenlee RT @dirtywhitecandy: 7 deadly sins of prologues @kristenlambtx <http://ht.ly/2Km0p> #writing #writers #novels #stories #publishing #litchat -2:55 PM Sep 27th, 2010

MomsterSpeak RT @dirtywhitecandy: 7 deadly sins of prologues @kristenlambtx <http://ht.ly/2Km0p> #writing #writers #novels #stories #publishing #litchat -2:56 PM Sep 27th, 2010

marousia RT @samredlich: I like ambiguity in novels - in fact I celebrate it in my WIP. Life is ambiguous. We need to accept that. #litchat -2:59 PM Sep 27th, 2010

### WEDNESDAY: September 29, 2010

LitChat Join us now for Wednesday's #litchat. We're focusing our convo today on AMBIGUOUS ENDINGS. Love them? Hate them? #litchat -1:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @LitChat: Join us now for Wednesday's #litchat. We're focusing our convo today on AMBIGUOUS ENDINGS. Love them? Hate them? #litchat -1:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010

AuthorWilliam Hooray! I can #Litchat it up today! -1:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LitChat Easiest way to follow #litchat is through [www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat](http://www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat). Login with Twitter and you're ready to chat. -1:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010

MsALWalker Hi. I made it here on time for once. #litchat -1:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LitChat Let's take a few moments for introductions. Tell us who you are and what you do.. #litchat -1:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JulieBritt Whew. Just made it. #litchat -1:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LitChat Hurray! RT @MsALWalker: Hi. I made it here on time for once. #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LitChat Great to see you, Julie. RT @JulieBritt: Whew. Just made it. #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LitChat Yes! Thanks for joining us. RT @AuthorWilliam: Hooray! I can #Litchat it up today! #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010

MsALWalker I'm a writer taking a break from my WIP #litchat -1:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010

robertjbennett I prefer ambiguous endings. Life rarely is tied up neatly for us. Closure often feels artificial to me. #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010

David\_Heb Good morning/afternoon/evening, folks - David Hebblethwaite, UK-based book blogger here. #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010

kdelle RT @LitChat: Join us now for Wednesday's #litchat. We're focusing our convo today on AMBIGUOUS ENDINGS. Love them? Hate them? #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JulieBritt I've published some stories and am working on a novel. I work as a journalist (at least until Dec. 31. Job is being outsourced.) #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat To help keep convo on track, please hold all personal URLs, non-topic hashtags, and assorted links until after moderated hour of #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TheMonsterBlogs RT @LitChat: Join us now for Wednesday's #litchat. We're focusing our convo today on AMBIGUOUS ENDINGS. Love them? Hate them? #litchat -1:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt RT @LitChat: Easiest way to follow #litchat is through <a href="http://www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat">www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat</a> . Login with Twitter and youre ready to chat. #litchat -1:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker Some I love, like No Country for Old men. Others not so much, like Sadness of Lemon Cake. #litchat -1:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TonyNoland Better late for #litchat than not at all. Tony Noland, writer & blogger in Philadelphia. -1:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt RT @LitChat: Join us now for Wednesdays #litchat. Were focusing our convo today on AMBIGUOUS ENDINGS. Love them? Hate them? #litchat -1:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette Hello, Gene Doucette, author of Immortal, out in 2 days. I'm going to set myself on fire, see if that makes things go quicker. #litchat -1:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
pdilloway I hate ambiguous endings or nonendings as I refer to them. #litchat -1:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette and in honor of today's topic I'm going to make all of my responses ambiguous. #litchat -1:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker LOL RT @GeneDoucette I'm going to set myself on fire, see if that makes things go quicker. #litchat -1:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TheMonsterBlogs @LitChat I like them :) #litchat -1:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Toujours_Diva Hi. My name is Jeannie, and I'm an alc... wait. What room number is this? @LitChat #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @GeneDoucette Woohoo. Congrats #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
rebeccablain #litchat good lord, I forgot about Litchat... R.J. Blain reporting for lurking! -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
HoodedMan I'm Amos Keppler. I am an author & self-publisher of novels, among a thousand things <a href="http://midnight-fire.net/mfm/releases.html">http://midnight-fire.net/mfm/releases.html</a> #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @Toujours_Diva Overeating overdrinking writers. #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TonyNoland Not sure what you mean. RT @GeneDoucette: and in honor of today's topic I'm going to make all of my responses ambiguous. #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
HoodedMan And I kinda like ambiguous endings, like life #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett Ambiguity is a tough thing to pull off, though. It has to fit the story. Some stories need closure, others don't. #litchat -1:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker Welcome @Toujours_Diva. You're funny. #litchat -1:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
David_Heb I don't mind ambiguous endings, but I do think that books have to earn them. #litchat -1:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TonyNoland I prefer unambiguous endings. The sense of closure is one of the most satisfying parts of a novel. #litchat -1:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette I like to think that ambiguous endings. #litchat -1:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @JulieBritt After chat, do tell us how a pub outsources a journalist. (Paper I wrote for cut travel section, anything like that?) #litchat -1:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010

danish_novelist @LitChat Ambiguous endings are for grown ups and for people who like to think. Personally, I hate being spoonfed #litchat -1:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @CarolyBurnsBass Worse. I'll explain later. #litchat -1:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock Books w/ambiguous ends are great for book clubs, discussion groups. I listened to one on McCarthy's ROAD. Most Depressing Book! #LITCHAT -1:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
HoodedMan I like an explosive ending not to be misunderstood as well #litchat -1:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Has everyone read this post about this week's topic and Friday's guest host @thomashcook? www.litchat.net #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LetterMaster HI everyone at #litchat --> I love ambiguous endings; however, i think it depends on the type of book genre involved. -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
margueritwrites I destest ambiguous endings. They smell of an author who can't decide what to do. Finish the damn story. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
kriheli ambiguous endings rule. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett Inception and No Country For Old Men had the two ambiguous endings that prob stirred people up the most, recently. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @danish_novelist If I figure out whodunnit or howdunnit too soon I think the writer didn't try hard enough. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette stories should have beginning middles and endings which is why the parrot never knows the whole story. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker YES! RT @margueritwrites: I destest ambiguous endings. They smell of an author who cant decide what to do. Finish the damn story. #litchat -1:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist Excellent point RT @David_Heb I don't mind ambiguous endings, but I do think that books have to earn them. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TuesdayOn Ambiguous endings can be excellent but only if done really well. Poor executed, they a readers worst nightmare. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @GLHancock Good example in THE ROAD. We discussed it at length during Monday's chat. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett It just depends on how you read the story. Reading specifically for plot will probably not work with ambiguous endings. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @robertjbennett Now Inception I liked. I guess it's a matter of how it's done. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
alisonwells RT @danish_novelist: Excellent point RT @David_Heb I don't mind ambiguous endings, but I do think that books have to earn them. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock If ambiguous ends upset you, the problem is not with the author, the editor or the book. #LITCHAT -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
EverettMaroon #litchat All endings contain some ambiguity...after all, the story continues even after the last page. Nothing's ever really pat. -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolyBurnsBass @GLHancock McCarthy loves ambiguous endings in general. And ambiguous middles. And starts. #litchat -1:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett I think this works better in movies. Sometimes frustrating in books when you've invested days/weeks, not 2 hours. #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolyBurnsBass Oh, sorry I missed that one! #LITCHAT -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
HoodedMan Sometimes it's a good thing when the reader can decide for himself what has actually happened #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010

RasoirJ "The biggest regret of my writing life is that I have never kept a journal." Geoff Dyer <a href="http://tinyurl.com/26bq46a">http://tinyurl.com/26bq46a</a> #litchat #writetips -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @robertjbennett That was the impression I got from my book club members. Most everyone had something to gripe about! #LITCHAT -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
kriheli ambiguous endings are only good if there is a sense that the work has reached a level of denouement, even if it's spare #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt Definitely. There's more risk involved the more invested the audience is. Takes a gentle hand. #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Q1 Ambiguity vs closure: Can a novel have an ambiguous ending while still giving closure to the story? #litchat -1:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist @JulieBritt Endings with closure are easy to do. They're often formularic like a Hollywood script #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette sometimes ambiguous endings seem that way b/c the reader/viewer missed the point. on the other hand, there is never enough soap #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @HoodedMan But sometimes you want to know what happened in the author's mind. It is their book, after all. #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TheMonsterBlogs @robertjbennett how did Inception have an ambiguous ending? #litchat Thinking I missed something now :/ -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat If you have a question for the topic, please send to @LitChat w/o hashtag and I will post to the fed in order. #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @kriheli Exactly. It's evil when it appears the writer wrote himself into a corner he couldn't get out of, like the #Lost folks. #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @kriheli: ambiguous endings are only good if there is a sense that the work has reached a level of denouement, even if its spare #litchat -1:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
brownstonecool i like happy endings, if you know what i mean. ok i'll shut up. #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @LitChat Q1 That's an even trickier finish, but I've seen it done. People can interpret the closing in various ways, but feel ended #LITCHAT -1:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich What do you mean by "ambiguous"? #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @TheMonsterBlogs Inception...was it a dream? Was the top going to stop spinning? #litchat -1:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist @quietriot_girl Footnotes are for writers who wish they had phds. They take you out of the story #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GhostwriterJG RT @margueritwrites: I destest ambiguous endings. They smell of an author who can't decide what to do. Finish the damn story. #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar Q1 - Think it depends on the reader. Readers w/no imagination have trouble "figuring" ANY ending to an ambiguous ending. #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
milwaukeeewriter RT @GeneDoucette: sometimes ambiguous endings seem that way b/c the reader/viewer missed the point. on the other hand, there is never enough soap #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @LitChat I think so. There can be aspects of a key relationship, say a romantic one that gets closure while other elements don't. #litchat -1:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
David_Heb I would say ambiguity in an ending is about the 'facts' of a story, and closure is more about the 'emotions', so they can co-exist. #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010

robertjbennett @danish\_novelist Terry Pratchett and Susana Clarke both use footnotes to brilliant effect. I doubt if they're the PhD sort. #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LitChat For sake of this convo, see [www.litchat.net](http://www.litchat.net) for use of AMBIGUITY. RT @samredlich: What do you mean by "ambiguous"? #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @kriheli: ambiguous endings are only good if there is a sense that the work has reached a level of denouement, even if it's spare #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010

robertjbennett RT @David\_Heb: I would say ambiguity in an ending is about the 'facts' of a story, and closure is more about the 'emotions', so they can co-exist. #litchat -1:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010

GLHancock RT @David\_Heb: ambiguity in an ending is about the facts of a story, and closure is more about the emotions, so they can co-exist. #LITCHAT -1:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010

HoodedMan RT @EverettMaroon: #litchat All endings contain some ambiguity...after all, the story continues even after the last page. Nothing's ever really pat. -1:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010

Cinnamon\_Quill Some people like happy endings but I like satisfying ones. I agree there can be emotional closure with ambiguous facts at the end. #LitChat -1:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010

TananariveDue RT @LitChat: Q1 Ambiguity vs closure: Can a novel have an ambiguous ending while still giving closure to the story? #litchat -1:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks Sorry o be late. Hi everyone! #litchat -1:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010

robertjbennett @David\_Heb That's pretty much it. Ambiguity can finish things thematically/emotionally. Doesn't have to solve the "whodunit" #litchat -1:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010

GeneDoucette @EverettMaroon wait, what? is this one of my ambiguous tweets? The story doesn't exist past the ending. #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010

margueritwrites I don't need every loose end tied in a bow, but don't leave me in suspense about whether mc lives or dies.That one ticks me off #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010

GLHancock RT @CarolBMTbooks: Sorry o be late. Hi everyone! || Uh oh. I was just going to talk about your GOLD UNDER ICE. Ambiguous ending. #LITCHAT -1:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010

MsALWalker Hi @CarolBMTbooks Jump in. The water's great. #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010

kriheli watch vanilla sky. the original spanish version vs the remade american version for a clear illustration of ambiguous vs forced #litchat -1:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010

HoodedMan @MsALWalker But you know that, but never completely, fortunately not #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

AudryT For me what matters is what an ambiguous ending contributes to the work as a whole. I'm not going to dislike it strictly 4 existing #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL I've written novels where the main point of the story is resolved but the future is still wide-open on several fronts. #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Agree. RT @Cinnamon\_Quill: ... I like satisfying ones. I agree there can be emotional closure with ambiguous facts at the end. #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

TwinkleChar RT @David\_Heb: I would say ambiguity in an ending is about the 'facts' of a story, and closure is more about the 'emotions', so they can co-exist. #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

pdilloway Every ending is going to leave something unanswered, so it's all about feeling that the story has concluded. #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LetterMaster @LitChat Yes to Q1. There is always a surface story and whats goin on below. surface can end, but below can be a bit amb. #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

AuthorWilliam If the writer poses ?'s that are designed to keep you reading and then gets to the end and does not answer..can be tough. #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

wiremamma I prefer closure RT @LitChat: Q1 Ambiguity vs closure: Can a novel have an ambiguous ending while still giving closure to the story? #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Toujours_Diva @MsALWalker TY for the welcome. Great #litchat input! :D -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @LaurenBaratzL How else to leave openings for sequels to plug into? #LITCHAT -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TracyClark_TLC RT @LitChat: Q1 Ambiguity vs closure: Can a novel have an ambiguous ending while still giving closure to the story? #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist @samredlich @robertjbennett There are always exceptions in the arts. That's why they're ... arts :- ) #litchat -1:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Feel free. It'll be good to hear what an intelligent reader has to say! #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
milwaukeeewriter RT @AuthorWilliam: If the writer poses ?'s that are designed to keep you reading and then gets to the end and does not answer..can be tough. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
janetsomerville RT @danish_novelist: @LitChat Ambiguous endings are for grown ups and for people who like to think. Personally, I hate being spoonfed #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @LaurenBaratzL See that works, I think that is fairplay. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
EverettMaroon @GeneDoucette Well, technically it doesn't, but come on. We all know there's the next day after To Kill A Mockingbird, for example. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @MsALWalker Thank you. I will. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LetterMaster Think: Questioning the human condition. Of character, or yourself, or society #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett If ambiguity is well-done, solving the "facts" of the story don't matter; the thematic or emotional loop is closed and finished. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @LitChat Yup. I read it. #litchat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill I like Pan's Labyrinth for an ambiguous ending. The viewer could decide if it was a happily ever after or a satisfying end. #LitChat -1:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt I don't have to have a happy ending. I just want it to be logical, even if it's unclear what the character will do next. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette @EverettMaroon we assume that characters who didn't die at the end lived beyond the story... #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette @EverettMaroon ...but we aren't allowed to know what happened to them. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker That I can deal w RT @LaurenBaratzL I've written novels where the main point of story is resolved but the future is still wide-open #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @AuthorWilliam Thank you, sir. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks LOL! Well, I don't know how bright it is to read the ending first, but I do often, especially if I'm going to review #LITCHAT -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam I think @AudryT makes a Great point. If the ambiguity does contribute to the work, adds value - then excellent. #litchat -1:22 PM Sep 29th, 2010
EverettMaroon @GeneDoucette agreed. maybe because I'm a writer I tend to continue the story... #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist @wiremamma The greatest novels do both - have ambiguous endings that seem satisfying (closure) #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 29th, 2010

GeneDoucette @EverettMaroon that's why the ppl trying to figure out what happened after the Sopranos blackout make me crazy. #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GhostwriterJG @danish_novelist You realize that you've just said people who like real endings are childish and stupid, right? #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar RT @JulieBritt: I dont have 2 have happy ending. I just want it 2 be logical, even if its unclear what the character will do next. #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Patrick_alan @JulieBritt I have never asked a masseuse for a logical ending. What's that like? #litchat -1:23 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @GeneDoucette Sopranos finale was frustrating. #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LetterMaster RT @robertjbennett: If ambiguity is well-done, solving the "facts" of the story don't matter; the thematic or emotional loop is closed and finished. #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 29th, 2010
margueritwrites RT @Patrick_alan: @JulieBritt I have never asked a masseuse for a logical ending. What's that like? #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker I'm so over the Sopranos. #litchat -1:24 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock At end of @CarolBMTbooks new book, I went like OMG! What's going to happen now? (next, in another book) Good tactic. #LITCHAT -1:24 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @robertjbennett: If ambiguity is well-done, solving the "facts" of the story don't matter; the thematic or emotional loop is closed and finished. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GhostwriterJG I'm good with that, too. RT @LaurenBaratzL ... the main point of story is resolved but the future is still wide-open #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett RT @Patrick_alan: @JulieBritt I have never asked a masseuse for a logical ending. What's that like? #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette @MsALWalker yes it was! but the folks who were writing whole plotlines for what happened next needed help. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset about any ambiguity but every writer can't write for every reader. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
EverettMaroon @GeneDoucette #litchat Well, if storytelling is about experiencing an event, ambiguous endings are about letting the event go. -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @robertjbennett "thematic or emotional loop is closed and finished" - nicely put. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker If you're leaving it open for a sequel, that's fine. #litchat -1:25 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset about any ambiguity but every writer can't write for every reader. #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Hey guys just jumping in. #litchat #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset abt any ambiguity but every writer cant write 4 every readr. #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @TraceyBaptiste Howdy #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker Has anyone here read Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake? #litchat -1:26 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist @GhostwriterJG No. There's a lot of great literature where you don't have to think - where you can enjoy the prose & the story #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette @EverettMaroon mm, and sometimes the ambiguity is in just one aspect of the story. Maybe emotional closure was the point. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Sequels seem to be the norm of the day at least in YA, but at the end of every book, there needs to be some resolution. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010

blankslatepress Seems the best ending is the one that keeps you thinking about what happens next in the lives of the characters you love. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
4ndyman Ambiguous or not, the novel should end when the story is over. Too many stories end long after they're done. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset about any ambiguity but every writer can't write for every reader. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker Welcome @TraceyBaptiste #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar @LaurenBaratzL Exactly. That's what I was trying to say before. Some readers have no imagination. Cannot fill in the blanks. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @JulieBritt Hi! #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL You can twist yourself into pretzels trying to please as wide an audience as possible, or you can have one ideal reader in mind. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar Good one!>>RT @4ndyman: Ambiguous or not, the novel should end when the story is over. Too many stories end long after they're done. #litchat -1:27 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @TwinkleChar: RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset about any ambiguity but every writer can't write for every reader. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @TraceyBaptiste agreed. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett Sometimes the ambiguity comes from being unable to decipher a "symbolic" ending; one in which an event does not tie up the facts... #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset about any ambiguity but every writer can't write for every reader. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Totally agree RT @blankslatepress: Seems the best ending is the one that keeps you thinking about what happens next #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Q2 Does ambiguity exist only in the surface of the story, or can there be a deeper sub-textual ambiguity? #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @MsALWalker I have. I thought it ended well, considering how strange it was. I've got relatives I'd like to store in a closet. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LetterMaster RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sometimes, a certain type of reader will get upset about any ambiguity but every writer can't write for every reader. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar @LaurenBaratzL Or you can just satisfy yourself, hoping there are others like you out there. :) #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett ...but that event suggests what will eventually happen. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @TwinkleChar True. Or they're hardwired to expect a specific ending, like HEA (Happily Ever After). #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LaurenBaratzL I like to have one ideal reader in mind. Mine is named Chester. He lives in my basement. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: If ambiguity is well-done, solving the "facts" of the story don't matter; the thematic or emotional loop is closed and finished. #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TheMonsterBlogs @MsALWalker Ah yeah that bit - I think of that as the after film bit :/ And I would have had the father pick it up increasing it #litchat -1:28 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr HI, all; first timer #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @robertjbennett Now that's what I'm talking about, symbolic endings. #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010



EverettMaroon #litchat I just write what I write and hope there's an audience. And I like giving readers freedom to decide how a story ended. -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks A subplot can end on a positive note while the main plot is ambiguous. #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @JulieBritt LOL, but what happened to the brother? #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Welcome! Please join right in the convo. RT @curlyrbr: HI, all; first timer #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @GeneDoucette Uh-oh. Is Chester anything like that movie *Ben*? #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar <b>**RAISES HAND!*</b> RT @LaurenBaratzL: @TwinkleChar True. Or theyre hardwired 2 expect specific ending, like HEA (Happily Ever After). #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
4ndyman This applies to novels, too: "Too many pieces of music finish too long after the end." --Igor Stravinsky #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
kriheli deeper ambiguity is often psychological and stays with the reader longer. especially with effective prose #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @CarolBMTbooks: A subplot can end on a positive note while the main plot is ambiguous. #litchat -1:29 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LaurenBaratzL more like "Harvey" #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @MsALWalker Talking about.. good? Or talking about, bad? #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @TwinkleChar People expecting romance in the genre sense are often frustrated by my endings. #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @CarolBMTbooks #litchat ambiguity can be used to hit that positive note for readers who want it - 1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam I'm into resolving main storyline and leaving the conflict of the broader world open for a series (as long as there IS a series) #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar @curlyrbr Howdy. Jump right in. Water is nice--even tho sometimes gets white caps. :) #litchat - 1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Deeper ambiguity is realistic. Nothing in life is ever simple. The best plots leave you with something to think about #litchat #litchat -1:30 PM Sep 29th, 2010
brownstonecool the best books are those that are so ambiguous that the reader replays events in his/her head long after reading the work #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @GeneDoucette I can live with that. I'm less likely to get eaten by Harvey. #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr I had to read the end of Moby Dick 4 times and still can't figure out exactly what went wrong. #litchat - 1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock Q2 Yes, and it can even be unconscious for the writer. Why some keep writing books on the same theme, like mothers and daughters. #LITCHAT -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @AuthorWilliam You are wise to leave room for a series. If readers love the book, they will want more. #litchat #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
yabookwriter @kriheli True. #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat the "resolution of the conflict" and the "ending of the story" aren't necessarily the same thing. Some genres require them 2B -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @brownstonecool: the best books are those that are so ambiguous that the reader replays events in his/her head long after reading the work #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL RT @TraceyBaptiste: Deeper ambiguity is realistic...The best plots leave you with something to think about #litchat #litchat -1:31 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr IF you spell everything out, there is no fun for the reader. I like to figure it out myself. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar Smtimes best love=breakup./RT @LaurenBaratzL: @TwinkleChar ppl expecting romance in genre sense R oftn frustrated by my endings. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @GLHancock: Q2 Yes, and it can even be unconscious for the writer. Why some keep writing books on the same theme, like mothers and daughters. #LITCHAT -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @curlyrbr I read MD while drinking. Not sure if Ahab dies or the whale. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett Contrived ambiguity, basically, is the worst - where it is ambiguous mostly because it's easier to write. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JLichtenberg In both my books, the subplot (a love story) ends in hope while the main plot is more ambiguous. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
milwaukeeewriter RT @brownstonecool: the best books are those that are so ambiguous that the reader replays events in his/her head long after reading the work #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock You'll seldom find an ambiguous ending in formula fiction. That's part of what makes them such satisfying reads. All tied up neat #LITCHAT -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Figmentfiction RT @LaurenBaratzL: RT @TraceyBaptiste: Deeper ambiguity is realistic...The best plots leave you with something to think about #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr The sad part is having a series but not being able to get book 1 picked up #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
bypetal Maybe with the movement into e-readers there will soon be an option, like DVDs, where an author can offer alternate endings ;) #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @CarolBMTbooks: @JLichtenberg In both my books, the subplot (a love story) ends in hope while the main plot is more ambiguous. #litchat -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub @AuthorWilliam #litchat you've always got to hope there'll be a series... I finished my novel with the words, "now for part 2" -1:32 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @JulieBritt: I don't need a happy ending. I just want it to be logical, even if it's unclear what the character will do next. #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @TwinkleChar Or just an open future. E.g, "We're here now, don't know where we'll be later." #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @robertjbennett Contrived ambiguity, basically, is the worst - where it is ambiguous mostly because it's easier to write #litchat <<AGREE -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
danish_novelist @margueritwrites But telling a story by spelling everything out makes it more boring and predictable for the reader #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
David_Heb Ambiguity also depends on genre to an extent - e.g. one expects an unambiguous ending to a classic murder mystery. #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @CarolBMTbooks #litchat I hope you write more books. Keep me in mind as a reviewer. -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
brownstonecool beauty of #lost = obviously not the struggles of the writers but rather the effectiveness of the narrative still being discussed #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker So then it's good to leave the reader thinking about your book even if it's bad thoughts? #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks @blankslatepress Which requires that the reader does love the characters, and the ending sets the reader up for a sequel. #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @LaurenBaratzL I think I slept through most of it #litchat -1:33 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress Re: subtext ambiguity. I'd say absolutely. Done well, it should strengthen the story. #litchat -1:34 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste And that's life! RT @LaurenBaratzL: @TwinkleChar Or just an open future. "Were here now, dont know where well be later." #litchat #litchat -1:34 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat MOBY DICK - well, positrons and electrons meet and cancel each other out. -1:34 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock RT @JLichtenberg RT @CarolBMTbooks:In both my books, the subplot (a love story) ends in hope while the main plot is more ambiguous. #LITCHAT -1:34 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @GeneDoucette In or out of chains? LOL #litchat -1:34 PM Sep 29th, 2010
IanB022 God I hope not! RT @bypetal: Maybe with the movement into e-readers...like DVDs, where an author can offer alternate endings ;) #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
HoodedMan RT @TraceyBaptiste: Deeper ambiguity is realistic. Nothing in life is ever simple. The best plots leave you with something to think about #litchat #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @MsALWalker Not bad thoughts, just things to think about. Maybe everything isn't nice and neat at the end. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @blankslatepress #litchat subtext ambiguity is what generated all that Star Trek fanfic -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett It's easier to keep the reader in a fog than it is to deliver emotional payoff. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Next book almost mapped out, but the first scene turned into a story of its own. Sidetracked, but it fits. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @MsALWalker Good comment. And yeah, I'm not sure I'm feeling the "make the reader disgusted" thing works. #litchat (Though can't please all) -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar @CarolBMTbooks Some series readers never want series 2 end no matter how neatly u try 2 tie everything up. Just keep yelling MORE! #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @TraceyBaptiste Indeed! Just once, I let two characters be blazingly happy on last page, but man, did they earn it. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett But readers aren't dumb; they'll know when they're being strung along. Real ambiguity is very difficult to create. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JLichtenberg Thank you! I'll be in touch. #litchat -1:35 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Gone with the Wind ends ambiguously. Did not hurt sales. #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GhostwriterJG Maybe we need warning stickers on books. "AE" for "ambiguous ending." "TIN" for "tied up neatly." #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker I prefer the other way around @CarolBMTbooks. Not to have the main plot hanging. #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @NewWritersClub LOL wow, that's pretty bold! #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @TwinkleChar LOL! We should all be so fortunate! #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Good one! RT @LaurenBaratzL: Gone with the Wind ends ambiguously. Did not hurt sales. #litchat #litchat -1:36 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @robertjbennett Just make it a satisfactory fog. Good to keep them talking about it, not talking about hating you. #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL Real ambiguity isn't playing with the reader. It's respecting/trusting in the intelligence of the reader. #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @GhostwriterJG: Maybe we need warning stickers on books. "AE" for "ambiguous ending." "TIN" for "tied up neatly." #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass LOL. RT @GhostwriterJG: Maybe we need warning stickers on books. "AE" for "ambiguous ending." "TIN" for "tied up neatly." #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @LaurenBaratzL I guess that's a matter of interpretation. GWTW's ending was clear. Rhett didn't give a damn. #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock RT @LaurenBaratzL: Real ambiguity isnt playing with the reader. Its respecting/trusting in the intelligence of the reader. #LITCHAT -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @TraceyBaptiste Seriously. I wish I could be that successfully ambiguous. #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress @JLichtenberg Yes, and made so many geeks so happy. #litchat -1:37 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @TwinkleChar: @CarolBMTbooks Some series readers never want series 2 end no matter how neatly u try 2 tie everything up. Just keep yelling MORE! #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar Not when pub house pulls plug & readers yell at you for years./RT @CarolBMTbooks: @TwinkleChar LOL! We should all be so fortunate! #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
SopranosTweets RT @MsALWalker I'm so over the Sopranos. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: It's easier to keep the reader in a fog than it is to deliver emotional payoff. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorWilliam @GhostwriterJG Hilarious :-D #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill RT @LaurenBaratzL: Real ambiguity isn't playing with the reader. It's respecting/trusting in the intelligence of the reader. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @MsALWalker I tie up the main plot and simultaneously leave room to start another book. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @MsALWalker In the moment. But their history and Scarlett's attitude allow for possibility of change. #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @JulieBritt Yep. Whenever I think of contrived ambiguity, my mind immediately goes to the show "Heroes." #litchat -1:38 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @MsALWalker But Scarlet was clueless, going back to childhood home. Did she learn anything? I hated the sequel, by the way. #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr Choose your ending: then, when I can't decide what to do, I could just write several different endings and include them all #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
9Cups #litchat isn't "real life" (whatever that is) somewhat ambiguous especially in "the end?" -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat isn't "real life" (whatever that is) somewhat ambiguous especially in "the end?" -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @CarolBMTbooks I wanna b like you when I grow up. #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre Clean-cut endings or ambiguity depend on what the piece calls for, imo. One should end as one began. #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar @CarolBMTbooks Don't all books have room for a sequel, a char who hasn't fully been explored, or who haunts author, whispering ...? #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich to have different readers interpret the ending differently but with satisfaction seems to me a worthy aspiration for a writer #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks @TwinkleChar I don't have the problem of a pub house pulling plugs. I'm an indie author. #litchat -1:39 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @curlyrbr Remember those books where you could choose what happened to the protagonist? I used to love those when I was a kid. #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL RT @JLichtenberg: #litchat isnt "real life" (whatever that is) somewhat ambiguous especially in "the end?" #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @TwinkleChar Perhaps. I don't know. Could be. #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorLMartin The best ending is one brought about through an emotional experience by the reader; be it ambiguous or neatly complete. #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @MsALWalker But he was lying. #litchat -1:40 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @TwinkleChar unless you kill off all your characters #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @MsALWalker Dear me! (Blushing.) Thank you. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL RT @samredlich: to have different readers interpret the ending differently but w/ satisfaction seems worthy aspiration for a writer #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress @TwinkleChar @CarolBMTbooks Yes, which is why so many subsequent authors pick up that character's story and run with it. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @robynmcintyre At least to himself! #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar Whew. Really sad ending./RT @curlyrbr: @TwinkleChar unless you kill off all your characters #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LaurenBaratzL: RT @samredlich: to have different readers interpret the ending differently but w/ satisfaction seems worthy aspiration for a writer #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett RT @AuthorLMartin: The best ending is one brought about through an emotional experience by the reader; be it ambiguous or neatly complete. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre At risk of pasta pelting, I thought Sopranos ended appropriately. They learned nothing, they changed little. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @TraceyBaptiste thinking of writing an adult version... #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @robynmcintyre Maybe he was lying, but his actions were definitive. #litchat -1:41 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @MsALWalker @JulieBritt I don't call that GWTW knock-off a sequel. Margaret Mitchell would never have tamed Scarlett. #litchat -1:42 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Ditchwalk @robertjbennett "It's easier to keep the reader in a fog than it is to deliver emotional payoff." Esp. in London! #litchat #inappropriate -1:42 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @blankslatepress Like the plethora of "Jane Austen" books? Sad imitations, IMO. #litchat -1:42 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks RT @GLHancock: You'll seldom find an ambiguous ending in formula fiction. That's part of what makes them such satisfying reads. All tied up neat #LITCHAT -1:43 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Do it! RT @curlyrbr: @TraceyBaptiste thinking of writing an adult version... #litchat -1:43 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TwinkleChar Good convo. Have to jump out. Deadline! Thanks @litchat. #litchat -1:43 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @MsALWalker Sure, but I think there was ambiguity in the anger. If he really didn't care, he would have been indifferent. #litchat -1:43 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress @LaurenBaratzL @samredlich This is what my kids and I did to the end of Harry Potter-no good guys die and there is no epilogue. #litchat -1:43 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks RT @AuthorWilliam: RT @robertjbennett Contrived ambiguity, basically, is the worst - where it is ambiguous mostly because it's easier to write #litchat <<AGREE -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JLichtenberg #litchat @LaurenBaratzL @samredlich problem w/ readers interpreting ends diff'ntly -some readers are REVIEWERS & will judge on their interp -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

curlyrbr Like Memento...the movie and the guy's quest were both futile #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

GeneDoucette Fleeing the scene. See you all later. #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

TraceyBaptiste @blanksatepress Frankly, the epilogue at the end of Harry Potter was overkill... as was most of the last book. #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JLichtenberg RT @curlyrbr: Like Memento...the movie and the guy's quest were both futile #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

blanksatepress @CarolBMTbooks - OMG, yes! #litchat -1:44 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks @blanksatepress Subtext ambiguity is often not consciously planned. For an author it's "Did I say that?" #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JLichtenberg RT @blanksatepress: @LaurenBaratzL @samredlich This is what my kids and I did to the end of Harry Potter-no good guys die and there is no epilogue. #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

MsALWalker Great point RT @@samredlich problem w/ readers interpreting ends diff'ntly -some readers are REVIEWERS & will judge on their interp #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JLichtenberg RT @robynmcintyre: @MsALWalker Sure, but I think there was ambiguity in the anger. If he really didn't care, he would have been indifferent. #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL @JLichtenberg It's up to individual author to decide who to write for. The guy in the back row? #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

TraceyBaptiste True RT @CarolBMTbooks: @blanksatepress Subtext ambiguity is often not consciously planned. For an author its "Did I say that?" #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

robynmcintyre RT @JLichtenberg: #litchat problem w/ readers interpretng ends diff'ntly -some readers are REVIEWERS & will judge on their interp -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

CarolBMTbooks @Cinnamon\_Quill Me either. JA ended her books conclusively, IMO. #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

robertjbennett RT @CarolBMTbooks: @blanksatepress Subtext ambiguity is often not consciously planned. For an author it's "Did I say that?" #litchat -1:45 PM Sep 29th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @JLichtenberg: #litchat @LaurenBaratzL @samredlich problem w/ readers interpreting ends diff'ntly -some readers are REVIEWERS & will judge on their interp -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010

NewWritersClub @blanksatepress #litchat... wasn't Dumbledore a good guy???? -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL Even great reviewers get things wrong. #litchat -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010

blanksatepress @TraceyBaptiste I completely agree. My kids and I spent many hours concocting our own endings--but, we were still talking HP. #litchat -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010

JLichtenberg @CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock #litchat genre fiction like SF often uses ambiguous ending, esp. "New Wave" SF of long ago -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010

NewWritersClub RT @JLichtenberg: #litchat @LaurenBaratzL @samredlich problem w/ readers interpreting ends diff'ntly -some readers are REVIEWERS & will judge on their interp -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010

curlyrbr I just remembered, The Hitchiker Guide books, D.A. killed off EVERYONE so he wouldn't have to write them anymore. #litchat -1:46 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolBMTbooks A lot of the times subtext, like ambiguity, is difficult to plan. It's like rerouting rivers by placing one stone. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LaurenBaratzL: Even great reviewers get things wrong. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @curlyrbr Unless Kathy Bates kidnaps him. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @robynmcintyre: At risk of pasta pelting, I thought Sopranos ended appropriately. They learned nothing, they changed little. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker Especially if ending is ambiguous RT @LaurenBaratzL Even great reviewers get things wrong. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre I'm not such a good writer that I can plan ambiguity or surety. I go by wht the characters tell me about their sense of resolution. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress @CarolBMTbooks That's definitely the best kind. The "wow, did that character just do that?!" #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @LaurenBaratzL #litchat I suppose "do reviews sell books" would be a good chat topic! -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @blankslatepress I loved the HP series. My daughter is now reading it. It's a satisfying read despite the bloat. #litchat #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Bad poem, "Ode to a Reader": "If I could sit on your shoulder/and tell you what to think/..." 1/2 #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @curlyrbr Didn't he do that in a rather depressed fit, and regret it afterwards? #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks RT @LaurenBaratzL: Real ambiguity isn't playing with the reader. It's respecting/trusting in the intelligence of the reader. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @curlyrbr: I just remembered, The Hitchiker Guide books, D.A. killed off EVERYONE so he wouldn't have to write them anymore. #litchat -1:47 PM Sep 29th, 2010
pdilloway @curlyrbr The Hitchhiker's Guide ending, there was one that really cheesed me off. I compared it to the Soprano's ending. #litchat -1:48 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @CarolBMTbooks: @blankslatepress Subtext ambiguity is often not consciously planned. For an author it's "Did I say that?" #litchat -1:48 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL "...you'd only tell me how wonderful I am/you'd never tell me I stink." 2/2 #litchat -1:48 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub @curlyrbr Ah yes, but did he? In some universes they still existed... never definitively kill them off (Arthur Conan Doyle) #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @LaurenBaratzL LOL #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @JLichtenberg It depends on the reviewer and where the review appears. #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat 2-day more "readers" are "reviewers" at least in that they blog on sites where readers go to get advice (goodreads too) -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @TraceyBaptiste The HP books are great and in the end you have to respect JK for her decisions because she's the1 who wrote it. #LitChat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Embarrassing aside here... On Friday when @TwinkleChar was guest, I forgot contest to give away her book. Shall we play today? #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010

Figmentfiction Can we get examples of when subtext ambiguity is not consciously planned for an author? I am skeptical. #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @robertjbennett Yes, and the last 2 books were just awful #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker I love a good cliffhanger; symbolic ambiguity, not so much. #litchat -1:49 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat if the ending is "abiguous" -- is it a "spoiler" to say that in a review? -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich @MsALWalker a "misinterpreted" review is still attention to a work. #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub #litchat a new writer friend of mine ended his book almost stating that there was a sequel to follow... it was a spoof book of course! -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LFreshwater @LitChat Can a novel have an ambiguous ending while still giving closure to the story #litchat If the reader has an imagination. ;-) -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @curlyrbr I read the first Hitchhiker's book and didn't think much of it. #LitChat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @Figmentfiction: Can we get examples of when subtext ambiguity is not consciously planned for an author? I am skeptical. #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robymcintyre @NewWritersClub If you do kill them off, you'll only have to bring them back stupidly, ala Bobby Ewing's "dream" #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress @NewWritersClub @curlyrbr The beauty of science fiction - dead doesn't necessarily mean gone forever. #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LitChat: Embarrassing aside here... On Friday when @TwinkleChar was guest, I forgot contest to give away her book. Shall we play today? #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill Indeed and it will provoke discussion. RT @samredlich: @MsALWalker a "misinterpreted" review is still attention to a work. #litchat #LitChat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @JLichtenberg In these days, it's probably a spoiler just to *write* a review... #litchat -1:50 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JulieBritt @JLichtenberg I think so. Movie reviews often say "dramatic twist" and then you can see it coming before it happens. #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @LFreshwater: @LitChat Can a novel have an ambiguous ending while still giving closure to the story #litchat If the reader has an imagination. ;-) -1:51 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @JLichtenberg "You spoiled it by giving me a relative approximation of the book's worth!" #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @robymcintyre Or Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. "Oops, not dead yet!" #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker @samredlich And that's what we all want, attention to our work. :-) #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @curlyrbr: I just remembered, The Hitchiker Guide books, D.A. killed off EVERYONE so he wouldn't have to write them anymore. #litchat -1:51 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @NewWritersClub Earth was destroyed in every possible universe and they were on Earth, right? #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg One review for my novel was a spoiler. It was so aggravating! #litchat #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LaurenBaratzL: Bad poem, "Ode to a Reader": "If I could sit on your shoulder/and tell you what to think/..." 1/2 #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 29th, 2010



CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett Yes, indeed! Subtext can be unconscious because words have such differing connotations. #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blankslatepress @Figmentfiction Subtext can "sneak up" on an author and then the author can recognize and run with it. #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robymcintyre @LaurenBaratzL At least Doyle's solution for SH was believable. #litchat -1:52 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste RT @CarolBMTbooks: @robertjbennett Yes, indeed! Subtext can be unconscious because words have such differing connotations. #litchat -1:53 PM Sep 29th, 2010
lanB022 @curlyrbr But there's been a post-Adams sequel #litchat -1:53 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill That's horrible! RT @TraceyBaptiste One review for my novel was a spoiler. It was so aggravating! #LitChat -1:53 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat sometimes you can construct an ambiguous ending just by STOPPING at a certain point, one scene short of the next problem -1:53 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @blankslatepress: @NewWritersClub @curlyrbr The beauty of science fiction - dead doesn't necessarily mean gone forever. #litchat -1:53 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock If you doubt sub-text ambiguity being unconscious read critiques of poetry! #LITCHAT -1:53 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @Figmentfiction Subtext can also be found by reader, and not something the author realized while writing #litchat #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks Ambiguity backfired when Conan Doyle thought he killed off both Sherlock and Moriarty. Had to bring them both back! #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
MsALWalker Good conversation. You've given me food for thought. Now I need food for my tummy. See you all next time! #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @TraceyBaptiste: @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg One review for my novel was a spoiler. It was so aggravating! #litchat #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill Really? Don't they have to wait 50 years after his death? RT @lanB022: @curlyrbr But there's been a post-Adams sequel #LitChat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub @curlyrbr Yeah but in the method of the other books, DA could have brought them back... or forward... #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @Cinnamon_Quill It was horrible. Totally. #litchat #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @JulieBritt: @JLichtenberg I think so. Movie reviews often say "dramatic twist" and then you can see it coming before it happens. #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @TraceyBaptiste: @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg One review for my novel was a spoiler. It was so aggravating! #litchat #litchat -1:54 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robertjbennett: @JLichtenberg In these days, it's probably a spoiler just to *write* a review... #litchat -1:55 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robymcintyre RT @GLHancock: If you doubt sub-text ambiguity being unconscious read critiques of poetry! #LITCHAT -1:55 PM Sep 29th, 2010
David_Heb @robertjbennett The best reviews should enhance the reading of a book, not spoil it - but that's another discussion altogether. #litchat -1:55 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @TraceyBaptiste :( Evil. I hate novels being spoiled. #LitChat -1:55 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @Cinnamon_Quill Gotta have the right sense of humor, and it helps if you're a math nerd to get those probability jokes #litchat -1:55 PM Sep 29th, 2010

GLHancock @Cinnamon_Quill No, only get permission of the copyright holder. #LITCHAT -1:55 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @LaurenBaratzL #litchat sometimes 1 little blogger who writes something that goes viral can affect a book's sales -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
IanB022 @Cinnamon_Quill By Eoin Colfer - authorised by Adams' estate #litchat -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JamieMcCall has a LITERARY AGENT! Back to working on my book again, had put it on the back burner to acting for several years. It is time. #litchat -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill True. RT @GLHancock: @Cinnamon_Quill No, only get permission of the copyright holder. #LitChat -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @JamieMcCall Congratulations on getting an agent! #litchat #litchat -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @IanB022 Really? Eoin Colfer took over? That's interesting... #LitChat -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @JLichtenberg: @LaurenBaratzL #litchat sometimes 1 little blogger who writes something that goes viral can affect a book's sales -1:56 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat what about a reviewer who reviews via a VIDEO (like YouTube)? Does anyone do that? It could kill an ambiguous end surprise -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @JLichtenberg Apparently publishers now love bloggers: say that 10 blog mentions are worth a pile of gold! #LITCHAT -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Figmentfiction @blankslatepress I guess what I mean is, can you name some famous instances of authors finding this? #litchat -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @GLHancock: @JLichtenberg Apparently publishers now love bloggers: say that 10 blog mentions are worth a pile of gold! #LITCHAT -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste RT @JLichtenberg I think so. Movie reviews often say "dramatic twist" and then you can see it coming before it happens. #litchat -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub Almost coming to the end of my first week as a Twitterer - love the chats like #bookmarket #scifichat and of course #litchat -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre Guess posthumous sequels are something authors should think about addressing in their wills. #litchat -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Oh, goodness. One of my favorite poets was panned by the NYT. I stick with my own judgment. ;) #litchat -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill I never knew bloggers held such sway until I joined the blogsphere. It's amazing how much publishers love them. #LitChat -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
calliopeconsult RT @GLHancock: @JLichtenberg Apparently publishers now love bloggers: say that 10 blog mentions are worth a pile of gold! #LITCHAT -1:57 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat if ending is "confusing" rather than "ambiguous" reviewers might not discuss it but goodreads groups might -1:58 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @CarolBMTbooks Personal judgement all the way! =D #LitChat -1:58 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @JLichtenberg publishers love bloggers? they're worth a pile of gold? Well, I'll be a leprechaun's uncle! #litchat #litchat -1:58 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat BOOK GIVEAWAY: Go to <a href="http://bit.ly/dAojWA">http://bit.ly/dAojWA</a> and count how many books appear on her home page. Send answer to #litchat -1:58 PM Sep 29th, 2010

Cinnamon_Quill RT @GLHancock: @JLichtenberg Apparently publishers now love bloggers: say that 10 blog mentions are worth a pile of gold! #LITCHAT -1:58 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @robynmcintyre: RT @GLHancock: If you doubt sub-text ambiguity being unconscious read critiques of poetry! #LITCHAT -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock RT @robynmcintyre: Guess posthumous sequels are something authors should think about addressing in their wills.    Literary Executr #LITCHAT -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @NewWritersClub Glad you're having fun. #bookmarket #scifichat #litchat -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @David_Heb: @robertjbennett The best reviews should enhance the reading of a book, not spoil it - but that's another discussion altogether. #litchat -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @Cinnamon_Quill: @TraceyBaptiste :( Evil. I hate novels being spoiled. #LitChat -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub @TraceyBaptiste @JLichtenberg Like seeing a movie trailer and then realising that was all the good bits! #litchat -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @David_Heb Agreed. My issue's not with the reviewers, but those who cry spoiler. #litchat -1:59 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich Abstract discussions, such as "ambiguous endings" depend upon or philosophy towards fiction, its purpose and our goals. #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @TraceyBaptiste Pubs love books getting MENTIONED on blogs. #LITCHAT -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr blog followers = book buyers = \$\$ to a publisher #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Final Q fm @LetterMaster: Which genres of fiction are more likely to have ambiguous endings and why? #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Cinnamon_Quill @TraceyBaptiste #litchat Is an ambiguous ending therefore an invitation for bloggers to write "spoilers"? -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill Three books, isn't it? #LitChat -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JamieMcCall Applause!! Applause!! #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
EverettMaroon Sorry I ducked out of #litchat . . . deadlines are the worst! If anyone's interested, my blog's @transplantportation.com Now to read chat.. -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @curlyrbr: @Cinnamon_Quill Gotta have the right sense of humor, and it helps if you're a math nerd to get those probability jokes #litchat -2:00 PM Sep 29th, 2010
elizabethkarr @LitChat Missing you all. Working like a demon on @RFAmovie distribution and NYC opening. #SeasonofSecondChances arrived. TY! #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @NewWritersClub: @TraceyBaptiste @JLichtenberg Like seeing a movie trailer and then realising that was all the good bits! #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste RT @GLHancock: @TraceyBaptiste Pubs love books getting MENTIONED on blogs. #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
ayshak RT @danish_novelist: Excellent point RT @David_Heb I don't mind ambiguous endings, but I do think that books have to earn them. #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
blanksatepress @Figmentfiction Hmm-can't think of anyone "famous," but I know writers who "discover" subtext/ideas as their characters develop #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Figmentfiction @TraceyBaptiste True true. Those are good moments, like the author has completely assumed their characters' world, voices #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @JLichtenberg No, I don't think so. I think you can mention an ambiguous ending and how it made you feel but no need to spoil. #LitChat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010

iiiAlaaii RT @danish_novelist: Excellent point RT @David_Heb I don't mind ambiguous endings, but I do think that books have to earn them. #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg #litchat OK, and if an author makes her OWN YouTube video for an ambiguous ending novel, shld it reveal the ambiguity? -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr @GLHancock Thankfully, Robert Jordan had that all squared away #litchat -2:01 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub I keep forgetting to put #litchat in my posts... spot the newbie! -2:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @TraceyBaptiste: @JLichtenberg publishers love bloggers? they're worth a pile of gold? Well, I'll be a leprechaun's uncle! #litchat #litchat -2:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @curlyrbr R. Jordan used to get threatened not to die before the series was over...whoops. o.O #LitChat -2:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Toujours_Diva Ambiguity is safe. Definitive closure is risky. I'll never get over the hobbling scene in Misery. #litchat #chicken -2:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robyncintyre @LitChat I think "literary" novels are mst likly to hv ambig. endings b/c they may be more big idea than plot drvn #litchat -2:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock As: Write a sequel to my books and I'll come back and haunt you? I could do that. :- ) #litchat -2:02 PM Sep 29th, 2010
latta @LitChat that's b/c you were so excited abt prospect of dinner with me. Rt @LitChat I forgot contest to give away book. #litchat -2:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @robyncintyre And they're less likely to be "formula" fiction, which often DEMANDS a solid ending. #litchat -2:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CrystalWilki RT @MsALWalker: RT @kriheli: ambiguous endings are only good if there is a sense that the work has reached a level of denouement, even if its spare #litchat -2:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robyncintyre @robertjbennett Indeed. #litchat -2:03 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill I think literary novels are more likely to have ambiguous endings because they are about characters not a plot that needs a tie up. #LitChat -2:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Yes! RT @robertjbennett: @robyncintyre And theyre less likely to be "formula" fiction, which often DEMANDS a solid ending. #litchat -2:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Follow chat at www.tweetchat.com. Auto adds hashtag for you. RT @NewWritersClub: I keep forgetting to put #litchat in my posts. #litchat -2:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Cinnamon_Quill #litchat if a blogger/reviewer is disappointed in an ambiguous ending and flames it, that could be bad -2:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @LitChat Probably literary fiction has more ambiguity, consciously so. #litchat -2:04 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich @robyncintyre I appreciate the quotes around "literary" - and yes, when an author thinks that plot is snot, ambiguity awaits. #litchat -2:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @danish_novelist: Excellent point RT @David_Heb I don't mind ambiguous endings, but I do think that books have to earn them. #litchat -2:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks And would you object to people making posthumous films "based on a story by Carol etc."? #LITCHAT -2:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Guilty. RT @latta: @LitChat thats b/c you were so excited abt prospect of dinner with me. #litchat -2:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robyncintyre @elizabethkarr *waving* #SeasonofSecondChances #litchat -2:05 PM Sep 29th, 2010

NewWritersClub RT @Toujours_Diva: Ambiguity is safe. Definitive closure is risky. I'll never get over the hobbling scene in Misery. #litchat #chicken -2:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @LitChat #litchat Final A - I'd say creative writing for the Literary Market trends toward ambiguity throughout and in ending; it's Art -2:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @JLichtenberg Very true since bloggers hold a lot of sway. I'm amazed at how judgemental of books people are just because of blogs. #LitChat -2:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Go back and count again. RT @Cinnamon_Quill: Three books, isnt it? #litchat -2:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste @JLichtenberg Possible bad review for ambiguous ending won't stop me if I think it's the right way to go for the story #litchat #litchat -2:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock As if. But, if the proceeds went into my heirs' bank accounts, that might be nice. (I left all to charity.) #litchat -2:06 PM Sep 29th, 2010
JLichtenberg @Cinnamon_Quill #litchat oh, yes, "judgemental of books" because of blogs - we live in a whole new world. Gotta learn HOW to live. -2:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks RT @blankslatepress: @Figmentfiction Hmm-can't think of anyone "famous," but I know writers who "discover" subtext/ideas as their characters develop #litchat -2:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @LitChat >.> Guess I just suck then... Whoops. #LitChat -2:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
curlyrbr It was fun folks; gotta go exercise #litchat -2:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub @LitChat I am as well, but there's no retweet button today?? #litchat -2:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @samredlich I don't have the kind of mind that appreciates abstract fictional art. I'm more interested in people. #litchat -2:07 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @Cinnamon_Quill What difference does it make where a book review appears? I read books based on NYT reviewers opinions...so? #LITCHAT -2:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill Well I didn't get Hitchhikers, so I'm no math geek. XD I fail. #LitChat -2:08 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich its not creatively healthy to worry about the new literati police (bloggers) - write YOUR novel, let the chips cliche as they do. #litchat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Figmentfiction @robynmcintyre What about those works that manage to do both? #litchat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
1stine @LitChat Is this a trick question? I see 14. #litchat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Were you looking at www.charleneannbaumbich website? RT @Cinnamon_Quill: @LitChat >.> Guess I just suck then... Whoops. #litchat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @GLHancock True. All reviews hold sway. I guess I was just thinking that so many more people are computer oriented now. #LitChat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
David_Heb @robertjbennett Quite right, too! #litchat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JLichtenberg But if an author has built a solid readership, they won't be swayed. I love readers! #litchat -2:09 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste RT @samredlich: its not creatively healthy to wry about the new literati police.. write YOUR novel, let the chips cliche as they do #litchat -2:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @Figmentfiction Example? #litchat -2:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
katmagendie Oh, missed litchat today :-( dang. #litchat -2:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich @robynmcintyre i don't see the two things you mention as mutually exclusive. A work can be appreciated on different "levels". #litchat -2:10 PM Sep 29th, 2010

Cinnamon_Quill @LitChat I thought I was *hides* 14 books? #LitChat -2:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @JLichtenberg Literary fiction writers aren't the exclusive possessors of art, though. Another #litchat? -2:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robyncintyre @samredlich I'll agree with that, but I find abstract thinking w/o characters I can care about, off-putting. #litchat -2:11 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolBMTbooks That is an argument for a whole lifetime, not just a whole #litchat. :) -2:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks RT @GLHancock: @Cinnamon_Quill What difference does it make where a book review appears? I read books based on NYT reviewers opinions...so? #LITCHAT -2:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
TraceyBaptiste Gotta get the big kid started on h.w. Good #litchat guys! #litchat -2:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @samredlich: its not creatively healthy to worry about the new literati police (bloggers) - write YOUR novel, let the chips cliche as they do. #litchat -2:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich @robyncintyre of course! - it is we humans who invented abstract thinking - it is best within an emotionally honest context. #litchat -2:12 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock Isn't this the chat in which all books are considered "literary"? Or am I confusing ... confused? #LITCHAT -2:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
katmagendie received my copy of "The Season of Second Chances" - thank you @litchat & Diane Meier . . . #litchat -2:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorLMartin I enjoyed lurking around in #litchat tonight. This was my first visit. I plan on coming back. -2:13 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill The last time I came to lit chat I arrived at the end so I'm glad I made it this time! #LitChat -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks I also read a lot of books just because UPS and FEDEX throw them over the back fence into my yard. #LITCHAT -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
mysteriousruth @blankslatepress #litchat James Lee Burke believes his mysteries already exist and manifest as he writes them. He never knows in advance. -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @AuthorLMartin Y'all come back! #LITCHAT -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Winner of DIVINE APPOINTMENT by Charlene Ann Baumbich (@TwinkleChar) is @Cinnamon_Quill. Please DM your mailing addy. #litchat -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robyncintyre @samredlich Yes! And characters w/o a viewpoint, draggd willy nilly thru the plot landscape, remaining clueless thruout, annoy me. #litchat -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @robertjbennett You betcha! #litchat -2:14 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub @AuthorLMartin me too #litchat -2:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @GLHancock Now THAT sounds inviting. =D *imagines it raining books* #LitChat -2:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robyncintyre @mysteriousruth Whatever works. #litchat -2:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock LOL! Good thing it doesn't rain much in SoCal! #litchat -2:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill I...won...something? *dies of squee* #LitChat -2:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich @robyncintyre how about the non-person POV, would you be okay with that? ;) #litchat -2:15 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Great to meet you. RT @AuthorLMartin: I enjoyed lurking around in #litchat tonight. This was my first visit. I plan on coming back. #litchat -2:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010

samredlich @NewWritersClub an artist creates for themselves and with hope, is overheard by others. #litchat -2:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
katmagendie @Cinnamon_Quill Alas, I arrived at the end of Litchat today .... #litchat -2:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @LitChat Good chat as always! Thank you and my fellow chatters. #litchat -2:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @samredlich Example? #litchat -2:16 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks It did once--what a mess! Another time it rained, the delivery service wrapped the pkg in plastic. Still was wet! #LITCHAT -2:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @samredlich: @NewWritersClub an artist creates for themselves and with hope, is overheard by others. #litchat -2:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010
mysteriousruth #litchat Certain negative reviews peak interest - controversial topics. -2:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett I must run. BUT - my debut, Mr. Shivers, is now available at Walmarts and grocery stores through the country. Yay! #litchat -2:17 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett HOWEVER - in order to stay on those shelves, it must maintain Walmart and Grocery Store Sales Numbers. #litchat -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Cinnamon_Quill @katmagendie Well I only arrived by fluke. =D Hope to see you next time! #LitChat -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett So, if you're interested, please see @David_Heb 's very smart review here: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/2dzo6t5">http://tinyurl.com/2dzo6t5</a> #litchat -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
katmagendie What is on for Friday @litchat? #litchat -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
katmagendie @Cinnamon_Quill *laugh* I love a good fluke! #litchat -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @mysteriousruth So true! I have often sought out a book from a negative review because I am interested in topic - like probability #LITCHAT -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks Good chat, everyone! See ya! #litchat -2:18 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat @GLHancock No, we don't consider everything *literary* in this chat. We recognize different genres of fiction, including literary. #litchat -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock So you reviewed a lot of squishy writing? #litchat -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @samredlich I think some authors achieve that; except for her love of her vampire, Twilight's heroine doesn't seem to hv much. #litchat -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @CarolBMTbooks Bye Carol. Take care of that foot! #LITCHAT -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
Figmentfiction Roberto Bolano's characters from 2666 and Carson McCuller's Mick Kelly and her relationships off the top of my head #litchat -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
samredlich @robynmcintyre you'll have to wait till i finish my work for that one. (that self promotion was unintended) #litchat -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robertjbennett It is also the book for the Halloween #litchat. So, if it sounds like something you'd like, I hope you enjoy it! -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Thanks for the fun chat! #litchat -2:19 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat Great chat today--many good minds bringing interesting convo to an otherwise ordinary day. Do continue as you will, but... #litchat -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
GLHancock @Figmentfiction What about Bolano's characters? I am fascinated with his writing, life, etc. #LITCHAT -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
AuthorLMartin I truly appreciate the warm welcome. Thank you all. #litchat -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010

Cinnamon_Quill Love you #LitChat -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
katmagendie RT @Cinnamon_Quill: Love you #litchat -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
CarolBMTbooks @GLHancock Thank you. It's mending well. You take care, too! #litchat -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
robynmcintyre @samredlich Self-promotion fine. I'll be interested to see what you have. #litchat -2:20 PM Sep 29th, 2010
mysteriousruth @robynmcintyre #litchat aint that the truth! Personally I find plot related revelation invigorating. So fun when 1 changes course midstream. -2:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010
LitChat ...be sure to return on Friday 4pmET for guest host @thomashcook, master of endings, of ambiguity and mystery. #litchat -2:21 PM Sep 29th, 2010