



## LitChat September 27 & 29, 2010

Topic of the Week: Ambiguity

Guest host: Thomas H. Cook

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

Guest host: @thomashcook

LitChat Welcome to #litchat on this beautiful Friday afternoon. We're here with @ThomasHCook today. -1:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Our guest host, @thomashcook, is author of multiple prizewinning novels, including recently released LAST TALK WITH LOLA FAYE. #litchat -1:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Please join me in welcoming @thomashcook to #litchat. -1:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter Thanks @LitChat. I'm thrilled to be here for discussion w/ @thomashcook. So pleased to meet you. #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat The easiest way to follow #litchat is at <http://bit.ly/9JDsr0>. Login w/ Twitter and you're in the convo. -1:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CoachKate RT @ficwriter: Thanks @LitChat. I'm thrilled to be here for discussion w/ @thomashcook. So pleased to meet you. #litchat Yes, me too. -1:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook Okay, here's a question: Do mystery readers ALWAYS need to know who dun it?#litchat -1:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010

IanB022 Good evening from soggy Britain #litchat -1:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Please introduce yourself to @thomashcook and feel free to ask him about his work. Remember this, he is a master of endings. #litchat -1:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010

David\_Heb Hello to @thomashcook and all at #litchat -1:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010

chrisredding RT @LitChat: Please introduce yourself to @thomashcook and feel free to ask him about his work. Remember this, he is a master of endings. #litchat -1:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010

elizabethkarr .@litchat Bummer Cant make 2day @rfamovie lunch mtng just started Miss everyone and good convo #litchat -1:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat During today's #litchat hour with @thomashcook, please hold all off-topic convo, URLs, hashtags and other posts until after moderated hour. -1:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @ficwriter Great hearing from you, too. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010

MysteryMys RT @thomashcook: Okay, here's a question: Do mystery readers ALWAYS need to know who dun it? #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010

blankslatepress Hey, gang! I'm happy to participate today. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010

David\_Heb RT @thomashcook Okay, here's a question: Do mystery readers ALWAYS need to know who dun it? #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter @thomashcook Ambiguity leaves room for interpretation but w/ mysteries, I like to know who dun it. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010

hhharlow Yr chance to talk to a mystery great! RT @thomashcook: Okay, here's a question: Do mystery readers ALWAYS need to know who dun it?#litchat -1:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat I was unfamiliar with @thomashcook's work until I read LAST TALK WITH LOLA FAYE and could only say WOW. #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook Do you think you could enjoy a novel in which the who dun it wasn't exactly clear? #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CoachKate I am always irritated to get through a book and not have the satisfaction of knowing who dun it #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010

David\_Heb @thomashcook It depends on the mystery. It has to earn the right not to reveal the culprit. #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010

MysteryMys @thomashcook, when you sit down to write a novel, do you always know how it's going to end, or does the ending surprise you? #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter @thomashcook As long as the ending is satisfying, yes, I could enjoy it. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @LitChat Thank you very much. I really liked LOLA FAYE, the character. I felt more like a theater director directing an actress. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

amdmc @thomashcook I find it frustrating when I'm at the end of the book, but after I have time to think about it I'm usually a fan. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

etatejohnson Haven't watched Oprah in ages but JK Rowling is on. \*sigh What a life! #litchat #writermom #amwriting -1:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CoachKate RT @ficwriter: @thomashcook As long as the ending is satisfying, yes, I could enjoy it. Yes, I could too #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter RT @thomashcook: Thank you. I really liked LOLA FAYE, the character. I felt more like a theater director directing an actress. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

beaterud does not matter who dun it, I forget those details some weeks after reading a book, what I remember is if the book was entertaining #LitChat -1:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

jefishere @thomashcook As long as the ending is conclusive, the who-dun-it doesn't matter. As much, anyway. #LitChat -1:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat @thomashcook Yes, Lola Faye is a very theatrical character. She's the kind of smart that sneaks up and whams you with sense. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @thomashcook: @LitChat Thank you very much. I really liked LOLA FAYE, the character. I felt more like a theater director directing an actress. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

latta @elizabethkarr will miss you! Know @rfamovie keeping you on toes. Can't make #litchat either. -1:12 PM Oct 1st, 2010

AuthorWilliam Dear followers, We're talking with @thomashcook about his work and the art of endings in #litchat, come join us! -1:13 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ScribeQuotes RT @AuthorWilliam: Dear followers, We're talking with @thomashcook about his work and the art of endings in #litchat, come join us! -1:13 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter @thomashcook Do you have any tips for writing satisfying yet ambiguous endings? #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 1st, 2010

katmagendie @AuthorWilliam: Dear followers, Were talking with @thomashcook about his work and the art of endings in #litchat, come join us! #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @thomashcook Before reading LAST TALK WITH LOLA FAYE, I didn't think I'd enjoy a mystery without a clear whodunit solved. -more- #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @ficwriter Yes, I do. Imagine the characters really well, and you may find that the get to the ending without you. It's amazing. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 1st, 2010

robynmccintyre RT @beaterud: doesn't matter who dun it, I forget these details some weeks after reading a book, what I remember is if the book was entertaining #LitChat -1:15 PM Oct 1st, 2010

MysteryMys @AuthorWilliam I agree with you! LOLA FAYE felt like a two-person play. Very dramatic and the tension-building was ingenious. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass -cont- However, @thomashcook changed my mind. Now I think it has everything to do with sympathetic characters and growth. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook One things for writers to remember is that Dosteyevsky said that it was the Brothers who wrote The Brothers Karamazov. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 1st, 2010

beaterud @thomashcook when do you know how all will end, before starting, somewhere in the middle or when writing the ending? #LitChat -1:16 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Yes! RT @MysteryMys: I agree with you! LOLA FAYE felt like a two-person play. Very dramatic and the tension-building was ingenious. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter RT @thomashcook: One thing for writers to remember is that Dosteyevsky said it was the Brothers who wrote The Brothers Karamazov. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 1st, 2010

J\_GriffinB monitors, quietly. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 1st, 2010

alleypat RT @LitChat: Our guest host, @thomashcook, is author of multiple prizewinning novels, including recently released LAST TALK WITH LOLA FAYE. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @beaterud I never know the end of a book when I start it. I don't even know the direction in which it will go. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 1st, 2010

techtigger ack, almost forgot about litchat! hi everyone! looks like the convo is already rolling :) #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook Doctorow said that writing is like getting in a car at night, turning on the headlights and driving off. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 1st, 2010

techtigger that makes me feel better about my own WIP ;) RT @thomashcook: @beaterud I never know the end of a book when I start it. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 1st, 2010

alleypat @thomashcook that's a relief! me either, thanks for sharing that! #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 1st, 2010

techtigger RT @LitChat: Our guest host, @thomashcook, is author of multiple prizewinning novels, including recent LAST TALK WITH LOLA FAYE. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook I think that if you concentrate on the "who dun it" you may forget that it doesn't matter unless you care who it was done to. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 1st, 2010

J\_GriffinB RT @thomashcook: Doctorow said that writing is like getting in a car at night, turning on the headlights and driving off. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 1st, 2010

robynmcintyre @thomashcook So do you start with a concept or a character? #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter Strong endings stay with readers long after a book is read. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook My favorite endings don't have to be surprising, just real. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 1st, 2010

robynmcintyre @ofktoubro If you're interested, you may want to ck out #litchat, going on now. -1:20 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Another pantster! RT @thomashcook: I never know the end of a book when I start it. I dont even know direction in which it will go. #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @robynmcintyre Sometimes I just start with a title. I am working on a book entitled "The Poet Laureate of Crime." Only have title #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 1st, 2010

MysteryMys @ficwriter You said it! #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @CarolyBurnsBass Okay, what's a pantster? #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Exactly. RT @thomashcook: if you concentrate on "who dun it" you may forget it doesnt matter unless you care who it was done to. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @ficwriter Just strong endings really hang in there. Especially tragic ones. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @CarolyBurnsBass ;-) #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys @thomashcook I can't wait for all of you to read his next book, coming out in Summer 2011, THE QUEST FOR ANNA KLEIN. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
danish_novelist @ficwriter So do strong characters. Sometimes they can even make up for sloppy prose. just read Stieg Larsson ;-) #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger writing by the seat of your pants, rather than plotting things out :) RT @thomashcook: @CarolyBurnsBass Okay, whats a pantster? #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
beaterud actually, many books I don't even read to the ending, guess the middle is somewhat important keeping the reader interested.. #LitChat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Writing by the seat of your pants. I'm one, too. RT @thomashcook: @CarolyBurnsBass Okay, whats a pantster? #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
hhharlow @thomashcook, LOLA FAYE was basically a convo b/w 2 ppl. Have u considered adapting 4 stage? #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook Makes me think of Hills Like White Elephants, Of Mice and Men, and A Tale of Two Cities. Tragic, powerful, and real. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook What is the difference between being moved by a book and being depressed by a book? People get those confused sometimes. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmccintyre @thomashcook Certainly gives you a lot of room to maneuver. Where do you go from there? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam LOL here we go! RT @thomashcook: @CarolyBurnsBass Okay, what's a pantster? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @hhharlow No, but other people have. They keep mentioning MY DINNER WITH ANDRE, which is a movie I loved. #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys @AuthorWilliam HAHA I think I missed something? What the heck is a pantster?? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @thomashcook: My favorite endings don't have to be surprising, just real. #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass When you're moved by a book--even a tragic one--there is a sense of hope. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @thomashcook My favorite endings don't have to be surprising, just real. #litchat <<<like this a lot #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @robynmccintyre I guess I just get in Doctorow's car and drive! Usually, it all comes to me in the end. A title is an inspiration. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger @thomashcook if i'm moved by a book, it stirs compassion, I read it to the end. If it's depressing, I probably won't finish it. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook Could have been depressed when Rhett dumped Scarlett, but then she said "After all, tomorrow is another day." #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @CarolyBurnsBass A sense of hope, yes! Even sad endings can have a sense of hope. Also, sadness is NOT the same as cynicism. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Nickinson RT @AuthorWilliam: RT @thomashcook My favorite endings don't have to be surprising, just real. #litchat <<<like this a lot #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys RT @thomashcook: @CarolyBurnsBass Also, sadness is NOT the same as cynicism. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 1st, 2010

blankslatepress @thomashcook I was moved and depressed by A Fine Balance Club by Rohinton Mistry. After crying for about a week, depression won. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Can't blame a book for leaving the reader depressed. A book may be bleak, like THE ROAD; everyone perceives differently. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop Jumping into #litchat ! -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
cindymariej Jumping into #litchat ! -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @ficwriter Yes, Scarlett did say that, and I actually felt that things were going to turn out okay for her. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook So all the mechanics are done out of sight of the conscious mind? #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @MysteryMys A writer that "flies by the seat of their pants" - begins writing a story without knowing ending or major plot points. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Can someone tell me their worst ending? #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @danish_novelist I bought all of Stieg Larsson's books and my 26-year-old stole them. I need to get them back from him. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
jefishere @thomashcook I think it's one of those "a square is always a rectangle, but a rectangle isn't always a square" things. #LitChat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
blankslatepress oops..Not a Fine Balance Club...Just a Fine Balance -It was an Oprah Book Club selection and my brain wanted to include that tidbit #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook What if George hadn't killed Lenny at the end of OF MICE AND MEN. Would the book have been as powerful? #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @thomashcook Many Stephen King books end poorly. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 1st, 2010
jefishere @thomashcook If you're depressed by something, it has moved you, just not into a good place. #LitChat -1:27 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook Or A Tale of Two Cities when Sydney dies in another man's place. Sad, tragic, and unforgettable. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 1st, 2010
blankslatepress @jefishere I think you're right. That book still haunts me. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @AuthorWilliam Oh,I didn't know that. Thanks for telling me. But actually, that what I do! #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 1st, 2010
dazydaywriter Mary Tabor's Living Memoir @ <a href="http://tinyurl.com/23ggzph">http://tinyurl.com/23ggzph</a> in SunnyRoomStudio #memoir #DazyDayWriter blog #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Most recent favorite bad ending: THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE. Yet the Hamlet motif forced the sad ending. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys I like it when a book depresses me. It means I have buttons to push. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @ficwriter Yess, A TALE OF TWO CITIES has a great ending. But imagine how forgettable it would be without that ending. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 1st, 2010
danish_novelist @thomashcook Sadness and hope go well together in literature. And no, you're right. Those have nothing to do with cynicism #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook Mine was a neat, sunshiny ending to a short for a Christian family mag. So sweet, I nearly gagged. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 1st, 2010
hhharlow RT @thomashcook: I think that if u concentrate on the "who dun it" u may forget it doesn't matter unless u care who it was done to. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 1st, 2010

robynmcintyre @thomashcook No point - it seemed obvious in the beginning that life as it was could not go on. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys @AuthorWilliam Good to know!! #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook It's really important for readers to distinguish between being moved and being depressed, otherwise we'll only have happy endings. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie RT @thomashcook: What if George hadn't killed Lenny at the end of OF MICE AND MEN. Would the book have been as powerful? #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @thomashcook You're most welcome, I didn't know the term until Twitter. I'm the other guy (a "plotter") but know both can work. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @J_GriffinB Yes - I seriously wonder if he actually plots them that way. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ljsellers I'm finalizing a novel outline today, so I'm clearly not a "pantster." But I rarely know the final scene until halfway through. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010
danish_novelist @MysteryMys I agree. In order for a book to depress you, it has to be well-written. If not, you just laugh and sell it to Powell's #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @danish_novelist Very important to see the difference between a cynical book and a realistic one. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @robynmcintyre I was thinking The Dark Half, which is the best example of a bad ending I could think of. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @danish_novelist Catcher in the Rye had an ambiguous ending that suggested Holden was not as bitter but still cynical. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @ljsellers I think it's probably good that you don't know the ending. It will allow the book to surprise you. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @thomashcook Cynics of the modern era tend to do a lot of 'look at me! See how cleverly I wrote the denouement?' #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @danish_novelist: @MysteryMys Agree. For a bk to depress you, it has to be well-written. If not, you just laugh & sell it to Powell's #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I thought A CRIME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD had a wonderful ending. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 1st, 2010
blankslatepress What's it called when an author begins a story with an end in mind and then completely changes it as the characters take over? #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @robynmcintyre Yes, I think a book should not depress you if it is beautifully written. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass For something to lead a healthy person into depression, it must exert great emotional power. That would be some kind of book. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
jefishere I think a lot of times, writers write themselves into a corner. The ending is bad because it's the only outcome that makes sense. #LitChat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook How many of you underline passages in books? #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys @thomashcook & @AuthorWilliam So, you're plotters, not pantsters? Don't you ever want to go wild and see what happens? #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich If I knew how my book ended, it would be finished by now. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010
indiepride @AuthorWilliam have great article on what being a pantsner is about. <a href="http://bit.ly/caQI5Z">http://bit.ly/caQI5Z</a> . #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @jefishere Writers can particularly write themselves into a corner when they overplot. My final edit removed plot elements. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
blankslatepress @thomashcook I love to underline and make notes. I'm trying to learn how to do that well in my Kindle, but it's not the same... #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger darn, having trouble with tweetchat... are my posts getting thru? #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @samredlich: If I knew how my book ended, it would be finished by now. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop I do, esp love it when re-reading @thomashcook: How many of you underline passages in books? #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass I do. (Got twit-spanked for it.) RT @thomashcook: How many of you underline passages in books? #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @techtigger I see this one! #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys RT @samredlich: If I knew how my book ended, it would be finished by now. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @indiepride I'm so glad I learned that phrase today. I'd never heard it. But, truly, some writers do write that way. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook I also write in the margins *hangs head in shame* #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
LitChat This one did. RT @techtigger: darn, having trouble with tweetchat... are my posts getting thru? #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger @katmagendie that one was from digsby - trying tweetchat again... #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @techtigger No. LOL #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @MysteryMys Well, @Thomashcook is a panster. I'm a plotter. To me no outline is set and... #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I've learned to underline in a Kindle. You can do it. The passage goes to your clippings file. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop RT @MysteryMys: RT @samredlich: If I knew how my book ended, it would be finished by now. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
blankslatepress You're not alone. robynmcintyre @thomashcook I also write in the margins *hangs head in shame* #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @thomashcook I can't mark in a book unless it's my own galley. My mom caught me turning down pages & boy did I "get it" so; ergh #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
indiepride @thomashcook it's a scary way to write for many. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Were you ever assigned to write an "alternative ending" to a book? #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Toujours_Diva @thomashcook I highlight passages in books! #litchat #YellowHighlighterFiend -1:36 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @MysteryMys ...a novel is a wild place regardless! The summary starts you but it always changes. :-D #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @Toujours_Diva: @thomashcook I highlight passages in books! #litchat #YellowHighlighterFiend me too #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @indiepride Yes, that is true. I understand that. But the alternative may be scarier. #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 1st, 2010

MysteryMys @katmagendie Hilarious! #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook Now that you mention it, yes - in HS. But can't remember bk or how I ended it. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger @thomashcook elder siblings threw fits if I marked or bent or otherwise abused their books. Still treat them carefully :) #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I always tell writers to just brainstorm once in a while, and don't be tied to you current text. Sometimes you have to blow it up. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook Yes. And it's fun to play with alternative endings. But then you have to go with your gut. Great practice though. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
jefishere @thomashcook GREAT EXPECTATIONS. Talk about examples of bad endings... #LitChat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Toujours_Diva @blankslatepress I'm not so ashamed, and now I know I'm not alone! :D #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich That said, I hope my book ends in a way that religious zealots will want to ban it. I heard its the best way to gain sales. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @jefishere: @thomashcook GREAT EXPECTATIONS. Talk about examples of bad endings... #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Here's another tip: As yourself if any other character should be telling the story other than the one who is telling it. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @indiepride Cool thanks! and a little something about the plotter life: <a href="http://wp.me/plu2a-79">http://wp.me/plu2a-79</a> #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger hah! RT @samredlich: I hope my book ends in a way that religious zealots will want to ban it. heard its the best way to gain sales. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I meant "Ask yourself," of course. Perils of speed typing. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @AuthorWilliam I did not write an outline for just completed manuscript until I wrote the proposal. It really helped to find gaps. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop RT @CoachKate: RT @jefishere: @thomashcook GREAT EXPECTATIONS. Talk about examples of bad endings... #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I couldn't even outline my college papers, much less fiction. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @thomashcook Even though we were told to do it at Univeristy, I can never bring myself to make any marks in a book #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre Don't forget us hybrids - I plot milestones, then get there as a pantster. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich Now that I think about it - I am not going to have my book end - I am just gonna continue the story online - until book two. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
danish_novelist @samredlich You can always find a sect or a religion that want to ban any book. That's a no-brainer :) #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
hhharlow I love highlighting in kindle. And there's no guilt. RT @thomashcook: I've learned to underline in the kindle. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @thomashcook: I couldnt even outline my college papers, much less fiction. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
indiepride @thomashcook what would you consider the opposite of being a pantser and why is it scarier? #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010



samredlich Thanks for the great ideas, folks. #litchat rules!!!! -1:40 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook That's certainly happened to me #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Do any of you set quotas for pages per day? #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 1st, 2010
jefishere I can't bring myself to underline or highlight a book. Or even fold the pages in. #LitChat -1:41 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie RT @samredlich: Thanks for the great ideas, folks. #litchat rules!!!! #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @thomashcook: Another tip: Ask yrself if any other character should be telling the story other than the one who is telling it. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @thomashcook word count, but same thing, more or less #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
danish_novelist @CoachKate Outlining is never a problem for a writer if you're good at rewriting. That's much more important #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich @danish_novelist well _ i am gonna go with a big 1 -just not the 1 that kills people over doodles + dishes out what rhymes w/ wawa #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @jefishere Oh, I have no problem with underlining. It's the words that are sacred, not the paper and print. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @robynmcintyre: Don't forget us hybrids - I plot milestones, then get there as a pantster. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Yes, and I rewrite EVERYDAY. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger @thomashcook not page quotas, but time quotas. I do 30 minute sprints over breakfast, lunch, etc. gets in writing around day job #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @jefishere Agree. Marking pages only draws eye to that spot when re-reading which isn't always a good thing, esp. w/fiction. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass I write through scenes, not word counts. RT @thomashcook: Do any of you set quotas for pages per day? #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate @thomashcook I am not at that point yet, still struggling with time constraints on writing time #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook I try to write 2K words, and end in the middle of an idea w/ notes to myself. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter RT @thomashcook: Yes, and I rewrite EVERYDAY. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop @CarolyBurnsBass @thomashcook I use word counts. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys Yes, he does re-write every day. I can attest! RT @thomashcook Yes, and I rewrite EVERYDAY. #litchat #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I try to stop writing on a high point, so that I am eager to get back to it the next day. If that means I stop early, so be it. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass ☆ RT @thomashcook: tip: Ask yourself if any other character should be telling the story other than the one who is telling it. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook I'm sick; I edit as I write - habit of a technical writer. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @robynmcintyre I still call that a plotter. :) No matter how many points a plotter sets up they still have to journey between them. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
indiepride @AuthorWilliam thanks for the link! #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate @danish_novelist rewriting gets easier the more I do it and the less I am attached to MY words #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010

jefishere @thomashcook Always. I rarely meet them, which spurns me to do more the next day. #LitChat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @thomashcook Wasn't it Trollope who even stopped mid word when time for him to go to work at post office? #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Some writers stop reading when they write. I do just the opposite. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert After Tom Sawyer comes into "Huckleberry Finn" it becomes a bad book saved only by the honest ending of Huck heading West #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @thomashcook That sounds hard, but useful #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Actually, every part of the process should be enjoyable. I enjoy rewriting as much as writing. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @AuthorWilliam Sometimes my plot changes b/c of the writing in between milestones. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook I read a great tip to begin where you ended the day before. Otherwise, you will revise and lose precious time. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @maggiedana Trollope may well have done that. I think you have a better grasp of him than I do. I confess to not having read him #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @techtigger: @thomashcook time quotas. I do 30 minute sprints over breakfast, lunch, etc. gets in writing around day job #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop RT @thomashcook: Some writers stop reading when they write. I do just the opposite. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @thomashcook: RT Do any of you set quotas for pages per day? >>>>Not any more; maybe once a long time ago I may have! #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger @robynmcintyre I do that too, revise as I write. Drives me nuts to leave something unpolished ;) #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @thomashcook Actually, every part of the process should be enjoyable. I enjoy rewriting as much as writing. #litchat <<Preach, pastor! :) -1:47 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thedaisyharris Hey guys, what's the topic? #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich Everyday I sit down to write, I feel like an amnesiac trying to recover his author's identity. It's like all writing is revising. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @maggiedana @thomashcook Stopping mid word was easier with pen & ink. Just stop dipping LOL #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @thomashcook Just a bit of trivia I know! I've not read Anthony Trollope either, but I have read his contemporary relative, Joanna. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Mark Twain couldn't find an ending, so he wrote something like "And everyone went out in the back yard and fell down the well." #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
IanB022 @thomashcook I can't read someone else's book when writing, it affects my style #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass A skillful writer w/ confidence in voice can read anything and it won't infect their work. Not so a raw writer, they can be mimics. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @robynmcintyre Me too. It's organic. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @techtigger Yeah - if I see something that needs fixing, I can't just let it lie there. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @WayneHurlbert Or drop inkwell on floor/splatter down front of ruffled shirt. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010

GeneDoucette *poking head in* #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie RT @thomashcook: "And everyone went out in the back yard and fell down the well.">>>>laughing! :-D #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 1st, 2010
blueeyedadri Amen RT @ficwriter: Strong endings stay with readers long after a book is read. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thedaisyharris Ambiguous endings/process #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I don't find that reading others influences my style, though I might see some little thing that hints at a new direction. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @robynmcintyre It's difficult for me too because I enjoy revising. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Skillful writer w/ confidence in voice can read anything and it won't infect their work. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I look at every book as a manual of what or what not to do. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop me 2! @ficwriter: @thomashcook I read a gr8 tip 2 begin whr U ended the day before. Otherwise, U will revise & lose precious time. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @thomashcook I read voraciously whether I am writing or not writing - can't give up my reading :-) #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thedaisyharris @robynmcintyre Thanks! #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @maggiedana Those ruffled shirts didn't seem practical for writers usin g pen & ink..or a quill LOL #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate @Lillie4243 enjoying #litchat - I appreciate the follow back -1:50 PM Oct 1st, 2010
jefishere Have to leave early. Thank you @thomashcook #LitChat -1:50 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter So, basically, there are 3 types of endings: happy, sad (tragic), and ambiguous. But in order to be good, they must be satisfying. #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @WayneHurlbert Ah, but think how glam Lord Byron looked in his ruffles and soulful expression. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @ficwriter There's a certain satisfaction in seeing smething now working well. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger reading doesn't affect my writing, but music does. I try to pick music that matches mood of scene, otherwise fight turns bouncy ;) #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @ficwriter No, some books just END! Like a car running to a tree. I like books that come together at the end. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thescip RT @ficwriter: Strong endings stay with readers long after a book is read. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I think a good novel should be as tight as a short story, and that its ending should have the same impact. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @ficwriter And a fourth, rather abrupt, ending ... when inkwell drops on floor. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @ficwriter A comic ending for a tragedy would not be a satisfying ending #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @WayneHurlbert Definitely told people what you did for a living. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam If I stopped reading during times when I was writing I would never read, and that wouldn't do. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CoachKate RT @thomashcook: @ficwriter No, some books just END! Like a car running to a tree. I like books that come together at the end. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette ah, ambiguity is still the topic of the week #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @thescip: RT @ficwriter: Strong endings stay with readers long after a book is read. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
LFauthor RT @AuthorWilliam: If I stopped reading during times when I was writing I would never read, and that wouldn't do. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette I find by the third chat i've usually run out of clever things to say in #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana RT @thomashcook: @Like a car running to a tree. I like books that come together at the end. // Tree + protag = abrupt ending. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @MysteryMys @katmagendie Hilarious! #litchat >>> :-D -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @maggiedana Your literary crushes are showing LOL #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich After awhile talking about literature in the abstract gets tedious. But thats not to say it hasn't been fun. Ciao tweeps #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook For those of you who stop reading while you're writing, does that include non-fiction, too? #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre YES RT @thomashcook: I think a good novel should be as tight as a short story, and that its ending should have the same impact. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @WayneHurlbert Shhh ... don't tell anyone but I haven't read Byron, either. I'm just showing off. #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Back to endings: Should the hero die? #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter Does anyone begin with the idea of an ending? Wondering because most of my blog post begin that way. #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette Can I make an unambiguous announcement? #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie RT @AuthorWilliam: If I stopped reading during times when I was writing I would never read, and that wouldnt do. >>>yup! :- ) #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 1st, 2010
inkwellHQ RT @ficwriter: Strong endings stay with readers long after a book is read. #litchat > shld all be aiming for a story that resonates -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook I read whatever I feel like when I'm writing, except for bks similar to mine. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana RT @thomashcook: Back to endings: Should the hero die? // Depends whether you're planning a sequel ... on this earth, anyway. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
IanB022 Yes RT @ficwriter: Does anyone begin with the idea of an ending? Wondering because most of my blog post begin that way. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @ficwriter I usually know where I'm ending and where I'm beginning, but not much else #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @GeneDoucette I believe the almost accepted practice in that case is to just make things up...fiction if you will LOL #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie RT @thomashcook: Back to endings: Should the hero die? >>>>That's always a tricky thing #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate @thomashcook I write non fiction so I read anything while writing #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @katmagendie Yeah, I read the whole time, and glean little details I might be able to use. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 1st, 2010

robyncintyre @ficwriter Yeah, I've started from "knowing" the ending a few times. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @ficwriter Didn't JK Rowling first write the end of book 7 and lock it in a safe somewhere? #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Justine_Davies_ Regrading ambiguous endings: they only work if they are strong and point to a more definite end that just hasn't happened yet. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
LitChat This is a big day for you, but please wait until after topic chat. Thanks!RT @GeneDoucette: Can I make an unambiguous announcement? #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @inkwellHQ If you want it to be remembered. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich @thomashcook I read non-fiction but not fiction. Going on five years. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
lanB022 @ficwriter Though the ending sometimes shifts as things progress #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I read a lot of non-fiction. It really helps in writing fiction. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robyncintyre @maggiedana Didn't help it any. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @thomashcook What sort of details? #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @thomashcook RT Yeah, I read the whole time, and glean little details I might be able to use. >>>>:-) #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @LitChat that's why I asked... every chat is different on that sort of thing. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Gripemaster . @ficwriter Does frightening fall under sad/tragic, or is it a different type of ending? #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 1st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @ficwriter I do. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Toujours_Diva @GeneDoucette Whew. When you started w/ "poking" I worried about eyes. Or worse. You'd be another FB classmate I don't remember. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I'd really like to hear Gene's announcement! #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
nhgoddess @ficwriter I usually wrk my way frm the end...it's like if I knw the goal I can make up how they got there #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @lanB022 Absolutely it shifts as it progresses. Usually for the better. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
JCMartin_author @ficwriter #litchat Depends on the story. There are times when I write a whole story based on a single twist at the end. -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ssaraswat @thomashcook Is there a particular type of nonfiction that you read? Just general nonfiction, or nonfiction close to your fiction? #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook This is fun. Take a page from any book and underline the cliches. Guaranteed, at least one. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robyncintyre @Gripemaster Don't think it matters, as long as it's satisfying. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @Toujours_Diva lots of stalkers in your life? #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @ssaraswat I read a great deal of history, and I love travel books. I am working on one about the saddest places on earth. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @maggiedana Here you go "She Walks In Beauty" One of my faves by Lord Byron <a href="http://bit.ly/bhqWUQ">http://bit.ly/bhqWUQ</a> #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @thomashcook cliches are in the eye of the beholder. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 1st, 2010

ficwriter @Gripemaster I would put it with sad/tragic. Can't say I've read many frightening endings. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich All this talk about satisfying endings makes me think we can substitute the talk of Lit for Sex and it will all remain the same. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Favorite cliché: "She ran as in the fever of a dream." #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana RT @GeneDoucette: @thomashcook clichés are in the eye of the beholder. // *SNORT* #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 1st, 2010
nhgoddess RT @thomashcook: This is fun. Take a page from any book and underline the clichés. Guaranteed, at least one. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 1st, 2010
beaterud @thomashcook the hero should not die, should gain experience from journey, implying comforting/meaning, otherwise too depressing #LitChat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook Part of the revising process. Cutting the clichés. Never ceases to amaze me. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook You mean just the narrative? Conversation usually contains clichés, doesn't it? #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @thomashcook *Saddest Places on Earth* Got me there. What makes them sad? Geography? Climate? History? Culture? #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop Truth. @samredlich: All this talk about satisfying endings makes me think we can substitute Lit for Sex & will all remain the same. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I am never ceased to be amazed by how hard it is not to write them. Hard as a rock, actually. Or a brick. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Justine_Davies_ @samredlich We - ell, I wouldn't be so keen on the possibility of a scary ending in that situation! #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Ugh. RT @thomashcook: Favorite cliché: "She ran as in the fever of a dream." #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate life contains clichés so... #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @samredlich that's what she said! (sorry, couldn't help it!) #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @TENscribeshop When I write a sex scene, the camera lifts toward the trees. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @thomashcook Was that on a dark and stormy night? #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @samredlich: All this talk about satisfying endings makes me think we can substitute talk of Lit for Sex & it will all remain the same #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @thomashcook Re clichés. If we eliminate them all, just think of all the fun future generations will be missing. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @GeneDoucette Oh, a wise guy... #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @thomashcook when I write a sex scene I get annoyed by the limits of polite words for anatomical parts. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich @Justine_Davies_ "...so they looked at the box and it said see a doctor if the erection last for four hours or longer..." The End #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
nhgoddess @thomashcook with some your work would be too long...they are instant understandings just like stereotypes #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana RT @thomashcook: @TENscribeshop When I write a sex scene, the camera lifts toward the trees. // cripes! Love among the branches. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre @thomashcook I never heard that one. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Wow did this hour with @thomashcook pass fast. He's welcome to hang around, but if he needs to go, we need to let him. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook Once a friend asked, if the new ending sad? I said, "No, the main character tries to hang himself, but gets cut down in time." #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter Cliches need to be cut but not expressions. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette The rule about cliches is: if it made it to a Bon Jovi song, it's overdone; find something else. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook No, I can hang around a bit. This has been a delight. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich Writer's talking about the use of cliches is well, cliché. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @GeneDoucette if your character's voice is coarse, there's no problem. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana @thomashcook Ah, but did the reason for m/c's wish to kill himself also get sorted? #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @thomashcook: No, I can hang around a bit. This has been a delight. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
Karen_Palmer #Follow @thomashcook. I'm enjoying eavesdropping on his #litchat appearance. (Hello, @ficwriter. #ff Darrelyn too, if you don't already.) -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
techtigger bwahahahah! RT @GeneDoucette The rule about cliches is: if it made it to a Bon Jovi song, it's overdone; find something else. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop RT @samredlich: Writer's talking about the use of cliches is well, cliché. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @GeneDoucette Or any pop song, for that matter. You always get so extreme, Gene. ;0 #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook But don't forget to follow me. You can all get in touch anytime. I'm home all day. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @LitChat I am taking that as a starter pistol and dropping a link into this chat here. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop Better left to the imagination! @thomashcook: @TENscribeshop When I write a sex scene, the camera lifts toward the trees. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich @katmagendie its okay, sometimes we want so badly to hold something back, but we can't help it and it just blurts out. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette I need to leave, but want to hear your news, too! so I cheated & looked on your twitter site: Congrats on the release! #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CoachKate RT @thomashcook: But dont forget to follow me. You can all get in touch anytime. Im home all day. That is a very kind offer #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @J_GriffinB but Bon Jovi is like the ne plus ultra of cliché songwriters. I'm convinced he's doing it on purpose. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robyncintyre @thomashcook Sounds like a good opening for a book. #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys Everyone should be sure to #FF @ThomasHCook--he's open to more questions and continuing discussions. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
maggiedana RT @thomashcook: But don't forget to follow me. // Done. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @J_GriffinB seriously, pick a song from the cliché-titled Slippery When Wet and count. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010

katmagendie @thomashcook Thank you for a great chat! Nice to "meet" you! #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook I am always amazed at how devoted so many of us are to reading. Every time I lose heart, something like this revives me. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
TENscribeshop @GeneDoucette Congratulations! #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @Karen_Palmer So glad you popped in. My neighbor just trotted off with your novel Border Dogs. :) #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
LitChat Thanks! Just let us know when you need scoot. RT @thomashcook: No, I can hang around a bit. This has been a delight. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette News: Immortal is available right now from Amazon! <a href="http://wp.me/PXIXL-q">http://wp.me/PXIXL-q</a> debut novel. that's a link to my site because... #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook @katmagendie Nice to have me you, too. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @maggiedana @thomashcook The M/C was worried his friend wouldn't cut him down. When the cutting was done M/C was happy The End. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette ...Amazon hasn't bothered to put up any of the product details we inputted. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys @thomashcook: I am always amazed at how devoted many of us are to reading. Every time I lose heart, something like this revives me. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
ficwriter @thomashcook Thank you so much for a wonderful chat. :) #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @TENscribeshop thanks! #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich And don't forget to follow me. I'm fucking brilliant and arrogant and someday you can say you knew me when. #litchat ;) -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
katmagendie Y'all have a great weekend and see you next week! Love @LitChat! #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 1st, 2010
thomashcook The closest thing to reading is watching foreign movies. #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010
GeneDoucette @katmagendie thank you! #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @thomashcook Following :) #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass For those who haven't yet read LAST TALK WITH LOLA FAYE, you'll be amazed at how deftly @thomashcook reels the story in and out. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010
MysteryMys @LitChat A huge thanks to @CarolyBurnsBass and the rest of the @LitChat team for this! #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010
samredlich @katmagendie interesting fantasy. shall I pencil in you, i mean pencil you in for another session on the couch next week? #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB @thomashcook You have to be careful, many translations are dreadful. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @thomashcook Do you ever base characters on people you know/knew? Maybe not in whole, but in part? #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010
J_GriffinB subtitles, I mean #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 1st, 2010
tiffanyreis RT @Justine_Davies_: Regrading ambiguous endings: they only work if they are strong and point to a more definite end that just hasn't happened yet. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010
WayneHurlbert @maggiedana Did you get the link to the Byron poem I sent you? #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @CarolyBurnsBass: If you hvn't yet rd LAST TALK W/ LOLA FAYE, you'll be amazd @ hw deftly @thomashcook reels the story in & out. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010



thomashcook @CarolyBurnsBass The only time was in a book called THE CITY WHEN IT RAINS. The little girl in the book is my daughter. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010

GeneDoucette I am needlessly addicted to watching the Amazon sales ranking for a book that hasn't even shipped yet. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 1st, 2010

IanB022 @LitChat Got to go, cheers, all. #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @J\_GriffinB Yes, translations can be hilarious. I once saw Mel Gibson's HAMLET with Spanish subtitles. Talk about funny! #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 1st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @GeneDoucette BIG CONGRATS!!! #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook Well, this was fun, and I hope to drop in on LitChat again. Thanks for the opportunity. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

maggiedana @thomashcook Reading Mel Gibson in same sentence with Hamlet is hilarious, even w/out Spanish subtitles. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @thomashcook Has your daughter read the book? What did/does she think of you modeling a character after her? #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

GeneDoucette @AuthorWilliam thank you! Been a long road from there to here. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

maggiedana @WayneHurlbert Yes, and thanks. I'll check it out a bit later. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 1st, 2010

techtigger time to run - was great to get in on a friday #litchat, doesn't happen often for me :) Won't be here next 2 weeks, off on vacation, woohoo! -2:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

TENscribeshop @thomashcook Thank you! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

GeneDoucette @maggiedana I think Mel should take a shot at Merchant of Venice. #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

danish\_novelist @CoachKate I'm no good at outlining but I'm decent at rewriting. If I wasn't, I would never have been published #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @thomashcook Thanks for being here today! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

robynmcintyre Crap. Gotta go write a blog pst. Thnks for an interesting chat, @thomashcook. Like tht you askd us as mny questions as we askd you! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Thank you, @thomashcook, for joining us. You gave us many insights and ideas to consider. Looking forward to seeing you here again. #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 1st, 2010

WayneHurlbert @maggiedana Now you will be a dedicated Byron reader as well as admirer :) #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 1st, 2010

techtigger thanks again to @LitChat and @thomashcook for hosting a great chat! #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CoachKate @danish\_novelist I write then rework #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Let's all give @thomashcook a giant round of {{{APPLAUSE}}} for joining us today. #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CoachKate @thomashcook thank you for the chat today APPLAUSE!!!! #litchat -2:13 PM Oct 1st, 2010

natasha\_tracy @ficwriter And honestly, so few endings \_are\_ satisfying. I'm also scared to write them. #litchat -2:15 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook Thanks to everyone for dropping in on this chat. It really was a lot of fun. I'd love to do it again. Much thanks to LITCHAT. #litchat -2:15 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Many thanks to all you #lithattics for showing up every week with smart and interesting discussion. You rock the twittersphere. #litchat -2:15 PM Oct 1st, 2010

WayneHurlbert @thomashcook thank you for the great chat today [APPLAUSE] #litchat -2:15 PM Oct 1st, 2010

LitChat Let's give a big shout to @GeneDoucette on the release day of his novel IMMORTAL. Here's the link:  
<http://wp.me/PXIXL-q> #litchat -2:16 PM Oct 1st, 2010

dirtywhitecandy How to make dialogue realistic @winsloweliot <http://ht.ly/2MtfG> #writing #writers #novels  
#authors #fiction #litchat -2:30 PM Oct 1st, 2010

thomashcook @CarolyBurnsBass Yes, she has, and she really got it! #litchat -2:34 PM Oct 1st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass A truly unique gift to her. RT @thomashcook:Yes, she has, and she really got it! #litchat -2:38  
PM Oct 1st, 2010