



LitChat October 11 & 13, 2010

Topic of the Week: Write Out of the Box

Moderated by @LitChat [Carolyn Burns Bass]

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

MONDAY: October 11, 2010

LitChat Ready to begin a new week in #litchat. Topic is WRITE OUT OF THE BOX. Join us now at <http://bit.ly/9JDsr0> and welcome. -12:59 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett Hi all! Robert Jackson Bennett here, speculative fiction author. #litchat -12:59 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat This week's #litchat topic, WRITE OUT OF THE BOX, was inspired by @AS_King, author of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ, guest host on Friday. -12:59 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WordsmithJenn It's time! Hello #litchat :) -1:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat While everyone gathers, introduce yourself, but kindly hold back personal posts, off-topic hashtags, links and such until after #litchat. -1:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010

TENscribeshop @LitChat Hi, Cindy here working on a WIP and looking forward to this topic! #litchat -1:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010

MsALWalker Hi, everyone, historical fiction #writer here. #litchat -1:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WordsmithJenn Hi litchatters! My name is Jennifer Welborn. I write YA and adult fantasy/fiction. Nice to meet you all. #litchat -1:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat WRITE OUT OF THE BOX: Let's discuss how to write across genre lines. If you have questions, send to @LitChat. #litchat -1:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett Seems pretty quiet today... #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010

David_Heb Good evening from the UK. I'm a book blogger, and fiction that crosses genre boundaries is my favourite kind. #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat Hello and welcome! RT @WordsmithJenn: Its time! Hello #litchat :) #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010

curlyrbr Rachel here; fantasy writer #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat Boo! RT @robertjbennett: Hi all! Robert Jackson Bennett here, speculative fiction author. #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010

pusreboots @LitChat book blogger, freelance writer, MLIS student and web designer. Hello! #litchat -1:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010

julichilliard RT @LitChat: WRITE OUT OF THE BOX: Let's discuss how to write across genre lines. If you have questions, send to @LitChat. #litchat -1:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010

alisonwells Hello! Interesting topic. Just finished writing a women's comedy sci-fi kind of thing, where does it fit? #litchat -1:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010

julichilliard RT @LitChat: This week's #litchat topic, WRITE OUT OF THE BOX, was inspired by @AS_King, author of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ, guest host on Friday. -1:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010

CarolynBurnsBass Heading into #litchat now, so if you're not a writer (fiction), please forgive all of the book talk. #litchat -1:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010

MsALWalker @AS_King, author of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ, guest host on Friday> Great title. Makes you immediately pay attention to her. #litchat -1:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010

AS_King I can only stop in for a few minutes today, but I wanted to say hi! #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010

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robertjbennett This topic has some personal relevance for me, too, since a lot of my stuff falls in this category, for better or worse. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @alisonwells It fits everywhere ;) I'm finishing up my first novel--it's YA/fantasy crossover. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Chatting on the #litchat stream on the topic WRITE OUT OF THE BOX - writing across genre lines -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker DITTO > RT @CarolyBurnsBass Heading into #litchat now, so if you're not a writer (fiction), please forgive all of the book talk. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette Hello! Gene Doucette here, received my copies of Immortal about fifteen minutes ago...! #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
QueenBeeDM RT @LitChat: WRITE OUT OF THE BOX: Let's discuss how to write across genre lines. If you have questions, send to @LitChat. #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @MsALWalker Thank you! I love the title too! #litchat -1:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
SpinMyNovel RT @GeneDoucette: Hello! Gene Doucette here, received my copies of Immortal about fifteen minutes ago...! #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Hi, writers. Poking my head in. Great topic. Congrats, @GeneDoucette! #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @AS_King: @MsALWalker Thank you! I love the title too! #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop I am still in process of writing, but the story feels multi-genre #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 Hi, SF writer in Ottawa Canada. It's Thanksgiving w/e here, so I might not be able to stay long... #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn Writing across genre lines isn't the hard part. Marketing across them is! Why do we have to fit our work into a genred box? #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King wants to tell her followers: this week is #litchat week. You'll see me tweeting a lot. I'll be back 2 normal next week. :) -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon Howdy! I write humorous speculative fiction, increasingly interested in YA. #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Let's try to avoid discussions about the purpose and definition of genres. Let's focus on writing that crosses genre boundaries. #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AaronPound Hi! @AS_King I can only stop in for a few minutes today, but I wanted to say hi! #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker I'd love to write a historical fantasy women's fiction kinda thingy. #litchat -1:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 @GeneDoucette Nothing more exciting than shiny new books. Congrats! #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat I think probably works that cross genre lines don't do it intentionally. The authors just aren't aware of the lines. #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @WordsmithJenn You don't have to fit it into a genre while writing. You do when marketing. #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
jrmackenzie Happy to join #litchat today. It's been ages. I'm writing comedy/mystery Hello, everybody! -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat What is normal? RT @AS_King: this week is #litchat week. You'll see me tweeting a lot. I'll be back 2 normal next week. :) #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette @mdbenoit2 thanks! It's... pretty #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
novhill Hi, and great topic! #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker Word. RT @WordsmithJenn: Writing across genre lines isnt the hard part. Marketing across them is! #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @LitChat Normal tweeting, I mean! Like- not every 2 minutes!! Though it IS launch week... @AaronPound Hi! #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon #litchat @robertjbennett I suppose that happens, but I give writers credit more often than not in knowing that they're crossing genre lines. -1:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @GeneDoucette I just said something very similar! Great minds and all that ;) #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @LitChat LOL is @AS_King saying we #litchat peeps aren't normal as in exceptional? :) #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 I'm also writing cross-genres with my SF Mystery series. My PI has to deal with aliens and alternate universes :) #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon RT @MsALWalker: Word. RT @WordsmithJenn: Writing across genre lines isnt the hard part. Marketing across them is! #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells RT @WordsmithJenn: Writing across genre lines isn't the hard part. Marketing across them is! Why do we have to fit our work into a genred box? #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat It's likely that cross-genre works just come from authors loving more than one thing. Which isn't bad. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker @jrmackenzie Comedy mystery sounds great! I'd read that in a heartbeat. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @EverettMaroon I suppose. I didn't know of the existence of contemporary fantasy when I wrote to it. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King Landing an agent or a deal is a bit harder if there isn't a clear shelf--or a primary shelf, I think. So patience is good 2 have. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
curlyrbr I write fantasy, but adding properties of other genres makes for more interesting plots #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @EverettMaroon Hm. Maybe. I just can't imagine someone sitting down and thinking, "Let's write something that crosses the lines." #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Have had publisher feedback, like the writing but want it to be one thing or another or more of what they already know #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns @robertjbennett No, most of us know, but we go where the story takes us. As @GeneDoucette says, the problem is with marketing #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Q1 Do you follow guidelines, formulas or have a specific method for writing fiction? If so, what works for you? #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 Going into #litchat for a while, so ignore me if you want... -1:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @robertjbennett I think some are done intentionally, but more interesting work generally results when they're not. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @GeneDoucette: @WordsmithJenn You dont have to fit it into a genre while writing. You do when marketing. #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon #litchat Genre distinctions aren't evil when they help readers find what they're looking 4. X-genre could inspire them to read new stuff. -1:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010
novhill My thought is that it's more like someone sitting down and thinking, "I'm not going to hold myself IN genre lines." #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010

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WordsmithJenn @AS_King Is it better then to approach an agent with a primary genre in mind--even if your work crosses lines? #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett I guess the question may be, does it flow like "genres --> inspiration --> writing" or "inspiration --> writing --> genres." #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @LitChat No. I tend to take the rules and turn them on their heads. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon @robertjbennett #litchat See, but I do that a lot. Zombies in space. Lasers in Medieval England. Steampunk gadgetry in 2020. -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 Q1: I don't follow guidelines when I write. I write what feels right for me. Guidelines are followed when I sub to a publisher #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker You have to follow guidelines to a certain extent, like a romance always has a happy ending, etc etc. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
SpinMyNovel RT @elizabethkarr: RT @GeneDoucette: @WordsmithJenn You dont have to fit it into a genre while writing. You do when marketing. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @LitChat Question-does crossing genre lines expand reader audience or limit it bcuz u lose those interested in specific genre? #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett As in, the categorization comes after the work, rather than before it. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns I invent characters, put them in intersting situations involving a set them and Voila - whatever genre's it fit into, so be it #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn Q1: I write at the same time and in the same place. Other than that--I have no guidelines or particular "way" to write. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mrchrn re: mktg ; If yr book starts in one genre but flips to another, less marketable one, do you have to disclose that... ethically #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @mdbenoit2 Going into #litchat for a while, so ignore me if you want>>>Does Twitter have an ignore button? It should. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @WordsmithJenn Well, the agent has to sell the book. IN order to do that, a basic idea is good. I learned this the long way. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 11th, 2010
curlyrbr Just call it "Speculative fiction" for sf/f/horror/dark #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @LitChat I don't really follow guidelines because I don't know them. In this case, I think ignorance is bliss. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette A1: I don't follow guidelines. I don't know where I'd even go to find them. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker @elizabethkarr You probably lose some of your regular readers, but then gain some new ones. It will work itself out. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns @MsALWalker Actually that's changed - a romance has to have an "Emotionally Satisfying Ending" - happy is a state of mind #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @elizabethkarr @LitChat I've personally found that it's easier to alienate with cross-genre than win readers. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions I get that people have to put books on specific shelves but sometimes the categories can be misleading. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
curlyrbr A1: I try to stick to certain chaper lengths so my word count doesn't get out of control #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @robertjbennett Oh yeah. Shelf last!! Inspiration first! Hands down! #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

EverettMaroon @mrchrn #litchat Well, won't agents find that out if they request the full ms? -1:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Can you give example? RT @robertjbennett: Ive personally found that its easier to alienate with cross-genre than win readers. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @GeneDoucette I love that. Has anyone here read my Writer's Middle Finger series? I will bring linkage on Friday... #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @AS_King Haha, great! Then I'm on the same page with you. :) #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker @barbarabinns Emotionally satisfying endings should be an across the board guideline. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon RT @robertjbennett: @elizabethkarr @LitChat I've personally found that it's easier to alienate with cross-genre than win readers. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AS_King I love the title already. Writer's Middle Finger series? Awesome. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns @MsALWalker Agreed, that's part of why things end up being multi-genre, the lines are blurred #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mrchrn @EverettMaroon #litchat let's say the book is about to come to market. Starts off... I dunno Gay Vampires... then turns to historical fict. -1:17 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat This week's overall topic is WRITE OUT OF THE BOX, on Friday, @AS_King treats us with some of her "Writing With the Middle Finger." #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Wyrdsmith emotionally satisfying endings...are we talking happily ever after, or just avoiding the unresolved chord? #litchat #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
novhill @AS_King love the Writer's Middle Finger series! (not sure if you know novhill is also billie) #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat When my debut was published, there was some warning that it may be genre enough that "proper" reviewers... #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @LitChat I've had the opposite experience. I have teenage girl fans and men over 60 fans. Depends on which genres one mixes? #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette Cross-genre is harder to sell because it requires more work to get into the right hands. I get that. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock If you think categories are misleading-read publicists teases. So sick of saying yes, send book for review, then find its a no go #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @barbarabinns: @MsALWalker Agreed, thats part of why things end up being multi-genre, the lines are blurred #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett @elizabethkarr I think you can win readers with cross-genre work, as long as the story flows and is interesting. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat ..wouldn't touch it, and "literary" enough to turn off genre readers. Which has happened, to an extent. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @Wyrdsmith I took the comment to mean an ending that fits the book. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Q2 fm @elizabethkarr: Does crossing genre lines expand reader audience or limit it bcuz u lose those interested in specific genre? #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette But at the same time, if you've written an engaging book, once it's out there, it will find readers. Or, I'm hoping that's the case #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 11th, 2010

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AS_King @novhill BILLIE!! The ORIGINAL supporter of the Writer's Middle Finger series! Woot! *waves* Part Five will go up tomorrow. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

EverettMaroon @mrchrn #litchat What I hear from agents time & again is that if the writing is fantastic, they'll love even the unorthodox project. -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

elizabethkarr @MsALWalker @robertjbennett Interesting re gaining/losing readers w/ cross genre. Mirrors discussion in pitchrooms re film. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette My own "cross-genre" book's biggest weakness? It's primary reader is probably male. Nobody knows what to do with that, it seems. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

mrchrn Anyway, genre has limited years left. Eventually recommendation engines will take over. We readers will all be our own microgenre #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

TENscribeshop I found out abt C.S. Lewis ' religious beliefs when I found his fiction in the Christian section. Very confused at first #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat Send questions for the chat to @LitChat w/o hashtag and I can post to feed in numbered Q order. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

indiepride @GeneDoucette You are right. I don't pay attention to genres, I pay attention to the way a book is written #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette @indiepride but I bet when you sell it you have to pay some attention to it. #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

barbarabinns @Wyrdsmith check out this blog on endings
<http://www.elisabethnaughton.com/2010/07/15/golden-heart-spotlight-barbara-binns/> #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

homeconfessions Music industry went through this cross dressing, bridge hopping, etc. (this is Jessica Keener here, by the way. Hi, A.S.) #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

alisonwells Makes sense but.RT @GeneDoucette Cross-genre is harder to sell because it requires more work to get into the right hands.I get that #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

mdbenoit2 @GeneDoucette You write for men? You're in big trouble :) #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

curlyrbr @EverettMaroon I hear that too...good writing first, everything else second #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

pusreboots I think cross genre works well for tween fiction. I know my son has very little concept of genres and hasn't committed to one yet #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WordsmithJenn A2: I can expand your audience, but it depends on what you're crossing and how well it flows/incorporates elements of each genre. #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

MsALWalker @elizabethkarr In pitchrooms, too? I think we should stop limiting ourselves. It's kind of insulting reader's/viewer's intelligence #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 11th, 2010

pusreboots RT @indiepride: @GeneDoucette You are right. I don't pay attention to genres, I pay attention to the way a book is written #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GLHancock RT @mdbenoit2: @GeneDoucette You write for men? You're in big trouble :) #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WordsmithJenn *it can #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Wyrdsmith I think genre is just where the work lands after the second. First time through, anything goes and if it crosses, it crosses . #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette @mdbenoit2 wasn't intentional. I didn't worry about who the readers were until after I was done with it. #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 11th, 2010

AS_King @homeconfessions And Keener too! I hate to have to leave in a few minutes. BOO kid's piano lessons. #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells RT @mrchrn: Anyway, genre has limited years left. Eventually recommendation engines will take over. We readers will all be our own microgenre #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Authors are generally advised to "Find your slide and then grease it." IE, get in your genre and don't stray from it. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop It's interesting in the current world when we are all usually 'slashers' (work in multiple areas), we still cling to categories #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr There's comfort in familiarity. Readers like 2 know what 2 expect. Seems strongest argument for coloring w/in genre lines 4 mrkters. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions @alisonwells I like this idea! #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @AS_King That is YAY kid's piano lessons. Will miss you but someday that girl will rock your doors wide open. #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett I find that idea depressing, personally. Who wouldn't eventually want to write something new? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King Mantra: Anything can work if done well. And if your write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it. #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker Hmm...how would I feel about a mummy showing up on the western frontier? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robertjbennett yes, but by people who sell books, not people who write books. #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
indiepride @GeneDoucette what do you mean? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @LitChat Is there reliable research that proves cross-genre works are ... unsaleable? defective? a bad idea? what? #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker Or an alien on an Indian reservation. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @indiepride don't you have to list it in a genre in your bookstore? #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions RT @AS_King: Mantra: Anything can work if done well. And if your write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells @homeconfessions It sounds good, when will it happen though? #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @elizabethkarr That's why so many TV shows and movies seem roughly the same. The audience is comforted to see something it knows. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @CarolyBurnsBass So true. I will leave you with that mantra and come back on Wednesday! VERA LIVES TOMORROW! Woot. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
epicblackcar Scavenger hunt: craziest novel covers of all time. #litchat #epicblackcar -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns My book's genre depends on who the audeince - it's YA coming-of-age or it's mainstram or YA Romance - no lie, different truths #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @MsALWalker If done right... I'd love it. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
indiepride @GeneDoucette well true - but I have many books that I add to more than one genre list #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King oh damn. TYPO IN MY MANTRA. Not cool. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @GeneDoucette No, that came from a Dan Simmons interview, in regards to best advice for a beginning writer. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010

pussreboots @MsALWalker That's been done. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @MsALWalker ..think we should stop limiting ourselves. Kinda insulting readers/viewers intelligence<U R preachin' 2 choir w/ me. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @indiepride yeah, mine'll end up on five or six. :-)) #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King Typo-less mantra: Anything can work if done well. And if you write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Hmm... RT @mrchrn: ...genre has limited years left. Eventually recommendation engines will take over. ... #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @elizabethkarr Genre may mostly be a way of letting the reader know exactly what they're getting. No surprises. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @barbarabinns I am on a YA coming of age fantasy kick now & proud of it #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions @alisonwells Maybe it's already happening. Indie presses. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robertjbennett wow, really? What terrible advice. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @AS_King love the mantra! #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @barbarabinns But no good book is about only one topic. Most books I read have some romance in them -- even horror! #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Aren't new genres being created all the time? Isn't that evidence that the books didn't fit in existing categories? #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker @robertjbennett need to shake the world up, take people out of their comfort zones with a great story. That would be a change. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns Biggest thing with genre - where will bookstore file it.& they're not yet ready to put in more than one place #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @alisonwells are they new genres in and of themselves, or new blends of genres? Fusion genres, if you will. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Q3 fm @mdbenoit2: Does thinking outside the box necessarily cross-genres? #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 11th, 2010
indiepride @GeneDoucette not a problem! I'm excited for you to see our new store. you will be our first new book on it! #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns Publisher still has to convince bookstore to find shelfspace, ergo he/she needs a main genre, even if the book crosses genre lines #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 RT @LitChat: Q3 fm @mdbenoit2: Does thinking outside the box necessarily mean cross-genres? #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions Great story.Great writing. That's what matters to me. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @alisonwells You're probably thinking of the proliferation of sub-genres: paranormal lesbian fey sci-fi horror, etc. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @CarolyBurnsBass I think genres will be around until book stores change how they shelve things. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
rustyfischer RT @elizabethkarr: There's comfort in familiarity.Readers like 2 know what 2 expect.Seems strongest argument for coloring w/in genre lines 4 mrkters. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @homeconfessions: @alisonwells Maybe its already happening. Indie presses. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WordsmithJenn A3: @litchat @mdbenoit2 I don't think it has to. You can "think outside the box" and have colorful characters in fantastic places. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker I'll be glad when indie presses take over the world. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
novhill @AS_King will look for it!! congrats on vera and see you here friday. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @GeneDoucette His point was that was the best way to ensure a lucrative career. He personally has always broken this rule. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions @WordsmithJenn agree. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @indiepride I hope so... talk DM later, but publisher is looking at distribution options, may wait for a bit. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Think a lot of us are having a violent agreement. Genre is good cuz it signals comfy old friend 2 readers. But new horizons good 2. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @GHHancock I find all the sub genres horribly confusing. WTH is steam punk anyway? LOL #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Wyrdsmith A3. No, at least no more than would normally cross. New approach to genre topic and be thinking outside the box too. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @pussreboots @CarolyBurnsBass Are there any bookstores who shelve genre-free? How? #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots A3 Not necessarily. A book can play with genre conventions without borrowing from another genre. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions Yes, Congrats to A.S. King on Vera #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat @mdbenoit2 I think it's perfectly possible to do something innovative completely within a genre. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @TENscribeshop I've been to used book stores that shelve w/out genre #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions RT @robertjbennett: @LitChat @mdbenoit2 Agree- I think its perfectly possible to do something innovative completely within a genre. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat @mdbenoit2 The difficulty is avoiding a cheap "hook". As in, "They're private eyes... who are Siamese twins!" #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock It doesn't matter whether books on shelves or online, they must be id'd some way for readers to search & find what they want. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar Any professional dancers out there willing to read a manuscript for "dance" accuracy? #litchat #amwriting #dance -1:29 PM Oct 11th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @elizabethkarr: ... a violent agreement. Genre is good cuz it signals comfy old friend 2 readers. But new horizons good 2. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @LitChat Thinking outside the box may not necessarily cross genres, but it may well draw on other genres in some way. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LisetteBrodey #litchat: Get frustrated when told I *must* compare myself to another author. Why? My words come from me or I wouldn't write them. -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Wyrdsmith Wonder if enough innovation within genre can lead to the rise of a new genre, also. Interesting. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @WordsmithJenn Science fiction in a historical setting. Thing HG Wells and Jules Verne but written by modern authors. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @indiepride unless you've heard something I haven't, of course. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

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Write Out of the Box - p 9

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alisonwells As an example what genre is big seller, booker nominated A Fraction of the whole. A literary comedy? Well loved because DIFFERENT #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
barbarabinns @elizabethkarr I 2nd that. If I want a mystery, it's comforting to know where to find one. But when I just want a good book, #litchat. -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Lorainaq * Typo-less mantra: Anything can work if done well. And if you write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it. #litchat !! -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
indiepride @GeneDoucette no I haven't heard from her since you sent us both the email. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LisetteBrodey all of my blurbs and reviews have compared me to other authors. I'm up to seven or eight different ones now. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Leann0325 RT @TwinkleChar: Any professional dancers out there willing to read a manuscript for "dance" accuracy? #litchat #amwriting #dance -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @David_Heb @LitChat I think "cross-genre" sometimes means "mashup." Good literature draws from all kinds of things. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
EverettMaroon @LisetteBrodey #litchat Oh I don't know, I wouldn't mind pulling words out of Octavia Butler or leGuin, either. -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @LisetteBrodey The comparison usually tells an agent much more than your bio, cover, query or self-description. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar I will follow a good storyteller to just about any genre. Problem is, they change genre & we don't know it bcuz of shelving. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @pusreboots That's the best explanation I've seen yet. The sub genres are killing me :0) #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @Wyrdsmith Zombie & vampire lit. Were originally part of horror. Now they're their own thing. #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @pusreboots So is it just alphabetical? How does non-genre shelving shelve? #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 11th, 2010
homeconfessions Thanks, again, #litchat. Have to leave early today. Love what you do here. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 Must also use some kind of steam engine: @pusreboots: @WordsmithJenn Science fiction in a historical setting. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora seems to happen >> RT @Wyrdsmith: Wonder if enough innovation within genre can lead to the rise of a new genre, also. Interesting. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells @GLHancock Yes probably, steampunk etc. Still it's a case of ideas forming different conglomerations #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @WordsmithJenn LOL here, too. When I first heard of it, had hard time thinking a new type of fiction invented. Sci-fi subgenre #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Thanks! Until next time. RT @homeconfessions: Thanks, again, #litchat. Have to leave early today. Love what you do here. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pusreboots @robertjbennett Now they're part of romance. Shudder. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett I think in this ultra-media age we'll see genres get more specific, stratified. See Steampunk, Dieselpunk, Zombie fic, etc. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @TwinkleChar I've read about everything Stephen King wrote. Have no trouble finding it. Don't like it all but admire his guts! #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett We're able to connect to a demographic and tailor fiction specifically for it. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @Lorainaq "if you write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it." I believe! Genre can help get the eyeballs on the page. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett Dieselpunk? Geeze. Just point me to "fantasy" and I'll find it on the shelf! #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 11th, 2010
JLichtenberg RT @LitChat: This week's overall topic is WRITE OUT OF THE BOX, on Friday, @AS_King treats us with some of her "Writing With the Middle Finger." #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @WordsmithJenn: @robertjbennett @elizabethkarr I think you can win readers with cross-genre work, as long as the story flows and is interesting. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Gwenda RT @AS_King: Mantra: Anything can work if done well. And if your write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett is that Vin Dieselpunk? #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Hard2say RT @GeneDoucette @alisonwells are they new genres in and of themselves, or new blends of genres? Fusion genres,if you will #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar @GLHancock My 1st series shelved gen fiction. New publisher, books now shelved Christian fiction. Gen readers do not look there. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @GLHancock @TwinkleChar You should read his "On Writing." It's amazing. I think all writers should read it. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @WordsmithJenn My second novel is apparently dieselpunk. I had no idea until well after the fact. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar @WordsmithJenn Yep. I've read it! Also, Bradbury's Zen in the Art of Writing and Anne Lamott's Bird by Bird. All great. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @TwinkleChar Absolutely right! I would not look there for anything! #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette (Hah. Amazon changed from 2 copies available to 1 copy available, sales ranking didn't change at all. Amazon u slay me.) #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker @robertjbennett Pardon my ignorance, but what is dieselpunk? #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @robertjbennett "Mashup" is a term that makes me think of writers throwing in a few zombies, whether they're a good fit or not... #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett I've never even heard of that genre. I find all the labeling fascinating. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop It would be fun 2 have related books that surpass genres near e/o: art books near lit of their time, integrate the experience #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robertjbennett I think I'll invent a name for my novel's genre. #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @WordsmithJenn Agree! Have said before, will say again. Kings' ON WRITING is excellent book! 1st SK I read. Made me read others. #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 @GeneDoucette Forget amazon ranking. It's useless. #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @TwinkleChar I haven't read Zen yet! I'll have to look for it. #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells RT @robertjbennett: @David_Heb @LitChat I think "cross-genre" sometimes means "mashup." Good literature draws from all kinds of things. #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GLHancock @TENScribeshop That would simply be another categorization scheme. That is what the current one is. No matter! We still need it. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett @MsALWalker Alt history, machine-oriented science fiction that draws on inventions from abt 1900-1950. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

pussreboots @TENScribeshop My library has a couple shelves dedicated to bringing books together like you've described. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette @mdbenoit2 everything I've seen suggests the rankings aren't corrected on lower-end books more than once a week. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett @MsALWalker Steampunk being the same, but usually Victorian-bent that draws from around 1830-1900. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

novhill My favorite example of a writer who crosses many genres is Diana Gabaldon and her Outlander series. She breaks the length rule too! #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette I do like "mashup" better than "cross-genre" #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @elizabethkarr I loved it. It was misshelved though. Borders had it with "Horror" LOL. Soooo not a horror, but a great book. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

alisonwells As an aside, am I hearing you should tell publishers who you write like when you submit, isn't that for them to decide? #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

TENScribeshop @elizabethkarr @WordsmithJenn Thanks for the tip! I haven't read it and it looks awesome #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 11th, 2010

MsALWalker RT @robertjbennett: @MsALWalker Alt history, machine-oriented science fiction that draws on inventions from abt 1900-1950.> Thanks #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

barbarabinns @robertjbennett dieselpunk? Do you mean Steampunk? That's a new, but recognized genre #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett @David_Heb Or werewolves. Or vampires. Or HP Lovecraft. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GeneDoucette Because "cross-genre" suggests "both" while "mashup" suggests "a bit of both", which is different. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LisetteBrodey @GLHancock: Yes, I understand WHY the comparison is asked; I just don't really have one. Maybe that's 4 others to determine. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GLHancock @novhill There are no rules, only guidelines. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

TENScribeshop @pussreboots And you're in Cali, too! Do customers like it? #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett @alisonwells They want to know what books yours is similar to, so they can figure out if it's marketable. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 11th, 2010

robertjbennett @barbarabinns Apparently Dieselpunk is different. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010

GLHancock @LisetteBrodey Perhaps you need to read more broadly in the field your book is in? #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010

pussreboots @TENScribeshop Given how quickly books fly off the shelves, I think the patrons do. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010

alisonwells My novel is kitchen sink sci-fi comedy, any takers? #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LisetteBrodey #litchat @GeneDouchette: Amazing you've been compared to 7 or 8 diff authors. How do those authors compare to one another? -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010

novhill @GLHancock yes - didn't have room to type guideline though! :) #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

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Write Out of the Box - p 12

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TENscribeshop RT @GeneDoucette: Because "cross-genre" suggests "both" while "mashup" suggests "a bit of both", which is different. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010
21stCscribe RT @alisonwells: My novel is kitchen sink sci-fi comedy, any takers? #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Q 4 fm @GLHancock: Is there reliable research that proves cross-genre works are unsaleable? defective? a bad idea? what? #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett @alisonwells I'm always afraid I'm going to make the wrong comparison & then the agent will say "X is not like Y!" #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @novhill LOL! Damn Twitter! #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @TENscribeshop U will love On Writing. @WordsmithJenn LOL that Borders shelved it under Horror. So much 4 genre helping to shelve.. #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells @robertjbennett Yes that makes sense, I guess you better not say Joyce though #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @pussreboots What's the name of the store? #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Wyrsmith @alisonwells Oh, so you write like Terry Pratchett and Douglas Adams. :) #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @pussreboots Never mind, you said it is a library. I should read more closely :) #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar @alisonwells Publishers want you to tell them *everything you think about the book, so they can use those lines to market. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist @LisetteBrodey My next novel is a mixture of Kurt Vonnegut, Murakami & the Bible. Wish me luck! #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
novhill -and with that I must run. Horse is squealing. (his genre is hay) Thanks, all. Wish I could linger. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @TENscribeshop It's not a store. It's the Castro Valley Public Library: http://bit.ly/4xUaDf #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock RT @TwinkleChar: Publishers want you to tell them *everything you think about the book, so they can use those lines to market. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LisetteBrodey um, I dunno. Palahniuk, Gaiman, Chandler, Dick, Huston, Robinson, Adams. I don't see much in common with them. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @elizabethkarr @TENscribeshop U will love On Writing. >> I've listened to it on audiotape like five times. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb I don't think minute subdivision of genres ("dieselpunk" etc.) is healthy -- focus should be on the book, not the genre. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @danish_novelist LOL!! I really want to know how Vonnegut and the Bible "fit" together. Just put that on the flap lol :) #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Should I say that my writing is like the lovechild of a Steinbeck and an Ali Smith novel? #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LisetteBrodey oh yes, and someone compared me to Pratchett too at some point. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mdbenoit2 I, too, must run. Gotta get ready for Thanksgiving dinner. Hope to be here Wednesday. Ciao! #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @WordsmithJenn @alisonwells Biggest surprise? "High concept fiction" does not mean what you think it means. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

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janflora Steam and diesel are 2 very different things :) RT @barbarabinns: @robertjbennett dieselpunk? Do you mean Steampunk? #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @MsAlWalker @elizabethkarr @Tenscribeshop It's great--part memoir, part great writing advice. Love it. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb I don't think minute subdivision of genres ("dieselpunk" etc.) is a good thing -- focus should be on the book, not the genre. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @David_Heb Writing for niche-genres eventually becomes like breakdancing in a closet. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett I have NO idea what high concept fiction means. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Actually the number 42 is in the first page! RT @Wyrdsmith: @alisonwells Oh, so you write like Terry Pratchett and Douglas Adams :) #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @alisonwells That's an interesting visual. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @MsALWalker "> I've listened to it on audiotape like five times." <Me, 2. Everytime got something out of it. (S King's On Writing) #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LisetteBrodey @GLHancock: #litchat: Just never been a fan of comparing myself to others; that's all. I do "read broadly." But thank you. :) -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock RT @robertjbennett: @David_Heb Writing for niche-genres eventually becomes like breakdancing in a closet. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @WordsmithJenn A concept you can say in 1 sentence. "Will Ferrell as a Nascar driver." Very hooky. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @WordsmithJenn But you would think it'd mean a concept that was branier, more cerebral. Or I would. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @pussreboots WOW it looks like a great community resource #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist @WordsmithJenn I'm only half joking. The novel is inspired by Vonnegut, Murakami, and different religious sources. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker RT @elizabethkarr: @MsALWalker "> Ive listened to it on audiotape like five times." <Me, 2. Everytime got something out of it #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett Blech. Don't like it. I could say anything in one sentence...guess I'm not high concept? #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 11th, 2010
pussreboots @TENscribeshop It's a fantastic community resource. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop Has anyone ever been forced to edit in order to fit into a certain genre #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Readnfindout RT @David_Heb: I don't think minute subdivision of genres ("dieselpunk" etc.) is a good thing -- focus should be on the book, not the genre. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora @David_Heb I used to agree, but have found many people flock to certain genres, so distinguishing must help marketing and readers #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @danish_novelist I have a degree in Religious Studies. Sounds interesting to me. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @robertjbennett I think "high concept" is just current hot topic. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @WordsmithJenn It seems like a genre marketed towards the lower-attention spanned demographic. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010

alisonwells Me too, it's how the mind works RT @GeneDoucette: I do like "mashup" better than "cross-genre" #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @danish_novelist "The novel is inspired by Vonnegut, Murakami, & different religious sources." Put that on bookjacket & I'll bite! #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist RT @robertjbennett: @David_Heb Writing for niche-genres eventually becomes like breakdancing in a closet. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @robertjbennett Whatever it is, I don't think it's for me. Now watch w/e agent I end up with call my novel "high concept" :/ #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @WordsmithJenn High concept is a very good thing if we're talking about a screenplay. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Jane Austen discovers mashups based on her work: http://tinyurl.com/2dzblfw Funny! #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @GLHancock: @robertjbennett I think "high concept" is just current hot topic. <indeed very popular buzzword now in books/film. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @WordsmithJenn "High concept" is not a genre or niche. It's the idea for the book is topical, current and very popular. Lady Gaga #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist @WordsmithJenn All my novels deal with faith, also The Tsar's Dwarf that's out in English. I'm a fan of God but not religions #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @GeneDoucette Good thing I don't write screenplays! ;) @GLhancock Hmm... #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker Gotta run everybody. Nice chatting with you! #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @elizabethkarr In fact, it came from film, didn't it? At a pitch session you "tell me the high concept". #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Ha! RT @robertjbennett: @David_Heb Writing for niche-genres eventually becomes like breakdancing in a closet. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop @GLHancock: @WordsmithJenn "High concept" is not a genre or niche. It's the idea for book is topical, current & popular. Lady Gaga #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Wyrdsmith High concept sounds like a misnomer. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist @elizabethkarr Bite who? And where? These are spiritual questions that must be answered :-) #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @danish_novelist Rel. Studies--think factual history/anthropology, not theology. Your work sounds interesting. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 11th, 2010
innaj RT @AS_King Anything can work if done well. And if you write it well enough, they will find a shelf for it. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @GLHancock @elizabethkarr Hm, I've heard it used as a "label" or a genre when querying agents. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @Wyrdsmith But it isn't "high-minded" concept. Think of an idea that's sparkly, glints, catches the eye #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @robertjbennett V funny. There are Austen mashups everywhere, even paranormal. But 4 me, I like my Jane pure & simple. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @janflora Sure, but there's a point where it becomes meaningless. Fantasy vs horror (say) is a useful broad distinction... [cont.] #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @Wyrdsmith it actually is a film/screenplay term. I've never seen high-concept applied to novels before. #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 11th, 2010

AS_King Score! I'm back! Saved by the stand-in driver. What did I miss? #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @robertjbennett It's the buzz phrase for "hot topic" (old-fashioned term). We must be hip! Hep? #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @elizabethkarr Me too! Stop bastardizing my Jane Austen! #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AS_King a fistfight! #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett I feel like mashups are written to appeal to two distinct genres, whereas cross-genre is written without thinking of genre at all. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Wyrsmith @GeneDoucette re high concept = film term...I learn new stuff all the time. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL I've missed nearly the whole discussion - bring me up to date! Kidding. Kidding! #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @danish_novelist :) seriously, you are in good company w/ those comparisons. And just to be clear. by 'bite' i meant 'read.' #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @janflora ...but steampunk vs dieselpunk vs clockpunk vs [etc., etc.] seems to me to be nitpicking unnecessarily. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett A literary agent on the nature of "high concept": http://tinyurl.com/37dyl36 (Sorry to have derailed the discussion!) #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock "Mashup" sounds to me like a yucky mess. Hate the term and the practice that involves plagiarism. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @WordsmithJenn: @elizabethkarr Me too! Stop bastardizing my Jane Austen! < Y mess w/ perfection, right? #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @David_Heb @janflora I think niche genres work b/c they reduce their readership to a very small, intense pool. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @elizabethkarr No kidding! I absolutely despise this "take a classic book and add an element that doesn't fit" trend! #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LisetteBrodey @GeneDouchette @danish_novelist #litchat: Thx 4 ur responses. Truly & thankfully, it isn't easy to always make clear comparisons. -1:57 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Q5 What is innovative writing and can it be/how is it employed in genre fiction? #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @GeneDoucette Who won? (because you know the victor gets to write the history.) #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist @elizabethkarr I thought so. It'll be my first novel in English. My first in the US was a translation that did well. Bite or not #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora @David_Heb I know what you mean, seems unnecessary & I dont write any of them, but a genre called "punk" would also be different :) #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @AS_King not sure. ambulance took both away. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @robertjbennett @janflora Yes indeed, and may be tied to a wider lifestyle aesthetic, rather than just literature. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn A5: @litchat Innovative writing does not fall back on stereotypes or pre-packaged plots. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat Innovative writing is writing that can be judged "good" beyond the standards of the genre it's written in. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 11th, 2010

blankslatepress RT @WordsmithJenn: @elizabethkarr Me too! Stop bastardizing my Jane Austen! #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette What is innovative writing? Isn't the answer in the question? #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat "The Big Sleep" satisfies as Noir, and as a Detective Novel. It also satisfies as brilliant writing. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop Have to head (conveniently to finish my word count) - thanks for discussion and inspiration #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora true that! RT @WordsmithJenn: A5: @litchat Innovative writing does not fall back on stereotypes or pre-packaged plots. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENscribeshop RT @robertjbennett: @LitChat Innovative writing is writing that cn B judged "good" beyond standards of the genre it's written in. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @LitChat Innovative writing. Though it fits onto several shelves, it's not defined by those shelves. And it's, well, innovative. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Yes. !! RT @GLHancock: @elizabethkarr In fact, it came from film, didnt it? At a pitch session you "tell me the high concept". #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @Tenscribeshop Happy writing! #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora All of those "mashups" of classics and horror/paraormals etc drive me nutty. Do they really appeal to classics lovers? Not this one #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GLHancock If a film pitch isn't 'high concept' refrain will be--oo that'll be difficult to get made. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010
David_Heb @LitChat Innovative writing makes you think, "why haven't I seen this done before?" #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette The Jane Austen mashup made sense as a one-time novelty. But now it's just gotten silly. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GabrielMtn RT @GLHancock "Mashup" sounds ... like a yucky mess. Hate the term and the practice that involves plagiarism.#litchat interesting, examples? -2:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @janflora Hate the trend. Unoriginal. Don't take a great book and add a zombie just because you can't come up with anything else! #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr that's Y indie filmmakers like me are here-2 champion non-high concept films. Of course I did just make a #PKD #scifi adapt. :) #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010
danish_novelist @AS_King What is "innovate writing"? Is that putting 5 semi colons in one sentence, pretending it's art? #litchat (Here they are;;;;;) -2:03 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Anyone have examples of books they consider innovative? When Jay McInerney's Bright Lights Big City came out it was. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @elizabethkarr I have a genius high concept feature screenplay sitting around doing nothing. Can you make a 3 mil film? #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora Agree! that one was "high concept" RT @GeneDoucette: The Jane Austen mashup made sense as one-time novelty...now it's gotten silly. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 11th, 2010
Cinelit RT @elizabethkarr: that's Y indie filmmakers like me are here-2 champion non-high concept films. Of course I did just make a #PKD #scifi adapt. :) #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @GabrielMtn Does "remix" strike a familiar chord? Think of the "sound" of dreaming in ... oh, crap! A recent movie about dreams #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett @David_Heb @LitChat Or it might make you think, "There is nothing like this out there." #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010

LitChat Excellent convo today on WRITING OUT OF THE BOX. Moderated hour is over, but continue as you will. Be sure to return on Weds. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @GeneDoucette Yes, if yr genius high concept comes w/ 3 million (or Angelina Jolie) attached. :) Setting up meeting @ Fox rt now. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010
ISandusky RT @GeneDoucette: A1: I don't follow guidelines. I don't know where I'd even go to find them. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora RT @LaurenBaratzL: Anyone have examples of books they consider innovative? When McInerney's Bright Lights Big City came out it was. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Let's all send good vibes to @AS_King for tomorrow's launch of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. She's guest host on Friday. #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @danish_novelist Yes. Of course it is. But where do we sell the book of semicolons in a bookstore? #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
mizwrite @LaurenBaratzL I thought The Time Traveler's wife was innovative because of the order in which the story was told. #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock @GabrielMtn The younger gen feels there is nothing wrong with using parts of other writers' works, adding them together and take cr #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette BTW, folks, Immortal from Amazon-- http://amzn.to/dcQE17 I'm holding my own first copy, it's beautiful. #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
WordsmithJenn I have to run (literally). Great chat! Happy writing all :) And thanks @as_king for hosting today! #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @elizabethkarr yeah I don't have the 3 mil. It could be made for that tho #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Hooray! RT @LitChat: Lets all send good vibes 2 @AS_King 4 tomorrows launch of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. Shes guest host on Friday. #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar RT @LitChat: Lets all send good vibes to @AS_King for tomorrows launch of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. Shes guest host on Friday. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Now that moderated hour is up, feel free to shout your good news, post blogs, hashtags and other off-topic tweets. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ by @AS_King is going to totally rock the bookshelves. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King @LitChat Thank you! And hey! Vera got another star today in PW! Vera says: Stars are like crack. See you on Wed/Fri! #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LitChat Congrats! RT @GeneDoucette: BTW, folks, Immortal from Amazon-- http://amzn.to/dcQE17 Im holding my own first copy, its beautiful. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LitChat way ahead of ya. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TwinkleChar Thanks @litchat. Gotta go knock down boxes so I can write in the air. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr #onmylist RT @GeneDoucette: BTW, folks, Immortal from Amazon-- http://amzn.to/dcQE17 Im holding my own first copy, its beautiful. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells Thanks to all and especially @LitChat for an engaging chat #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
cindymariej RT @LitChat: Let's all send good vibes to @AS_King for tomorrow's launch of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. She's guest host on Friday. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette Immortal has gone from 2 copies available to 1 copy to 3 in the past hour. Amazon, you slay me. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

LitChat Woot! RT @AS_King: Thank you! And hey! Vera got another star today in PW! Vera says: Stars are like crack. See you on Wed/Fri! #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora @WordsmithJenn I know! and I was actually upset when I saw a blurb for the Beatles are zombies one. Seemed way too tacky. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
alisonwells RT @LitChat: Congrats! RT @GeneDoucette: BTW, folks, Immortal from Amazon-- http://amzn.to/dcQE17 Im holding my own first copy, its beautiful. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Ebooks of Mr. Shivers are now 2.99 for the month! http://tinyurl.com/25vclgq #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Michael Kortya says it's top book of 2010! http://tinyurl.com/22rrrxk #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL My good news: Allure of Bks on The Twin's Daughter "...the plot is brilliant & one of the best written mysteries I've ever read." #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora <<good>> :) RT @LitChat: Let's send good vibes @AS_King for tomorrow's launch of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. She's guest host Friday. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
robertjbennett Oh yeah... and it crosses a ton of genres! People literally had no idea what to make of it. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr Gr8 Review of @RFAMovie I CoProduced. http://bit.ly/9i66MW Just had NYC premiere. More stuff on website: http://tinyurl.com/yct57v #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
blankslatepress @GeneDoucette Cool cover on Immortal! #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock Article by @CarolBMTbooks features in my post at A Writer's Edge today: http://bit.ly/dxIE31 Come for the read, stay for edit! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
TENScribeshop Thank you! @WordsmithJenn: @Tenscribeshop Happy writing! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
MsALWalker I'm no ALICE Walker but ... Http://AdventureSalon.bloodspot.com . #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette @blankslatepress thanks, isn't it nice? Catches the eye. #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr @LaurenBaratzL Congratulations on wonderful review! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
stratfordsj Hurrah! RT @GeneDoucette: BTW, folks, Immortal from Amazon-- http://amzn.to/dcQE17 I'm holding my own first copy, it's beautiful. #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
AS_King thanks you for the good vibes & congrats! Now go look at this embarrassing picture: http://ow.ly/2RSol #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 11th, 2010
janflora nice #litchat Now must make dinner for the people who rely on me for sustenance. Y'all have fun now :) -2:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @elizabethkarr Thanks, you! Let's make a movie together! I'll bring the high concept! #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette Plenty of blurbs and such here: http://genedoucette.me/category/blurbs/ #litchat -2:12 PM Oct 11th, 2010
elizabethkarr RT @LaurenBaratzL: @elizabethkarr Thanks, you! Lets make a movie together! Ill bring the high concept! < Sounds good 2 me! :) #litchat -2:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @elizabethkarr OMG, she said *yes&!!! #litchat -2:13 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GeneDoucette going to go try and breathe. #litchat -2:14 PM Oct 11th, 2010
GLHancock Don't think I've ever had a high concept -- too much schlock, crap, opiate for the masses. Too busy trying to help people #litchat -2:15 PM Oct 11th, 2010

Topic of the Week:

elizabethkarr <http://tinyurl.com/2bya4tg> Q & A w/ writer/director John Alan Simon after @RFAMovie NYC screening. #litchat -2:16 PM Oct 11th, 2010

WEDNESDAY: October 13, 2010

LitChat Sorry for the late check-in today. We're here now and ready to discuss WRITE OUT OF THE BOX. #litchat -1:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre Hello, #litchat, I've missed you! -1:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010

E_LucasTaylor RT @LitChat: Sorry for the late check-in today. We're here now and ready to discuss WRITE OUT OF THE BOX. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LitChat While everyone's gathering, do introduce yourself and tell us what you think WRITE OUT OF THE BOX means. #litchat -1:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette I'm here. Author of Immortal, which you'd better have ordered a copy of by now. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Watch out folks, I'm heading to #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre Write out of the box: don't write the expected. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LitChat If you have questions for the chat, send them to @LitChat w/o hashtag and I will post to feed in Q order. #litchat -1:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

PeevishPenman RT @robynmcintyre: Write out of the box: don't write the expected. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare Frank DiCesare, fwriter, editor, & photographer. For all I know, WRITE OUT OF THE BOX means you unpack your laptop & start writing. #litchat -1:11 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett Robert Bennett, spec fic author. #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 13th, 2010

thedaisyharris Hey guys. Romance writer here. IMO the only way to write romance is to write the unexpected. Old themes with a new twist. #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Watch out folks, Im heading to #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LitChat Q1 Boxes are established to contain elements. How does one write out of the box without making a mess of ms? #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 13th, 2010

ISandusky There are no rules in #writing, only guidelines. #litchat -1:12 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LitChat How are rules different than guidelines? RT @ISandusky: There are no rules in #writing, only guidelines. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 13th, 2010

ISandusky Oh, Horror writer, first book out through Severed Press real damn soon. Missed the intro. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett To me, we are given a set of expectations for any style or story, and we can either obey, subvert, avert, or deconstruct them. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett There are probably even more choices than that. But those seem to be the basics. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 13th, 2010

thedaisyharris @LitChat Even within a formula there's a lot of room to experiment. #litchat -1:13 PM Oct 13th, 2010

buffysquirrel in far too bad a mood for #litchat or indeed anything that involves other people right now -1:13 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @LitChat A1: By making the elements themselves unexpected? #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robhollywood I have a 150K novel I wrote years ago that is so experimental it's mind-numbingly confusing. Totally forgot about it til now. Eep! #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare Q1 I think making a mess is one of the best ways to get a ms started! I like mine particularly sloppy. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie RT @LitChat: out of the box without making a mess of ms?>>>I like to make a mess sometimes, then clean it up later! :-) #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 13th, 2010

ISandusky If you break a rule, it's usually trouble. Guidelines are just what have worked for others IMHO. Break the box, put it on the line! #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @LitChat Q2. The easiest way would be by ignoring the box entirely. Sort of a mind trick. #litchat -1:14 PM Oct 13th, 2010

ISandusky RT @robertjbennett: To me, we are given a set of expectations for any style or story, and we can either obey, subvert, avert, or deconstruct them. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 13th, 2010

Wyrdsmith I think mess on first draft is kind of required. Some of the most creative stuff comes from evading the "rules." #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LisetteBrodey @ISandusky: I couldn't agree more: I do respect guidelines but rules are not set in cement. #litchat #writing -1:15 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie Write out of the box: if stuck-forget about what your writer's group/professor/best-friend/mother told you and have a little fun #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette Insert comment regarding definition of discussion topic, follow up with something pithy. #litchat -1:15 PM Oct 13th, 2010

HemmieMM RT @ISandusky: There are no rules in #writing, only guidelines. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette Oops, sorry, posted my standard chat template by mistake. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @buffysquirrel Awww... petting squirrel, then taking back fingerless hand... #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 13th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass I agree. RT @robertjbennett: The easiest way [to write out of the box] would be by ignoring the box entirely. Sort of a mind trick. #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare RT @GeneDoucette: Insert comment regarding definition of discussion topic, follow up with something pithy. >>>LOL! #litchat -1:16 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett Q2. Each story has its own rules. But those rules are internal, not external. Genre, to me, is a set of external rules. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LitChat LOL! RT @GeneDoucette: Oops, sorry, posted my standard chat template by mistake. #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant Too many writers IMO decide OOB means they should be convoluted/ obtuse because they can, instead of just finding new/diff approach #litchat -1:17 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie @GeneDoucette You make me laugh! :-D #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare I think writers should respect the box. After all, it exists for a reason. #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette How does one "decide" to write out of the box? Where are these metatextual writers? #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette Doesn't everyone just sit down and write as well as they can? #litchat -1:18 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant To do the unexpected & unpredictable while still allowing the story to unfold in a way reader can follow yet be surprised/pleased #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette I mean, I've written four novels, and each one was a matter of "oh shit, what do I write next??" and that was really the only... #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @GeneDoucette We should, ideally. But writing In The Box implies thinking, "Where should this story go? What will people think?" #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LisetteBrodey #litchat: Writing out of the box for me is the full freedom to transcribe what I'm hearing in my head. -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette ...driving force. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre @deberryandgrant Maybe some have a talent for writing w/in the box & that works for them. Barbara Cartland comes to mind. #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette RT Doesn't everyone just sit down and write as well as they can? #litchat >>>that's what I do! #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Q2 Can characters alone break down the walls of a box, eg GIRL W/ DRAGON TATTOO? #litchat -1:19 PM Oct 13th, 2010
Nobilis @GeneDoucette #litchat There are different states of mind one can be in, things one concentrates on while writing, different techniques. -1:20 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robertjbennett "what will people think?" My god how paralyzing. I'm the only reader I care about until I'm done. #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LisetteBrodey #litchat: We should all write out of the box; it doesn't mean you can't edit and stuff some it back *in* the box later. -1:20 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett "Where should this story go?" as in "on which shelf." Should have specified. #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 13th, 2010
thedaisyharris In order to Write outside the Box, I'd have to know what the box is. Not sure I know that... #litchat -1:20 PM Oct 13th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @robertjbennett: @GeneDoucette We should, ideally. But writing In The Box implies thinking, "Where should this story go? What will people think?" #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @GeneDoucette Right. Writing In The Box, to me, is a matter of being confined. Stories aren't box-shaped, or shelf-shaped. #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre @LitChat Q2: We're prob. talking abt process here. Start w/ an idea, twist it? Or start with a twist & create the story to fit? #litchat -1:21 PM Oct 13th, 2010
thedaisyharris @GeneDoucette I agree. I just try to write what I think will be good. I figure I'm pretty hard to please, so bar is pretty high. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @robynmcintyre Exactly. Everyone can't/shouldn't try to be OOB. Some stories are perfect,satisfying & wonderful in the box. #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LRGiles @thedaisyharris I think the box changes...also it can be seen as what's popular (and, maybe, derivative). #litchat -1:22 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @Nobilis but shouldn't "wouldn't it be neat if I did this" be more important than "I should avoid doing this because..." #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 13th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @thedaisyharris "Not sure I know that..." > But you are a romance writer, right? The lines for romance are clearly marked. #litchat -1:23 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare I'd like to take a peek inside the box. This chat has made me curious. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 13th, 2010
Nobilis @GeneDoucette #litchat What I'm talking about isn't so specific. For example: Concentrate on plot first, or character? -1:24 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant Writers who are OOB, know they are already--and that's why their stories are also. There's Cormac McCarthy and CMc wannabes. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 13th, 2010

thedaisyharris @CarolyBurnsBass Well hero and heroine have to fall in love, but that's pretty broad topic. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 13th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Which box? There are many. RT @FrankDiCesare: Id like to take a peek inside the box. This chat has made me curious. #litchat -1:24 PM Oct 13th, 2010
tadbo That's my approach. RT @GeneDoucette: Doesn't everyone just sit down and write as well as they can? #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette grr #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @CarolyBurnsBass only if one decides to write a romance at the outset. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 13th, 2010
TheNewAuthor @FrankDiCesare Stay away from the box. Don't open the box....ever. Just kidding. #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant Tarantino comes to mind. I'm sure there loads of young writer/directors who want to be that out of the box, but it's not easy #litchat -1:25 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Which box? There are many. >>>Perhaps one at a time. I suspect there are some literary goodies inside. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @Nobilis well then we're talking about different boxes entirely. I'm talking about genre and you're talking about process. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre It can be hard enough to make an in-the-box story interesting. I guess I go by whether or not the plot/characters bore me. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 13th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass RT @thedaisyharris: Well hero and heroine have to fall in love, but thats pretty broad topic. > And it must have a happy ending. #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare @TheNewAuthor I....must....open...the....box... #litchat -1:26 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant RT @robynmcintyre: It can be hard enough to make an in-the-box story interesting.I go by whether or not plot/characters bore me. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 13th, 2010
NewWritersClub RT @FrankDiCesare: @TheNewAuthor I....must....open...the....box... #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 13th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Do it! Tell us what you see! RT @FrankDiCesare: @TheNewAuthor I....must....open...the....box... #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett Romcom movies have a pretty rigid box - take 2 people, invent hook that will keep them apart for 1.5 hours. #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette So we're going to spend an hour talking about our boxes? Is this legal? #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robertjbennett so box = formula? #litchat -1:27 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre @deberryandgrant I'm not sure being OOB is teachable to a large extent. You either think/see differently or don't. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @GeneDoucette Makes me think of the box factory field trip from the Simpsons. #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette In 49 states and one small country . . . #litchat -1:28 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @robertjbennett Most of Hollywood is formulaic. Just look at the rules for writing a screenplay...starting with length. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette I am willing to employ any and all tricks, used and unused plot ideas, tropes, and what-have-you to get to the end of the novel. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 13th, 2010
thedaisyharris @CarolyBurnsBass Yes, happy ending mandatory. But still leaves a lot of room to play. (Most RL romances R happy at some point.) #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 13th, 2010

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FrankDiCesare Contents of box: Strunk & White, Fowler's Modern English Usage, Webster's 3rd Int. Dictionary, The Columbia Encyclopedia. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 13th, 2010

TheNewAuthor @FrankDiCesare @NewWritersClub @CarolyBurnsBass NO! I heard nothing but pain and misery of rules and standards reside in the box. #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LRGiles @robertjbennett so if we look at the romcom formula, would something like 500 days of summer be OOB #litchat -1:29 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant @robynmcintyre Exactly. And those who aren't OOB will try to hard to be and are likely to make/write a mess of a story #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @GeneDoucette I would say expectations more than formula. The formula usually exists to satisfy reader expectations. #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie Okay, I'm stupid - just figured out what y'all meant by OOB . . . #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LitChat Q3 Edgy characters are only one side of the box. How much does plot and theme contribute to OOB writing? #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant I love it when a reader says about one of our books..."I thought I knew what was going to happen. But I was wrong." #litchat -1:30 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @GeneDoucette Long as you don't touch someone else's box. LOL #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette @katmagendie Over Our Budget? #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @robertjbennett My late husband was a box designer! #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 13th, 2010

CjEggett Dear Everyone in #litchat (#boxchat?) - you have made "The Box" sad: <http://www.gcgideas.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/box.jpg> -1:31 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @LRGiles Not sure. Haven't seen it, for some reason (I like both those actors) #litchat -1:31 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand #litchat tonight. -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @deberryandgrant Well, when there's millions of dollars on the line, The Box must look pretty dependable. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette Can I just be happy to have created something described as sui generis without knowing how I did that? #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare I say, be the box! #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @FrankDiCesare Mine includes all the authors I've ever admired. #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare RT @CjEggett: Dear Everyone in #litchat (#boxchat?) - you have made "The Box" sad: >>>LOL! #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant I like to set the reader up to expect the expected, then take them somewhere else. A box w/in the box not necessarily 1 outside #litchat -1:32 PM Oct 13th, 2010

mmj5170 RT @deberryandgrant: "I thought I knew what was going to happen. But I was wrong." As a reader-love this! #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @robynmcintyre I once sat on a bus with a guy who was a packaging engineer. It was actually really, really fascinating. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie I just want to climb into the box and hide after I take all the words out of it and they are published and people are looking at me #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare RT @robynmcintyre: @FrankDiCesare Mine includes all the authors I've ever admired.>>That's a damn good box! #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010

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deberryandgrant @robertjbennett A box can be dependable w/o being predictable #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre @robertjbennett Yes. Last book of Harry Potter didn't meet my expectations, so I was very annoyed. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010
Wyrdsmith Plot could crush the box, or crush the novel. Depends on skill level I think. Theme might actually BE one side of the box. #litchat -1:33 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie Sometimes "out of box" endings can backfire - hate "GOTCHA!" endings unless extremely well done #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @LitChat Quite a bit. There are themes, moods, and plots that feel like they belong in other genres all the time. #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @katmagendie Yes, being published is a lot like that dream of giving a speech in front of big crowd and discovering you're naked #litchat -1:34 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre RT @deberryandgrant: I love it when a readr says abt one of our books..."I thought I knew wht was going to happn. But I was wrong." #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 13th, 2010
thedaisyharris I like stories where I know what's going to happen. Lets me enjoy the journey. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @deberryandgrant ohh yea, you are sooo right! #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare If the box is all about thinking, then I'll dive into it like a three-year-old boy who pretends it's a truck. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @deberryandgrant True. But there's "predictable" in terms of plot, and then there's a larger sort of surprise to the story. #litchat -1:35 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @deberryandgrant *laughing* yes! #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @deberryandgrant It's hard to describe... Very few stories do it, but it's a sense of having read something unlike everything else. #litchat -1:36 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette Over Our Budget? #litchat >>I feel like a dumbarse *laugh* -1:36 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre @LitChat A3: I thnk environ is a side of the box - is the wrld the chars inhabit different enough frm reader's wrld to hold intrst? #litchat -1:37 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @robertjbennett And that is magical& wonderful to discover-like a rare artifact.Doesn't mean you don't like the less rare 1s too #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre @FrankDiCesare Be the box, own the box, redesign the box! #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring RT @LisetteBrodey: #litchat: Writing out of the box for me is the full freedom to transcribe what I'm hearing in my head. -1:38 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett "I thought this was a ____ story, but now that it's done I realize there isn't a word for what this is." That's what OOB is, to me. #litchat -1:38 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @robertjbennett Like I remember the first time I read Vonnegut...must have been 15 or 16. Wow!Unlike anything I'd ever read before. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring Writing 'outside the box' to me means going with your gut, writing from your heart, going organic with yr approach. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand writing OOB is writing what you know with your own voice. #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand RT @robymcintyre: @FrankDiCesare Be the box, own the box, redesign the box! #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 13th, 2010

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katmagendie I mostly don't think about what I'm doing-be great if I could, but I've learned how my brain works--my own kind of weird box #litchat -1:39 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @DawnHerring yes!!! we had the same thought! #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @deberryandgrant Yeah! People label him as Sci-Fi, sometimes... But maybe he's literary? No. He's just Vonnegut. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare Has anyone ever read, The Rhetoric of Fiction by Booth? You'll learn a helluva lot about the box by flipping through that classic. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant RT @robynmcintyre: @FrankDiCesare Be the box, own the box, redesign the box! #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @robertjbennett Yes--he's all of those. #litchat -1:40 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Q4 Can WRITING OUT OF THE BOX be taught? Would special skills be required in a WOOB-101 course? #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand everyone has a box. we must write outside other boxes, to be true. #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre A lot of "unpredictable" can come frm the chars viewpoints. But if foreshadowing isn't good, ending is unsatisfactory. #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring When I think, outside the box, I think not so much structure. But structure has its place.Like using screenwriting tools. #litchat -1:41 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre @robertjbennett Like finding the truth within a comedian's routine. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King I was out this afternoon and am so glad I get to pop in for a sec (before leaving again!) Hi! Thanks for all the kind VERA wishes! #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @DawnHerring me too;)) interesting topic tonight! #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 13th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Q4 WOOB, like most disciplines, may be taught, but not necessarily learned or mastered. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant When 2nd book was being shopped eds kept saying "we don't know what this is. It's not like ___or ___ so we're going to pass." #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 13th, 2010
Wyrdsmith A4 Only as much as reading and thinking can be taught. #litchat -1:42 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @DawnHerring: Writing 'outside the box' to me means going with your gut, writing from your heart, going organic w/ yr approach. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @myotherhand I think so too. :) I love thinking and writing outside the box. Even wrote a post about it! #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolyBurnsBass I might say the opposite. I don't think it can be taught. Maybe it can only be self-taught? #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King And I LOVE that what I'm seeing of this conversation is more about the WRITING not the genre/publishing. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette A4: I think WOOB is mostly just a combo of following instinct and pantsing, so sure. #litchat -1:43 PM Oct 13th, 2010
samredlich Time to procrastinate. Hello #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant Until agent found editor who said "I like it. Don't care what we call it. It's OK if it's not Toni (Morrison) or Terry(McMillan)" #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @katmagendie: I mstly dn't thnk abt wht I'm doing, but I've learnd hw my brain wrks-my own kind of weird box #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @CarolyBurnsBass I don't think that there's ever mastering it. Gaiman and Wolfe both said you never "get the hang" of writing. #litchat -1:44 PM Oct 13th, 2010

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GeneDoucette @robertjbennett Every novel, I feel like I'm reinventing the form, so I get Gaiman and Wolfe's points. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie When I over-think it, the work isn't as "fluid;" I saw this w/my 2nd novel. I had no stakes, no expectations (no box) with 1st. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @LitChat A4: I'd say "to a certain extent" as everyone cn learn to see differently enough to improve drawing skills. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 13th, 2010

danish_novelist @robynmcintyre @DawnHerring No, I disagree. That's not writing outside the box. That's just writing :-) #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant @robertjbennett I think if you're really writing, there is no "hang". Each book is different. #litchat -1:45 PM Oct 13th, 2010

DawnHerring @myotherhand Thanks for the RT, Kelsey! #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette 2nd Immortal novel has much more perspiration than inspiration, wondering if I fell back on my own invented box too much. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @deberryandgrant Yeah. I think that's what they were getting at. Each book is (or maybe should be) new for you. #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand @DawnHerring my pleasure! I'll put an eye there after #litchat -1:46 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant @CarolyBurnsBass No I don't think WOOB can be taught. Either that's the way the writer sees the world or not #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @deberryandgrant I believe someone very coarsely described it as "losing your virginity, every time. Lots of awkward fumbling" #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand ysRT @deberryandgrant: @CarolyBurnsBass No I don't think WOOB can be taught. Either that's the way the writer sees the world or not #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

Wyrdsmith @GeneDoucette If it was YOUR invented box, is it not still outside THE box, the one everyone else expects? #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @danish_novelist I agree. But I also thnk tht just as there's no 1 route to writing, there's no 1 route OOB #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

katmagendie @GeneDoucette 2nd books are weird -esp if series/trilogy/whatever. W/3rd, I'm gonna pretend it's the 1st w/o thinking of 1st/2nd. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

samredlich I invented a Rubber Rabbit Hole to bounce around in so that my WIP can stay fresh. #litchat -1:47 PM Oct 13th, 2010

DawnHerring Speaking of book titles, I'm reading The Weekend Novelist Rewrites the Novel; excellent screenwriting techniques. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand @Wyrdsmith that person had wisdom. we should be virgins with experience after every book we write. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant @robertjbennett I know each of ours has been a totally different experience. Except for part where u think u can't do it again #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette @Wyrdsmith perhaps. And the antecedents are different for the 2nd book than the 1st. It's more mystery, less crime fic shaded. #litchat -1:48 PM Oct 13th, 2010

AS_King Can't wait to be back Friday! Sorry I only popped in today...sick kid, you know the story. I'm sad I missed this, tho. Great chat. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @robertjbennett Yes - it's almost always a learning experience for me. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 13th, 2010

danish_novelist @AS_King We have to write what we like. Not what publishers want. Who says the goal is to make a living as a writer? #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette @Wyrdsmith at least structurally. 3rd will be more of a traditional quest plot line. #litchat -1:49 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette It seems I'm not content with just mashing up sci-fi/fantasy, I have to borrow thematic structures from different genres entirely #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand @danish_novelist ohh so true!!!! we should write what we know, what we love ... #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @GeneDoucette Maybe what you learned from 1st bk created new expectations? #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette @katmagendie it is weird, esp. since I'm not answering the big questions left after book one. #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

laurelruesswurm I think it depends on the story. Sometimes I expect writing "in the box" is as important as out. #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

BryanThomasS @GeneDoucette You're just making it sound better and better. Sounds unique and interesting. #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

FrankDiCesare RT @danish_novelist: @AS_King Who says the goal is to make a living as a writer? >>>A lot easier said than done nowadays. #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand @GeneDoucette gene, there is trust in your talent. ;) #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant RT @laurelruesswurm: I think it depends on the story. Sometimes I expect writing "in the box" is as important as out. #litchat -1:50 PM Oct 13th, 2010

AS_King @danish_novelist Have you been reading my writer's middle finger series? :) #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette @robynmcintyre it has, in me. I'm a better writer than I was when I wrote Immortal, but some of the wild creativity feels absent. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

samredlich The problem w/ "writing techniques" is that the savvy reader will see them - nakedly clear - and shame them for being the same. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @Wyrdsmith I'd wonder if it's OOB for you, maybe it's still ITB for others (Eragon) #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

DawnHerring There you go! RT @FrankDiCesare: I say, be the box! #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

Wyrdsmith Amended A4: I think confidence teaches WOOB, and maybe experience. It develops with your voice. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

GeneDoucette @BryanThomasS well it's funny, I was told after the fact that Immortal is built like a Chandler novel, and I never saw it b4. #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

laurelruesswurm @GeneDoucette And if you're writing a series you need to ensure you stay within the universe you've established (a bit box-like) #litchat -1:51 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @robynmcintyre For me, there's always ~50 pages of fluff before I figure out what the story is. Then those get cut. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand RT @Wyrdsmith: Amended A4: I think confidence teaches WOOB, and maybe experience. It develops with your voice. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010

danish_novelist @robertjbennett What's coarse about losing your virginity? Doing it for money is ... much coarser #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010

AS_King @danish_novelist And "making a living" oh picture me rolling on the floor holding my side. If you're in it for \$\$ prepare yourself. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robertjbennett @robynmcintyre The story knows more about itself than you do. Maybe it being OOB is just its own decision? #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010

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GeneDoucette @BryanThomasS and then 2nd book ends up structurally similar to a mystery, altho that doesn't seem apparent until the reveal. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Let's spend the last 10 minutes discussing specific titles you consider WOOB. Who wants to begin? #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @laurelrusswurm yes. Even with 60,000 year lifespan of my MC, I'm running out of places to put him. #litchat -1:52 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @robertjbennett the start is always difficult... after this heavy start one can really begin writing that book #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @samredlich Unless the reader wants the "same"--there are some writers making a fortune doing exactly that. #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LitChat um... my own? #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @danish_novelist Ha, I meant the way they put it. The original version was bit more vulgar. #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare The Sound and the Fury -- Now that's WOOB! #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King @LitChat I leave you with this: Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. If that isn't Woob, I do not know what is! #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @DawnHerring sure I will... ;) #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette Actually the hard part is finding a present-day danger to drape a story over. #litchat -1:53 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @thedaisyharris It does help to at least have an idea. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Go for it. Why/how is OOB? RT @GeneDoucette: @LitChat um... my own? #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant As I mentioned earlier, Vonnegut was my first OOB writer. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett Strange & Norrell seems like a drawing room comedy, then becomes a fantasy, then becomes a historical tragedy. #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robbyncintyre @robertjbennett It's likely. For me, little seems OOB; I've been living w/ the chars viewpoints, so it seems expected #litchat -1:54 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett In Cold Blood feels, at the start, like a murder mystery, but in the end it's an examination of something much, much worse. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King See you all Friday! #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LitChat atypical 1st person unreliable narrator, multiple time-line stories running parallel, fantasy creatures w/o magic. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare Huck Finn is also a great example of WOOB. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @FrankDiCesare Imagination can be a lively thing. I Like your pov. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robbyncintyre @FrankDiCesare Lot easier said than done ANY day. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
Wyrdsmith Farewell Summer felt OOB, but may not really be for Bradbury. #litchat -1:55 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King @danish_novelist Are you implying I said this? Because I didn't...and I don't. In fact, I say the opposite. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring RT @robbyncintyre: @FrankDiCesare Be the box, own the box, redesign the box! #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 13th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Not just trying to make points here, but PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ (by @AS_King oozes with woob. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 13th, 2010

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GeneDoucette @LitChat deeply sarcastic/funny voice, sudden turns into deadly seriousness, believably 60,000 years old... #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare @robyncintyre Naaah. Hemingway's dollar bought a lot more than mine does. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare @DawnHerring Thanks. I try hard. #litchat -1:56 PM Oct 13th, 2010
danish_novelist @AS_King Still, so many people have it as a goal. Our goal should be to become great, not to live in Beverly Hills #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett Many of TPratchett's books feel like standard comedies, but quickly prove more thoughtful than many literary works. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @LitChat House of Leaves - I haven't read yet, have thumbed thru it, but know about this book #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette "A sui generis Urban Fantasy/Historical/Crime crossover novel, in which pixies, demons, dragons, and vampires are real" #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @LitChat how'd I do? #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robyncintyre @FrankDiCesare LOL Hemingway didn't have a "need" for high speed internet. #litchat -1:57 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand oh yea!!!! RT @robyncintyre: @FrankDiCesare LOL Hemingway didn't have a "need" for high speed internet. #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare RT @robyncintyre: @FrankDiCesare LOL Hemingway didnt have a "need" for high speed internet. >Kinda makes you wonder, doesn't it... #litchat -1:58 PM Oct 13th, 2010
samredlich @marousia readers are fundamental to the collaborative act. anything that comes between them, distorts. #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant RT @AS_King: @LitChat I leave you with this: Breakfast of Champions by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. If that isnt Woob, I do not know what is! #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 13th, 2010
danish_novelist @AS_King No, I think I was agreeing with you. But I promise you it won't happen again :-) #litchat -1:59 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @robyncintyre yeah but Hemingway also shot himself. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King @CarolyBurnsBass I do believe it might be. Then again, took me 16 years, 10 novels and a lot of not giving a Sh*t to get to VERA. #litchat -2:00 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @katmagendie I agree with the overthinking. I love fluidity. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robyncintyre @GeneDoucette Maybe if he'd had the internet and #litchat he wouldn't have! -2:01 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand :)) bcz there was no internet?:P damn! RT @GeneDoucette: @robyncintyre yeah but Hemingway also shot himself. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett @GeneDoucette @robyncintyre I bet he'd have done it sooner if he had DSL. Cyber-bullying over his real name. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robyncintyre @GeneDoucette Wow. #litchat -2:01 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Missed #litchat today and now I have no idea what WOOB or OOB means. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @DawnHerring Yes - not focusing on what you think readers want but what works best for the Work #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette I'm ready to start the "if he had the Internet Hemingway would still be alive today" meme any minute now. #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand @LaurenBaratzL thinking Out Of the Box #litchat -2:02 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @LaurenBaratzL Ha! OOB outside of box - woob - um . oh! writing outside of box! I was here the entire time & still went "hun?" #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre OOB - thy name is Flannery O'Connor #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @GeneDoucette Methinks as long as there was still rum and women he'd be ok... #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie RT @GeneDoucette: " meme >>>what is a meme? I'm ashamed I don't know (it's OOB all over again ...sigh - woe) #litchat -2:03 PM Oct 13th, 2010
AS_King @danish_novelist Oh good. Seriously. Agreeing with me only leads to bad things. Also: disagreeing with me. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @katmagendie I really think that if you feel what you're writing in your gut, you're on the right track. Others will feel it too. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @katmagendie @myotherhand Thank you! Thank you! Now I can sleep tonight! Or drink. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @DawnHerring: --yes, those "Truths" . . . #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette @katmagendie a meme is like an idea virus. An idea or concept that spreads virally. #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
laurelruesswurm It may be a mistake to decide to write in or out of the box.... it depends on needs of the story and what the writer wants to say #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
samredlich @deberryandgrant savvy or not, I need readers who enjoy being #mindfucked. If you know any, tell them I said "Hi". ;) #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @LaurenBaratzL whatever you want!! ;))) then sweet dreams or have fun:P #litchat -2:04 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL What a fun word! I want to be OOB. Come to think of it, I'm totally WOOB. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @katmagendie I try to be that way with my blog posts. #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @laurelruesswurm yea, because it's important to be true, to know what you're writing, to feel it and not to write just to be..OOB #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @LaurenBaratzL @katmagendie @myotherhand Thank you! Thank you! Now I can sleep tonight! Or drink >>>>*laughing* hear hear #litchat -2:05 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @GeneDoucette OH! Tankee -I've asked a billion times & no one ever answers -now, I have an answer - I bow to thy answeringness! #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre @laurelruesswurm I'd agree with that. If you start out trying to WOOB, it becomes abt you & style rather than the story & substance #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Great talk today. We even created a new acronym for edgy, innovative fiction: WOOB. #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie @DawnHerring: I try to be that way with my blog posts. >>> yes-the best place to be casual and OOB! #litchat -2:06 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @LaurenBaratzL thanks for the follow #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL Oh, I would never be calculatedly OOB. But I can't help myself. (I love this word!) #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie RT @LitChat: Great talk today. We even created a new acronym for edgy, innovative fiction: WOOB. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring RT @Wyrdsmith: Amended A4: I think confidence teaches WOOB, and maybe experience. It develops with your voice. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010

laurelruesswurm @myotherhand it can be tempting to break the rules, but breaking them for the sake of breaking them can be pointless #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL RT @LitChat: Great talk today. We even created a new acronym for edgy, innovative fiction: WOOB. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette Feeling kind of WOOb right now. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre @LitChat Now WOOb will become part of the #litchat lexicon. -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
PoseySessions RT @LitChat: Great talk today. We even created a new acronym for edgy, innovative fiction: WOOB. #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat We're at the end of the moderated hour now, and you know what that means. Your pitches and shouts. Got any? #litchat -2:07 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant RT @LitChat: Great talk today. We even created a new acronym for edgy, innovative fiction: WOOB. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL @myotherhand You made me laugh, so why not? #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
DawnHerring @Wyrsmith With experience comes confidence. I agree with your pov. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette New Immortal media page: http://wp.me/PXIXL-8a #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
samredlich The reader was entranced, the critic was confounded, and the scholar mesmerized. All had touched THE STORY. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
katmagendie Glad I came today. Now off to finish working on Rose & Thorn's fall issue--every issue I'm worried there'll be a glitch & never is! #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand RT @laurelruesswurm: @myotherhand it can be tempting to break the rules, but breaking them for the sake of breaking them> pointless? #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant @GeneDoucette Me too. Think that can be fixed by a glass (or two) of wine. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Do continue chatting about WOOb, but be sure to return on Friday for guest host @AS_King, author of PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @LaurenBaratzL I totally agree with you! #litchat -2:08 PM Oct 13th, 2010
GeneDoucette and my OOB work of fiction itself, Immortal: http://amzn.to/cmK0iy #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robertjbennett My debut novel is currently 2.99 in ebook form, from Orbit! http://tinyurl.com/25vclgq Starred review from PW and LJ! #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LaurenBaratzL I'd pimp my website or my books but I'm too busy here dreaming of WOObdom. #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
FrankDiCesare Gotta sign off. I leave you w/ a great quote I read this week: "I write. Let others learn to read." #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand @LaurenBaratzL yea, great! it's fun #litchat tonight -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
myotherhand RT @FrankDiCesare: Gotta sign off. I leave you w/ a great quote I read this week: "I write. Let others learn to read." #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
deberryandgrant Had fun. Must go find box now. Later! #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
robymcintyre I just wanna say hooray for the internet! I wouldn't ever want to go back to library card catalogs & monthly writers roundtables! #litchat -2:09 PM Oct 13th, 2010
LitChat Friday's guest host @AS_King is leading #litchat with "An Hour of Rebellion With A.S. King." Don't miss it! 4pmET. -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

samredlich I still think publishers, included self publishers should offer the reader a money back guarantee.#litchat -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

MeredithCole RT @LitChat: Friday's guest host @AS_King is leading #litchat with "An Hour of Rebellion With A.S. King." Don't miss it! 4pmET. -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @LitChat Would it be ITB to rebel against rebellion? #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

myotherhand writing is like making love, too much OOB can... damage that! #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL Oh, I know what I'd rather pimp than me! Everyone, please go buy Please Ignore Vera Dietz by the incomparably WOOBish @AS_King ! #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

deberryandgrant RT @LitChat: Fridays guest host @AS_King is leading #litchat with "An Hour of Rebellion With A.S. King." Dont miss it! 4pmET. #litchat -2:10 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre RT @LitChat: Friday's guest host @AS_King is leading #litchat with "An Hour of Rebellion With A.S. King." Don't miss it! 4pmET. -2:11 PM Oct 13th, 2010

robynmcintyre @LitChat Fun discussion. See you Friday! #litchat -2:11 PM Oct 13th, 2010