



LitChat October 4, 2010

Topic of the Week: Birth of a Novel

Guest Host: Susan Henderson

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.

Guest host: @LitPark

LitChat Today's #litchat with @LitPark's Susan Henderson begins in 15 minutes. Go to <http://bit.ly/litchat>. 4-5pmET. -2:45 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark RT @LitChat: Today's #litchat with @LitParks Susan Henderson begins in 15 minutes. Go to <http://bit.ly/litchat>. 4-5pmET. #litchat -2:45 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones Hello Ms. Henderson. Nice to meet you in almost-person. #litchat -2:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LaurenBaratzL @LitPark I'm afraid I have to miss #litchat today - daughter; orthodontist - but I am so excited for you and your new book, Sue! -2:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones Glad you're here! #litchat -2:49 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones Couldn't resist. #litchat -2:50 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LaurenBaratzL Thanks, Lauren. My son's orthodontist visit is next week... retainer fitting. #litchat -2:50 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones Maybe @neilhimsel will show up, if he's not too busy dodging limo drivers. #litchat -2:53 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions Hi, Susan. Hi, everybody. Still new-ish to this format but very happy to be here. #litchat -2:53 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones Neil is always welcome. And hey, @homeconfessions! #litchat -2:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions I like this idea of addressing both logic and emotion re: publishing. Is there really logic? #litchat -3:01 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @homeconfessions Good point. There's nothing terribly logical about being a writer and all we put ourselves thru... #litchat -3:02 PM Oct 8th, 2010

lanDBarker Good evening #litchat -3:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @lanDBarker Hello! #litchat -3:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette afternoon... #litchat -3:04 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Welcome to #litchat. A little trouble logging on today, but I'm here now, and so is @LitPark's Susan Henderson. Welcome, Susan! -3:05 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @litpark ah. I see you said "logistical" and there's the difference!! #litchat -3:05 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @GeneDoucette @LitChat Glad to be here! #litchat -3:05 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Follow #litchat from www.tweetchat.com/room/litchat for easiest access. -3:06 PM Oct 8th, 2010

layersofthought RT @LitChat: Today's #litchat with @LitPark's Susan Henderson begins in 15 minutes. Go to <http://bit.ly/litchat>. 4-5pmET. -3:08 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette I've decided to challenge Amazon to a death cage match. Good idea/bad idea? #litchat -3:08 PM Oct 8th, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @litpark: @homeconfessions Good point. There's nothing terribly logical about being a writer and all we put ourselves thru... #litchat -3:08 PM Oct 8th, 2010

AuthorWilliam #LitChat time! -3:08 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat @LitPark is a debut author, but she's been involved in lit and publishing in many ways. Sue, can you share a bit of background? #litchat -3:09 PM Oct 8th, 2010

JAPak RT @GeneDoucette: Ive decided to challenge Amazon to a death cage match. Good idea/bad idea? <I like it! #litchat -3:09 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan Hi from the UK. I wanted to ask Susan if she thought the publishing process helped writing... or is it a distraction? #litchat -3:09 PM Oct 8th, 2010

lanDBarker @GeneDoucette I think Amazon probably fights dirty! #litchat -3:09 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark Sure. Background: majored in writing in college (after a switch from biomedical engineering), tried to talk myself out of writing.. #litchat -3:10 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @elizabethbuchan good question, probably many answers... #litchat -3:10 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @JAPak Intrigued. Why? #litchat -3:10 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @lanDBarker I'm already learning that, yes. #litchat -3:10 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Okay gentle #litchattics, we have a guest host today. Let's keep our conversation directed to her. Thanks. #litchat -3:11 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LitChat ..seemed a bad choice of careers, but kept falling into it. Freelance and lit-mag edited for a decade then started LitPark #litchat -3:11 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @homeconfessions Do you enjoy the process of writing? #litchat -3:12 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @elizabethbuchan I think absolutely everything helps if you learn to see it that way. More specific Q? #litchat -3:12 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @elizabethbuchan process of writing is both joyous and torturous at times, truthfully. How about you, Susan? #litchat -3:13 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @elizabethbuchan I don't think enjoy is the word I'd use to describe my writing. It's more like a need or a calling or an itch. #litchat -3:13 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones Does Tillie still talk to you? #litchat -3:13 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @homeconfessions Definitely plenty of torture in the process. #litchat -3:14 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones You know, something really settled when I finished the last chapter of the novel, it was like the haunting stopped. #litchat -3:14 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @litpark I started putting the torture into a metaphor to deal with it. Called it facing the tiger. #litchat -3:14 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @homeconfessions True. It's also like a virus in the bloodstream. Once you begin writing its there for life #litchat -3:15 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones @litpark Oh no! Poor Tillie. #litchat -3:15 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @homeconfessions I think some people really do enjoy writing. I definitely enjoy the poetry of individual sentences. #litchat -3:15 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @elizabethbuchan Ha! I love that. I'm more of the virus in the bloodstream type. #litchat -3:16 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @litpark What an amazing emotional epiphany? Now what? What happens after the haunting? #litchat -3:16 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones Oh, but it's a good thing. I felt Tillie was haunted and then haunting me until I told her story. Feels healed now. #litchat -3:17 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @litpark Ha! That's your biomed person talking. #litchat -3:17 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @homeconfessions I wait and see what else is haunting me and then I work it out on paper. #litchat -3:18 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana @elizabethbuchan Hey ... good to see you. Did you get my snail mail note? #litchat -3:18 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @litpark I LOVE writing when things are running smoothly. It's when I'm stuck that it pisses me off. #litchat -3:18 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @litpark Is anything haunting you at the moment? #litchat -3:18 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @maggiedana I did, I did. I was so pleased to get it. Thank you #litchat -3:19 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @GeneDoucette that's the tricky part, isn't it? I'm dealing with that now. Pushing through it but it's hard. #litchat -3:19 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @GeneDoucette Yes, I know the feeling. What helps you when you're stuck? I sometimes turn to music or movies. #litchat -3:19 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat @LitPark In your "Evolution of a Book" column for @TNBtweets, you chronicled the unusual birth of UP FROM THE BLUE. What happened? #litchat -3:19 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @elizabethbuchan Yes, there are stirrings, but I wait until the haunting really builds and finds a voice or a room, and then follow #litchat -3:20 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring RT @litpark: I don't think enjoy is the word I'd use to describe my writing. It's more like a need or a calling or an itch. #litchat -3:20 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @litpark honestly? Walking away helps. Doing something else. When I'm stuck it means I did something wrong. #litchat -3:21 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @homeconfessions I think it helps to know you can write badly, just to get a scene or a map down and then edit later. #litchat -3:21 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @litpark or I shouldn't have tried writing at that time of day, or after that many beers. #litchat -3:21 PM Oct 8th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Oh, I like, "a voice or a room." What came first with UP FROM THE BLUE? Tillie's voice or that blue room? #litchat -3:21 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @homeconfessions I hate pushing. When I push, I churn out crap that needs to be deleted. That's why I usually stop and try later. #litchat -3:22 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LitChat Oh, it was a loooong journey to publication. Book got lots of attn as short story collection, an editor talked me into... #litchat -3:22 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana RT @GeneDoucette: When I push, I churn out crap that needs to be deleted. That's why I usually stop and try later. #litchat -3:22 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring @litpark I like to use my journal to help work through the stuck mode. #litchat -3:22 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LitChat ...turning it into a novel then never responded, novel got shopped out, rewrote it, put it way, sold it, unsold it... #litchat -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010

RobinSlick Okay, am I here now? #litchat -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring RT @litpark: Yes, there are stirrings, but I wait until the haunting really builds and finds a voice or a room, and then follow #litchat -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring RT @GeneDoucette: @litpark honestly? Walking away helps. Doing something else. When I'm stuck it means I did something wrong. #litchat -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010

AuthorWilliam Perfect timing, the heating service guy is here. Will have to check the transcript most likely. :-/ #litchat -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @GeneDoucette I like that idea of walking away. I agree that being stuck often means you're on the wrong path. #litchat -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010

mysteriousruth #litchat I find that focusing w/o anxiety gets me thru stuck periods ... & often brings the most profound outcomes. -3:23 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @GeneDoucette maybe stuck also means: go in a different direction--when I get too hard on myself I dig a deeper hole. #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn What's today's topic? #litchat #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
teetate RT @GeneDoucette: @litpark I LOVE writing when things are running smoothly. It's when I'm stuck that it pisses me off. #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat You are here. Welcome, Robin. RT @RobinSlick: Okay, am I here now? #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
AimeeLSalter Have an agent/publisher? Willing to share #NinjaSubmissionSkills? (privacy maintained) http://aimeelsalter.blogspot.com #amwriting #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions RT @mysteriousruth: #litchat focusing w/o anxiety gets me thru stuck periods ... & often brings the most profound outcomes. #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
elizabethbuchan @litpark I think the subconscious is the great ally and I find I have to allow it peace and quiet #litchat -3:24 PM Oct 8th, 2010
GeneDoucette @homeconfessions yes. I usually go back and find where I went the wrong way and restart from there. #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @DawnHerring I don't journal, but I like that idea. Or sometimes I switch my character focus or where I've set the scene. #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana @litpark If only our readers knew the journey of our books from brain to market. On 2nd thoughts, maybe it's good they don't! #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
RobinSlick How long are we chatting? I'm multi-tasking but will be home in a half hour #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn When I'm "stuck" I walk away for a while. I find if I put it down and give it a day or so I do better. #litchat #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
adam_r_stephens RT @AimeeLSalter: Have an agent/publisher? Willing to share #NinjaSubmissionSkills? (privacy maintained) http://aimeelsalter.blogspot.com #amwriting #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @AuthorWilliam Thanks for popping in! @robinslick Hey! #litchat -3:25 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @RobinSlick until 5! Hi, rocker girl. #litchat -3:26 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat @RobinSlick Susan promised us an hour, which began at 4pmET. Of course, she's welcome to hang out as long as she wishes. #litchat -3:26 PM Oct 8th, 2010
elizabethbuchan @WordsmithJenn I think that's a good way to deal with it #litchat -3:26 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @mysteriousruth Would love to hear how you focus without anxiety! #litchat -3:26 PM Oct 8th, 2010
_ilo When I'm stuck I lower my standards #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana @litpark Your cover is evocative. Did you have an input on it? #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010
danish_novelist @WordsmithJenn Breaks are important for all serious writers. Walk the dog, sniff some tulips, drink some Chardonnay #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DawnHerring I think keeping distance from a piece or project for a time, even if for an hour or a day, helps keep perspective. #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010
RobinSlick Rocker girl is busy handing failing papers to disgruntled students whilst playing scrabble with 8 people on FB. #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones I enjoyed hearing how you dictate into a phone while trying to avoid parked cars, etc. Sounds like a good way to get unstuck. #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010

RobinSlick But oh how I loved Up from the Blue. #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @danish_novelist I'm a huge walker. One way I try to get unstuck. #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat @LitPark I was fascinated when you revealed you had "unsold" your novel. Do you mind sharing the vital reason why you did that? #litchat -3:27 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @AimeeLSalter My agent is Dan Conaway at Writers House and my publisher is HarperCollins. #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @danish_novelist I agree. Totally. @elizabethbuchan thanks! #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana @danish_novelist Sniffing tulips! Whatever next! (Good to see you, BTW). #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring @litpark It's interesting what a change in the pov or place can do. I have used my journal to work out plot points in my novel. #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

J_GriffinB I go for a ride on my moto. Have to be engaged to avoid thinking about plot snarls. #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @LitChat Yes. What courage to unsell something. #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark Whoa, the questions are coming very quickly all of a sudden! #litchat -3:28 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring @maggiedana I find an author's journey fascinating; find similarities to process at times. #litchat -3:29 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring RT @WordsmithJenn: When I'm "stuck" I walk away for a while. I find if I put it down and give it a day or so I do better. #litchat #litchat -3:29 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn Writers write ALL THE TIME. We don't take breaks like people with other jobs. 2 keep it flowing we need a break. #litchat #litchat -3:29 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Just take your time. RT @DawnHerring: @maggiedana I find an authors journey fascinating; find similarities to process at times. #litchat -3:29 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @maggiedana I had no input on the cover. They just sent it to me one day and I LOVED it. Not at all what I expected. #litchat -3:29 PM Oct 8th, 2010

RobinSlick Sue, have you gotten any fan letters from strangers yet? #litchat -3:30 PM Oct 8th, 2010

mysteriousruth @LitPark #litchat Thx 4 saying some people enjoy writing. I worry when many people say it's a struggle. Why must we suffer for great art? -3:30 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @litpark I'm so sad but I have to go. But it's been brilliant #litchat -3:30 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Just take your time. We're patient. RT @litpark: Whoa, the questions are coming very quickly all of a sudden! #litchat -3:30 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana @litpark It's a great feeling, loving the cover. It doesn't always happen. I was thrilled w/mine from Macmillan last year. #litchat -3:30 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @danish_novelist I agree about breaks. And I'm a big believer in putting writing away for a bit after you think it's done. #litchat -3:30 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana @elizabethbuchan <---- Waving. #litchat -3:31 PM Oct 8th, 2010

danish_novelist @LitPark @maggiedana Writers have very little input. Sometimes, I'm surprised that publishers let us write our own books :-) #litchat -3:31 PM Oct 8th, 2010

elizabethbuchan @maggiedana Waving back. I will be in touch #litchat -3:31 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones Yeah, I love talking my stories into my iPhone voice memo so I don't have to sit all day long. Can hike in the woods. #litchat -3:32 PM Oct 8th, 2010
lanDBarker @litpark Definitely agree with putting it away, you can always find room for improvement when you come back to it. #litchat -3:32 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn It's fascinating that the author has no say over the cover. A good cover can be so important. #litchat #litchat -3:32 PM Oct 8th, 2010
danish_novelist @LitPark I put The Tsar's Dwarf away for a year. When I came back I knew I needed a new protagonist #litchat -3:33 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @mysteriousruth I don't think writers seek out suffering, but life has sadness & pain. Writing reflects that--at least for me. #litchat -3:33 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana @litpark "Talking" your book into an iPhone sounds like a great skill. How do you bypass your inner editor? #litchat -3:33 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn Stephen King also says to put your completed ms away for a month or so. He says it gives you "fresh eyes" to edit with. #litchat #litchat -3:33 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @DawnHerring Agree! @homeconfessions Buying the book back was terrifying... and my agent's idea. In the end, I trusted him. #litchat -3:33 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LisaReneeJones RT @DawnHerring: RT @litpark: I don't think enjoy is the word I'd use to describe my writing. It's more like a need or a calling or an itch. #litchat -3:33 PM Oct 8th, 2010
RobinSlick @WordsmithJenn I think you have some say over the cover - but Sue truly lucked out! #litchat -3:34 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @litpark putting it away helps you let go of stuff that needs to go when you come back to it. #litchat -3:34 PM Oct 8th, 2010
GeneDoucette @WordsmithJenn NO input at all? I had some, but it's a new pub company. #litchat -3:34 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @RobinSlick I've gotten a lot of letters from strangers, and most surprising of all a following of other greyhound rescuers. #litchat -3:34 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana @litpark You have an insightful agent, then. #litchat -3:35 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DawnHerring RT @homeconfessions: @litpark putting it away helps you let go of stuff that needs to go when you come back to it. #litchat -3:35 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @RobinSlick @GeneDoucette Maybe you get some input? I certainly hope so. #litchat -3:35 PM Oct 8th, 2010
RobinSlick @litpark That is so cool! Can you sum up in 140 characters the nicest fan letter so far? #litchat -3:35 PM Oct 8th, 2010
danish_novelist @maggiedana I loved the US & the Danish cover of my novel but not the French & Portuguese. Sales were best in US & Denmark #litchat -3:35 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana @litpark Greyhound rescuers ... you never know where fans will come from. #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DorothyHearst Have had 3+ months away from current WIP & am now fired up 2 revise when I get editor's notes. Wouldn't have been ready before. #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @LisaReneeJones I like that. It is an itch. You feel like you just have to write. #litchat #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana RT @danish_ I loved the US & the Danish cover of my novel but not French & Portuguese. Sales best in US & Denmark // 'nuff said! #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010
RobinSlick @maggiedana She has the best agent, ever. That's half the battle after writing the book. #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @WordsmithJenn I think I could have spoken up about the cover if I had ideas, but they know marketing/demographics better than I do #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010
GeneDoucette @WordsmithJenn I actually found the artist, gave him teh specs and approved it. But then I'm not at Harper Collins. #litchat -3:36 PM Oct 8th, 2010
IanDBarker @WordsmithJenn I had quite a bit of input on mine - though they did ignore some of it! #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn Anyone have tips on getting/finding a great agent? #litchat #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @maggiedana and trusting her agent --that's a huge part of the publishing process, yes or no? #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana RT @litpark:I could have spoken up about the cover if I had ideas, but they know marketing/demographics better than I do // Oh, yes #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @GeneDoucette That's awesome! @IanDBarker That's good to know. It makes me feel better :0) #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
danish_novelist @homeconfessions Walking is great for writers. Driving cars when you plot a murder mystery might be dangerous to everybody's health #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @maggiedana My agent was a senior editor at one of the big 6 publishers before he became an agent. He knows things I don't. #litchat -3:37 PM Oct 8th, 2010
mysteriousruth @homeconfessions #litchat Interesting. My mystery characters don't suffer profoundly. Maybe I'd suffer more if my characters truly did. -3:38 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @danish_novelist Funny! #litchat -3:38 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @litpark I guess it's important to have people who listen to you in your corner. #litchat -3:38 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @RobinSlick A lot of the letters were just very personal, others affected by depression, suicide, military upbringing. #litchat -3:39 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions @mysteriousruth when I write magazine pieces about home design, I never suffer! #litchat -3:39 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana RT @litpark: Agent was senior editor at one of big 6 publishers before he became agent. He knows things I dont. // Oh yes, again! #litchat -3:39 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana @WordsmithJenn Not just listen, but validate your work with their experience. #litchat -3:40 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat @LitPark What did you learn about author/agent/editor relationships that might help unpublished writers? #litchat -3:40 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @WordsmithJenn Tips finding agents: look at the acknowledgments of your favorite, contemporary books. And be BRIEF. #litchat -3:40 PM Oct 8th, 2010
maggiedana RT @LitChat: @LitPark What did you learn about author/agent/editor relationships that might help unpublished writers? #litchat -3:40 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @maggiedana @litpark What are things you should look for when selecting agents to query/people to work with? #litchat #litchat -3:41 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DawnHerring RT @litpark: @WordsmithJenn Tips finding agents: look at the acknowledgments of your favorite, contemporary books. And be BRIEF. #litchat -3:41 PM Oct 8th, 2010
WordsmithJenn @litpark That's a great idea. Thanks! #litchat #litchat -3:41 PM Oct 8th, 2010
mysteriousruth @homeconfessions #litchat unless the homes are hideous:) I can see writing profound suffering creating bliss - Dostoevsky for ex. -3:42 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LitChat What I learned about author/agent relationships... your agent, if you have a good one, is your number one advocate... #litchat -3:42 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette I like stalking an agent for a week or two and then sending photos of their children along with the query. Works pretty well. #litchat -3:43 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LitChat ...Your agent is the one who's going to see your most vulnerable sides and is going to deliver your toughest news... #litchat -3:43 PM Oct 8th, 2010

mysteriousruth @GeneDoucette #litchat Ha! Haven't tried that one. -3:43 PM Oct 8th, 2010

Saffy RT @GeneDoucette: I like stalking an agent for a week or two and then sending photos of their children along with the query. Works pretty well. #litchat -3:44 PM Oct 8th, 2010

mysteriousruth @LitPark #litchat But if the agent is saying things counter to your fundamental voice then the toughest news is not helpful. -3:45 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @WordsmithJenn Hard to say what to look for because unfortnly the process makes you feel like you have to take whoever says yes. #litchat -3:45 PM Oct 8th, 2010

novhill As usual this time of day I am swamped but had to stop in to say hi and how much I love your book & ask a question... #litchat -3:46 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @mysteriousruth I meant tough news like delivering your rejections. This is the person who sees you at the most vulnerable times. #litchat -3:46 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @litpark True! Maybe if they say yes it means you will click on some level. That's what I'm hoping for. #litchat #litchat -3:46 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @litpark that's VERY true. I've jumped at two immediate "yes" agents to my detriment. #litchat -3:47 PM Oct 8th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @LitPark One things I most enjoyed in UP FROM THE BLUE was how each word was like a cairn, meticulous stacked to mark the way. #litchat -3:47 PM Oct 8th, 2010

danish_novelist @LitPark No, agents are the ones who'll see you at your most brilliant and deliver the best news you ever had #litchat #optimist -3:47 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock Don't forget, the agent is working for you. You hire. You can fire. Sure, agents know more than you, but that's what you buy. #litchat -3:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @danish_novelist That, too! #litchat -3:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions If you haven't read Up From the Blue, read it! Every sentence carves deep, and drives forward to the end last, breathtaking word. #litchat -3:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana @litpark An agent sees you with bed hair and five o'clock shadow. #litchat -3:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @danish_novelist Love the optimism :) #litchat -3:48 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @CarolyBurnsBass Thank you. I was a poet first, so where I actually LOVE writing is in the word play. #litchat -3:49 PM Oct 8th, 2010

novhill @homeconfessions : every sentence carves deep - that's it perfectly! #litchat -3:49 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @homeconfessions Thank you. That's really, amazingly kind of you. #litchat -3:49 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones Can you tell us about your editor? ...the good one. #litchat -3:49 PM Oct 8th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass ♥ RT @homeconfessions:Up From the Blue, read it! Every sentence carves deep, and drives forward to the end last, breathtaking word. #litchat -3:49 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @maggiedana Ha! #litchat -3:50 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions RT @CarolyBurnsBass: @LitPark most enjoyed in UP FROM THE BLUE how each word was like a cairn, meticulous stacked to mark the way. #litchat -3:50 PM Oct 8th, 2010

househomeauthor Find an agent who loves your work. No one else will be able to sell it with as much conviction. #litchat -3:50 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @novhill Wow, thank you. I really appreciate that. #litchat -3:50 PM Oct 8th, 2010

househomeauthor I was lucky enough to have several agents interested in my 1st book. I chose the one who reacted emotionally to my writing. #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

EmilyEWeaver @househomeauthor agree! I had 3 offers but went with the one who "got" the writing the best and was the most enthusiastic! #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @househomeauthor Dumb question: an agent wouldn't take your work unless s/he loved it? Right? #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones My editor gave me some overall guidance... for ex suggested I do a frame story... but gave me huge freedom. #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette Can I say that you have to find an agent that loves your work AND feels he/she can sell it? I've never had those 2 at once. #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

DawnHerring RT @househomeauthor: Find an agent who loves your work. No one else will be able to sell it with as much conviction. #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

novhill I'd love to know what you're working on now, and how the pub. of Up From The Blue is impacting your writing routine. #litchat -3:51 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock To find a successful agent: network, network, network. Old fashioned way is still the best -- referral. #litchat -3:52 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @househomeauthor I agree. The person you work with must absolutely love your work. #litchat -3:52 PM Oct 8th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @LitPark How much of Susan Henderson resides in Tillie Harris or reverse? I recognized similarities from what I know of you. #litchat -3:52 PM Oct 8th, 2010

ecollins8 I've had two agents. First tried (barely) to sell my 1st novel. Dumped me. Second loves my work but hasn't tried to sell it. Aggh. #litchat -3:52 PM Oct 8th, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Good Q! RT @novhill: Id love to know what youre working on now, and how pub of Up From The Blue is impacting your writing routine. #litchat -3:53 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock @litpark Does it happen often that agents take on works they don't like? #litchat -3:53 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @GeneDoucette Yes, now you're getting into the terribly frustrating place most writers have been in. It can be demoralizing. #litchat -3:53 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock @ecollins8 I had one who lost the only "good" copy of my ms. (Back in the olden times of typewriters and onionskin copy paper.) #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

househomeauthor @WordsmithJenn An agent might take it if he/she believed it to be likely to sell, even if it's not his/her individual cup of tea. #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @novhill I have a WIP that I'm very excited about but I've done nothing but interviews/guest blogging/essays for months. #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @GeneDoucette insightful question and point. #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @litpark actually I'm in a strange middle place. Novel's sold, publisher released it last week, I'm unagented. #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

maggiedana RT @GLHancock: @litpark Does it happen often that agents take on works they dont like? // Snookie's book, perhaps? #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

househomeauthor The bottom line is, it's a business. But most agents, just like writers, are in it for love. #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones Do you write more for the love of it, now that you are published? #litchat -3:54 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock @maggiedana Gag me with a Coney! #litchat -3:55 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @househomeauthor Wow. I never even considered that possibility. You're right--the agent needs to love it. #litchat #litchat -3:55 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette My last agent LOVED Immortal, didn't consider how to sell it until after contract. Never did figure out how to sell it. #litchat -3:55 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @GeneDoucette Probably will make it much easier to find an agent. Maybe you'll have more of a pick now. #litchat -3:55 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock @GeneDoucette Are you saying that you sold your ms yourself, or agent did and then you fired him/her? #litchat -3:56 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @litpark that's my thinking, yes. I'm shaving regularly and wearing Old Spice in case one stops by. #litchat -3:56 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @CarolyBurnsBass You could say that Tillie and I share a lot of similarities. We were both biters, for one thing. #litchat -3:56 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @GLHancock I sold it myself. #litchat -3:56 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock @GeneDoucette Kudos! #litchat -3:57 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @MrBillyBones You know, the issues in this book were blocking everything that was behind them. I felt free afterwards, more ideas. #litchat -3:57 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn @GeneDoucette That's awesome! Maybe you should be an agent too ;) #litchat #litchat -3:57 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @GLHancock thanks! #litchat -3:57 PM Oct 8th, 2010

ecollins8 @GLHancock Oy! I love my agent, but I'm confused. Do writers still need agents if they won't try to sell our work? #litchat -3:58 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @GeneDoucette That's so sweet. #litchat -3:58 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette Time to hop on the #bike. Susan, nice meeting you. Look forward to talking again. And remember: #Immortalisout #litchat -3:58 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @litpark Wow. What a birthing--love that. #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

MrBillyBones @litpark THAT is a wonderful thing, because I'm looking for more books from you. #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat @LitPark As we near the end of your time with us, can you tell us the best writing advice you ever received? #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GeneDoucette @WordsmithJenn alas, the story is much more horrific and convoluted. Stop by my blog, look for "on publishing" and "on agents" #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions @GeneDoucette congratulations! #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

WordsmithJenn I have to go too. Dinner time. Thanks @litpark and everyone else for the great #litchat! #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

GLHancock RT @ecollins8: Oy! I love my agent, but Im confused. Do writers still need agents if they wont try to sell our work? | Well, duh! #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @ecollins8 I think agents sometimes have it as hard as writers with all the rejection from publishers and despair from writers. #litchat -3:59 PM Oct 8th, 2010

novhill @litpark so looking forward to a new work - and your writing about the process along the way! #litchat -4:00 PM Oct 8th, 2010

homeconfessions RT @MrBillyBones: @litpark THAT is a wonderful thing, because Im looking for more books from you. YEP! Me, too. #litchat -4:00 PM Oct 8th, 2010

litpark @LitChat Best writing advice? Read read read. Train your ear for good storytelling and for pacing and rhythm. #litchat -4:01 PM Oct 8th, 2010
GLHancock RT @litpark: @LitChat Best writing advice? Read read read. Train your ear for good storytelling and for pacing and rhythm. #litchat -4:01 PM Oct 8th, 2010
GeneDoucette link to Immortal for those interested: http://wp.me/PXIXL-q Bye! #litchat -4:01 PM Oct 8th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @litpark: @LitChat Best writing advice? Read read read. Train your ear for good storytelling and for pacing and rhythm. #litchat -4:02 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DawnHerring RT @litpark: @LitChat Best writing advice? Read read read. Train your ear for good storytelling and for pacing and rhythm. #litchat -4:02 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark Thanks everyone. Really loved your questions/conversations! #litchat -4:02 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat Here we are at end of the hour @LitPark promised us. Of course she's welcome to hang around, but we need to let her go if she must. #litchat -4:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DorothyHearst RT @litpark: Best writing advice? Read read read. Train your ear for good storytelling and for pacing and rhythm. #litchat -4:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010
MrBillyBones You are welcome, Ms. Henderson. And thank you! #litchat -4:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010
IanDBarker @litpark Thank you, interesting chat. #litchat -4:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010
homeconfessions Thank you litchat and Susan. Write well everyone! #litchat -4:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010
DawnHerring @litpark It was great meeting you and chatting with you. Thanks! #litchat -4:03 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat Before she logs out, let's give her a rousing #litchat round of {{{APPLAUSE}}} for joining us today. -4:04 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @LitChat I have to take my kids to rock school. Can stay just a couple more minutes. #litchat -4:04 PM Oct 8th, 2010
novhill Enjoyed my time here - thanks litchat AND litpark! and everyone. Happy weekend! #litchat -4:05 PM Oct 8th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Here's another thing I love about UP FROM THE BLUE--how easily it was to identify with a 7 year old. Any remarks from readers, Sue? #litchat -4:05 PM Oct 8th, 2010
litpark @CarolyBurnsBass I've gotten about a billion Scout comparisons, and folks are a little jarred by the kid narrator v subject matter. #litchat -4:07 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat For those unfamiliar with @LitPark's blog, by all means check out www.litpark.com/blog , "where writers come to play." #litchat -4:09 PM Oct 8th, 2010
marirandomities My #fridayflash for the week: Troll Serial #10 - Kratan Goes Wild http://bit.ly/troll10_kwild #amwriting #litchat #writechat -4:09 PM Oct 8th, 2010
AmaliaTd RT @marirandomities: My #fridayflash for the week: Troll Serial #10 - Kratan Goes Wild http://bit.ly/troll10_kwild #amwriting #litchat #writechat -4:10 PM Oct 8th, 2010
icypop RT @marirandomities: My #fridayflash for the week: Troll Serial #10 - Kratan Goes Wild http://bit.ly/troll10_kwild #amwriting #litchat -4:12 PM Oct 8th, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @litpark I think it was subject matter that made it so easy to identify with Tillie. Yet Tillie's character remained true to age. #litchat -4:13 PM Oct 8th, 2010
LitChat We're winding down from our regular hour, so if you have something to crow about, here's your chance. Good news or shouts, anyone? #litchat -4:14 PM Oct 8th, 2010
lifeofrileycomm RT @LitChat: For those unfamiliar with @LitPark's blog, by all means check out www.litpark.com/blog , "where writers come to play." #litchat -4:15 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Here's to @LitPark's SUSAN HENDERSON for joining us today. Be sure to pick up a copy of her debut novel, UP FROM THE BLUE. #litchat -4:15 PM Oct 8th, 2010

ganymeder RT @icypop: RT @marirandomities: My #fridayflash for the week: Troll Serial #10 - Kratan Goes Wild http://bit.ly/troll10_kwild #amwriting #litchat -4:16 PM Oct 8th, 2010

LitChat Next week's guest host is @AS_King, author of upcoming release PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ. www.indiebound.org/book/9780375865862 #litchat -4:17 PM Oct 8th, 2010