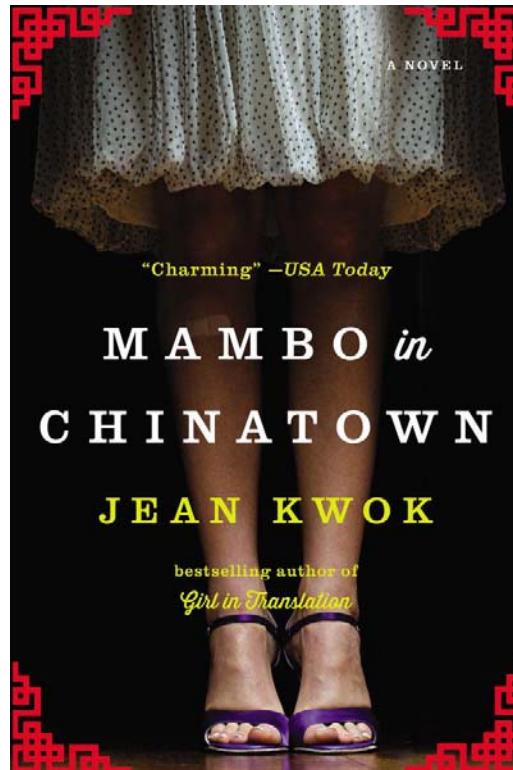


by LitChat a few seconds ago

LitChat: Jean Kwok, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on July 27, 2015 with novelist Jean Kwok. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass @LitChat. www.litchat.com.



Today in #LitChat @JeanKwok chats about writing & her new novel, MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. 4pmET. litchat.com/jean-kwok/ pic.twitter.com/c6cChE6H27

 LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 9 HOURS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Welcome to #LitChat with guest host @JeanKwok! Join us for an hour of engaging talk about writing, reading & ... cats.

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, definitely cats... So glad to be here, everyone! [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

While [#LitChat](#) is underway with moderated convo from 4-5pmET, please don't use the hashtag unless contributing to topic. Thanks.

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

[#LitChat](#) was founded in 2009 and is moderated by [@CarolyBurnsBass](#) ([@LitChat](#)). Visit our website at litchat.com.

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

The easiest way to participate in [#LitChat](#) is through [@Nurph](#). Just login at nurph.com/litchat, authorize and you're in the chat.

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

While everyone is gathering, please introduce yourself and let the convo begin. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Thank you so much for hosting me, LitChat! [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok I am a cat lover from way back, tho, sadly without any cats at present. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Oh, how sad... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think somehow that cats and books go together often, although not necessarily #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Our house is ruled by dogs presently. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

Before we get rolling today with @JeanKwok. I want to thank those all who participated in last week's #litchat about Amazon and antitrust.



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok #LitChat tends to go fast, so let's dive right in. Here we go. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I can type fast, so ready to go... :-) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Are you presently in Holland? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, it's actually 10pm here... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

We had the worst summer storm ever yesterday #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I wondered about that. THANKS for staying up for us. RT @JeanKwok Yes, it's actually 10pm here... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

My pleasure to be here #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Let's talk about your background. Can you tell us about how stories influenced your childhood? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Some of you might know that I was born in Hong Kong and moved to the US when I was 5 years old #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

My family was quite traditional and I was brought up with all of the old Chinese stories #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

However, when we moved to the US, what we found was not what we had expected #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

We found ourselves in the slums of Brooklyn, NY, in an unheated, vermin-infested apartment #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

My Chinese myths couldn't save us then #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

To make things worse, my family started working in a clothing factory, a sweatshop in Chinatown #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok What did you expect? Why? Did your family believe they had been given a bait and switch? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

And even though I was only 5, I went along to work as much as I could as well #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

We had seen movies, television, read magazines and newspapers... we expected skyscrapers, women in fur coats... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

When did you realize this for yourself? RT @JeanKwok My Chinese myths couldn't save us then #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In old Chinese, America was nicknamed the Golden Mountain #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

When I started school, my new teacher didn't care that I didn't speak a word of English #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

She took every piece of work away from me, marked it with a red zero, then gave it back #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

That was when I started realizing that things were very different here #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

So all that was wealth was visible to you, but out of reach? @JeanKwok #LitChat
[twitter.com/JeanKwok/statu...](https://twitter.com/JeanKwok/status/...)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok I see. It was the Hollywood illusion you expected. It's so deceiving. You have to pull from inner eye to see beyond it. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, and we were really in a building that was in violation of every health code, only we didn't know it #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I don't know if we saw that much wealth around us in those days, everyone was struggling
[#LitChat](#)

AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

But the worst was the winter, after tropical Hong Kong... our apartment didn't have any central heating
[#LitChat](#)

AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

The windows of our apartment were covered with ice on the inside [#LitChat](#)

AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok It sounds as if your family's work ethic and your quest to learn wouldn't allow that to crush your drive, your spirit. [#LitChat](#)

AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

So perhaps in that context, stories meant more to me than anything. Once I learned to read in English, I lost myself in books [#LitChat](#)

AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think everyone does the best they can [#LitChat](#)

AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

My mother would bring home work from the factory and we'd huddle around the oven, which we left open for heat [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Books are a way to hide, but also a portal to another life. What books did you most enjoy as a child that influence you today? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



The Book Wheel
@TheBookWheel

[@LitChat](#) Where the Red Fern Grows is why I have dogs. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

It's funny, I was just on NPR talking about this... I loved so many books, like Jane Eyre and Anne of Green Gables [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, love that one... I love dogs too, only have three protesting cats should I wish to add a dog to our household... [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I loved my public library and the librarians there, who were so kind to me; it was truly a haven [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Jeanne De Vita
@mermaidjeanne

@LitChat #LitChat A Wrinkle In Time. #1!



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

My public library was a clean, warm place filled with books #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We are chatting for the next 45 mins in #LitChat with @JeanKwok, author of GIRL IN TRANSLATION & MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. nurph.com/litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, I LOVE A Wrinkle in Time! Phantom Tollbooth #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I started at A and read my way through to Z in my library. Loved the Narnia books, Tolkien, moved up to Dickens later, Chekhov #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

There are thousands of little Jeans doing this thing even now--huddling with family, piecing a life together. Breaks my heart. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

It is so true... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Sandra Cormier
@Chumplet

@LitChat #LitChat The Black Stallion.



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I give talks all over the world, often at schools that are reading my work and wherever I go, someone comes up to me and whispers.. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

"This was my life too, we were so poor too, we suffered too... please don't tell anyone" #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok What was biggest challenge for you in learning English? Writing it or speaking it? Does it affect how you write today? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Btw, I was obsessed with the Black Stallion books, read them all... was in love w/horses until I actually saw one in real life- BIG #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok I admit, my family was not as poor as yours, but we were poor by common American standards. Why is it so humiliating? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Passive knowledge in English always comes first, so always easier to read and listen than to write and speak #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Sometimes I feel like my English is really a mess, esp. now that I'm living in the Netherlands, a non-English speaking country! ;-) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

About poverty, I think there is often shame associated with it and people who are poor as children either want to leave it behind #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Or they are trapped in a cycle of hard labor for little reward #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I know that when I was younger, I tried to tell a friend or two about my life... and no one believed me #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

As an aside, I wonder, did Walter Farley influence your writing or storytelling style?

[@JeanKwok](#) [#litchat](#) [twitter.com/JeanKwok/statu...](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

So I learned quickly not to speak... until I wound up writing this bestseller about it by accident...

[#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

I think everyone I read influenced me to some extent... such a joy to good books and writing

[#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

.[@JeanKwok](#) Education is a stepping stone from poverty, but so is determination and commitment. You put yourself through Harvard! [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

I worked four jobs at a time in order to pay my own way through Harvard [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

I did work hard but most of all, I was lucky to be born with the right gift... I was fortunate I could do school [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Are you comfortable writing in English? (All of us writers refer to first drafts as sh*tty first drafts.) #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In my family, I was considered a failure as a Chinese girl because I can't make dumplings, can't wield a broom... #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

so if I'd been good at cleaning and cooking but not at school, I'd probably be a dishwasher at a restaurant today... #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok I'm sure they don't consider you a failure now! (Well, maybe at making dumplings, but certainly not in life.) #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

which is where the inspiration for my heroine Charlie from MAMBO IN CHINATOWN came from #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think that as our story has come out, my family's feeling of shame about our past has slowly turned to pride #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Yes. Charlie. Such a genuine character--vulnerable, yet completely given to try something new. Different. #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

About writing in English, I was rigorously trained at Harvard and Columbia, so I can do it - but the first drafts are always bad! #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok And Charlie draws from your own experiences as a ball room dance instructor. That is just the coolest thing. #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, I left Harvard deciding to follow my dream and become a writer... #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

And I needed a day job, saw an ad that read, "Wanted: Professional Ballroom Dancer, Will Train" #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

So I worked for three years as a professional ballroom dancer for Fred Astaire Studios East Side in NYC #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok You have drawn much from your own life in your books. Do you ever feel as if you're baring too much of yourself? #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Charlie is me without the gift for school - clumsy, awkward, filled with good intentions #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

That's why I love writing fiction. There are so many different worlds I've experienced that I want to share with my readers. #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think that for writing to truly mean something, it has to matter deeply to the author #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I don't really enjoy feeling a lot of emotion - I'm pretty much the queen of repressed feelings #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

But when I write, I get to communicate things that matter deeply to me while clothing them in fictional robes #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

RT @JeanKwok But when I write, I get to communicate things that matter deeply to me while clothing them in fictional robes #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Does writing about your experiences ever trigger memories you'd forgotten?
#LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I do think that's why good writing is hard - you have to get so close to the things that deeply matter to you #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

All the time... when I'm writing, I need to relive moments that have sometimes deeply pained me or given me great joy #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

But that's the amazing thing about writing: by the very process of illumination, it brings healing to our deepest darkest secrets #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We are chatting for the next 30 mins in #LitChat with @JeanKwok, author of GIRL IN TRANSLATION & MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. nurph.com/litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Good writing takes a kind of emotional immersion. What do you do to avoid going too deep or getting off track? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think writers need to care for themselves. I play meditation music, light scented candles... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

It also helps me to write fiction so that my characters can share the burden... before I know it, they've shown me a whole new path #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

If other people are out there with questions, please jump in... just remember #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Who is your favorite character in MAMBO IN CHINATOWN, and/or the one you most enjoyed writing? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Well, of course I identify the most with my heroine Charlie but I love all of my characters, even (especially) the evil ones #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In order to write a character well, you have to realize every villain is the hero of his or her own story #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Love this. RT @JeanKwok In order to write a character well, you have to realize every villain is the hero of his or her own story #LitChat

 44 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok When you sit down to write, how do you begin? Do you have a routine/ritual that helps you get into the flow? #LitChat

 43 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I tend to do a lot of dreaming and planning before I actually write #LitChat

 43 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I start with a voice and as I listen, I begin to feel what the character is like... #LitChat

 43 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

then I start to see where he/she is living, what s/he cares most passionately about #LitChat

 42 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

but there's no book unless I care deeply, unless there are issues I don't know the answers to
[#LitChat](#)

 42 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In MAMBO IN CHINATOWN, I really wanted to write about the world of blue collar workers
[#LitChat](#)

 42 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I'd grown up working in Chinatown and there was a whole world that most people never see
[#LitChat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

There are so many people we pass every day who are still somehow invisible to us: the woman behind the food cart... [#LitChat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What are some issues? RT [@JeanKwok](#) but there's no book unless I care deeply, unless there are issues I don't know the answers to [#LitChat](#)

 40 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

The successful Asian American is a stereotype that hides the many Asian Americans who are working day and night to survive [#LitChat](#)

 40 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Just like in my debut novel GIRL IN TRANSLATION, I hoped to part the curtain of language, so that people could undergo... #LitChat



39 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

the immigration experience instead of simply reading about it, I hoped with MAMBO IN CHINATOWN to bring people into different world #LitChat



38 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

:that of working class Chinatown and the glamorous one of ballroom dance #LitChat



38 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok Let's make some metaphors between dancing and writing. You start! #LitChat



37 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In MAMBO IN CHINATOWN, Charlie's little sister Lisa gets sick just as Charlie is discovering her own talents as a dancer #LitChat



37 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In my own life, my father became ill as I was working as a dancer as well #LitChat



37 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

And like in Lisa's case, my father was treated only with Eastern medicine #LitChat



36 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

while I struggled to get him a diagnosis at a hospital... so the issues at stake in MAMBO IN CHINATOWN are very close to my heart #LitChat



36 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle
@krisriggle

Chiming in late. Your book sounds so intriguing @JeanKwok #LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think there are many similarities indeed between writing and dancing #LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

So glad to hear it, Kris! #LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

With both dancing and writing, you need to be disciplined in order to be free #LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok The East/West medical model is a serious issue. The conflict was clear in the book.
#LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle
@krisriggle

YES. So true RT @JeanKwok In order to write a character well, you have to realize every villain is the hero of his or her own story #LitChat



34 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We are chatting for 15 more mins in #LitChat with @JeanKwok, author of GIRL IN TRANSLATION & MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. nurph.com/litchat



34 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Must learn the steps. RT @JeanKwok With both dancing and writing, you need to be disciplined in order to be free #LitChat



34 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Dancing takes rhythm, so does writing. Bad rhythm in a sentence can trip up the reader.
#LitChat



34 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

There is much good in both Eastern and Western medicine but you need both #LitChat



34 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@krisriggle Hey, Kris! Great to see you here today. #LitChat



34 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman
@JLyetGassman

@JeanKwok read Mambo In Chinatown earlier this yr & liked it a lot. Daughter is a dancer/teacher. Fun to look behind scenes. #LitChat



33 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

With both writing and dancing, you need to train hard yet release yourself at the right time
#LitChat



33 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

That's great to hear! I thought it was fascinating to be a professional dancer for a bit too...
#LitChat



33 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle
@krisriggle

I've been reading so many dance books lately! It's one thing I've always wished I could do
#LitChat



33 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

So much respect for them #LitChat



33 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I think anyone can learn to dance, Kris - believe me, if I could do it, so could you! ;-) #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Me too. Two left feet. RT @krisriggle I've been reading so many dance books lately! It's one thing I've always wished I could do #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I drop everything, to this day #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Get lost going around the block #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok @krisriggle I took modern dance and ballet in college and had to count 1, 2, 3... for every step. Always. #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

When in radio and television interviews, I ask for no water because I'll probably spill it! #clumsy #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle

@krisriggle

I was in an amateur musical, once. In the chorus. So I've danced a teeny tiny bit. #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

Ooooh... I love to sing but am extremely bad at it #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman

@JLyetGassman

Read Mambo in Chinatown earlier this year & really liked it. Daughter is dancer/teacher. Loved looking at studio life. #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

I think dancing always starts with counting... like writing, you need to find the boundaries so you can break them #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Jenee Darden

@CocoaFly

@JeanKwok How are you perceived now that you're a successful author? #LitChat



30 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

.@JeanKwok I admire the physical and intellectual challenges of dance. It's intellectual until you've mastered it--then it flows. #LitChat



30 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

It is strange sometimes to be "successful" #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I was just telling another author that I've always had the most menial jobs, was always the least important person in the room... #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

so now it's strange, though very fun, to be the author #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Kate Lansing
@lansingkm

What are you working on now? Do you have a new book in the works?? #LitChat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Jenee Darden
@CocoaFly

@JeanKwok I agree! Writing isn't easy and sometimes I can be too hard on myself. #LitChat

 29 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, I'm working hard on a new book, which is set in both the US and Europe! #LitChat

 29 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I know, all good writers are too hard on themselves #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I was waiting for someone to ask. Thanks! RT @lansingkm What are you working on now? Do you have a new book in the works?? #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Hahaha! #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman
@JLyetGassman

@LitChat @JeanKwok I think dance requires a strong spacial awareness, something I lack! #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle
@krisriggle

Europe and US, great. Love books that transport the reader #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Omg, I have the worst sense of direction ever... so you can overcome the spacial awareness thing... #LitChat



28 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok I was going to ask if you'd set a book in Europe now that you live there. Is it contemporary? Set in Holland? #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

though I did whack my partner on the head a lot of times.... #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, the new book is contemporary #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman
@JLyetGassman

@JeanKwok Reminds me of yr character. Loved the way she blossomed so naturally. #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

And indeed much of it is set in Holland, you guys are so smart! #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Thank you for that @JLyetGassman ! #LitChat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

If any of you would like to see a video of me dancing and the guy I whacked on the head a lot:
jeankwok.com/events.shtml #LitChat



27 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

RT @JeanKwok If any of you would like to see a video of me dancing and the guy I whacked on the head a lot: jeankwok.com/events.shtml #LitChat



27 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I managed not to whack him during the video... hahaha! #LitChat



27 MINUTES AGO



Kate Lansing
@lansingkm

Ooh, sounds great! I'll be excited to read it when it comes out :-) #LitChat #LitChat



27 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

:-) @lansingkm #LitChat



26 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok When you moved to Holland, did you experience the same sensation of being an immigrant? If so, immigrant from where? #LitChat



26 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman

@JLyetGassman

@LitChat @JeanKwok How cool. Love it! #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

That's a very interesting question... #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

Are you willing to share anything about the storyline? @JeanKwok #litchat
[twitter.com/JeanKwok/statu...](https://twitter.com/JeanKwok/status...)



25 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

My move to Holland was a lot easier because it was from one Western country to another and I had a Harvard degree in my suitcase #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle

@krisriggle

Great video! Lovely. #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Only 5 more minutes in #LitChat with @JeanKwok, author of GIRL IN TRANSLATION & MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. nurph.com/litchat



25 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

But I misunderstood many things in the Netherlands anyway; so much of life is based upon culture, so much more than we realize [#LitChat](#)

 24 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

So glad you like the video [@krisriggle](#) [#LitChat](#)

 24 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman
@JLyetGassman

[@LitChat](#) [@JeanKwok](#) Now THAT is a book trailer! But you are much more graceful than moi! I'd probably trip. [#LitChat](#)

 24 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

The new book is actually about two Asian American sisters, one disappears under mysterious circumstances in Europe... [#LitChat](#)

 23 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

and the other can't rest until she finds out what happened... [#LitChat](#)

 23 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

You are so kind [@JLyetGassman](#)! But that dance video took so many hours of rehearsal... [#LitChat](#)

 23 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Something I learned during the rehearsals for the dance video is... #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Jenee Darden
@CocoaFly

@JeanKwok Oooh that sounds good! When does it come out Jean? #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok What did you learn about yourself while writing MAMBO IN CHINATOWN?
#LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman
@JLyetGassman

@JeanKwok Ooh, sounds interesting. Did you hear about that woman from AZ who disappeared while on pilgrimage in Spain? No trace. #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

you feel really guilty about eating a big cheeseburger for lunch when some poor guy has to lift you over his head afterward #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I don't know the pub date yet, @CocoaFly, but will keep you posted! Btw, lovely to see you here! :-) #LitChat

 21 MINUTES AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

[@JeanKwok](#) And to find out, we have to read the book! <grin> #litchat
[twitter.com/JeanKwok/statu...](https://twitter.com/JeanKwok/status...)



21 MINUTES AGO

**Jean Kwok**

@JeanKwok

I did not hear about that, very interesting [@JLyetGassman](#) #LitChat



21 MINUTES AGO

**Jean Kwok**

@JeanKwok

I re-entered both the inner world of Chinatown and the ballroom dance world to write MAMBO IN CHINATOWN, so I learned a lot... #LitChat



20 MINUTES AGO

**Jean Kwok**

@JeanKwok

I loved researching dating, social life in working class Chinatown... lots of new things I didn't know about, like circle lenses! #LitChat



19 MINUTES AGO

**Jean Kwok**

@JeanKwok

And it was amazing to reconnect with my friends in the professional ballroom dance world again
#LitChat



19 MINUTES AGO

**Jeanne Lyet Gassman**

@JLyetGassman

[@JeanKwok](#) I thought it was such an interesting combination: ballroom dance & traditional Chinese culture intersecting. #LitChat



19 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@JeanKwok What did you learn about YOURSELF in the story evolution or the writing process? #LitChat

 19 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I have such admiration for the people from both of those worlds: Chinatown and dance #LitChat

 19 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

I had to re-experience some hard times for myself but also a great deal of joy, the thrill of owning your body #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



Cyberknife 4 Oz
@Cyberknife4Oz

Aussie of the year nominated author amazon.com.au/Dying-get-Okla... #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle
@krisriggle

@JeanKwok I love that, "owning your body." So many women struggle with that. #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Wonderful hour chatting with @JeanKwok, author of MAMBO IN CHINATOWN. Let's give her a huge round of THANKS. {{{APPLAUSE}}} #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

In Chinese philosophy, we don't have the dichotomy of soul and body; that the soul is clean and body not #LitChat

 17 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

yES. RT @krisriggle @JeanKwok I love that, "owning your body." So many women struggle with that. #LitChat

 17 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

we believe transcendence has to do with unifying body and soul #LitChat

 17 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Becoming one within yourself is true transcendence and fulfillment #LitChat

 17 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

RT @JeanKwok Becoming one within yourself is true transcendence and fulfillment #LitChat

 16 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Thank you SO much for having me! And it was lovely to meet all of you! :-)) #LitChat

 16 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Thank you! Thank you! RT [@JeanKwok](#) Thank you SO much for having me! And it was lovely to meet all of you! :-) [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



Kristina Riggle
@krisriggle

See you on Twitter... [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Learn more about [@JeanKwok](#) and her books at jeankwok.com. [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

Yes, [@krisriggle](#), and men, too, actually. We men tend to live from the waist down and the head up. Big loss [#litchat twitter.com/krisriggle/sta...](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Yes, please do keep in touch, on Twitter and Facebook... [#LitChat](#)

 15 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Hahaha, [@judahfreed](#)! [#LitChat](#)

 15 MINUTES AGO



Jeanne Lyet Gassman

@JLyetGassman

@LitChat @JeanKwok Thanks for chatting! Sorry I popped in so late. It was a wonderful book! Looking forward to the next one. #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

And thank you @JeanKwok for staying up late to chat with us. Now go cuddle your family and your cats. XO #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



Christy Maguire

@_christymaguire

Can't believe I missed #litchat! Best of luck @JeanKwok, my MS son and I are fans! [twitter.com/JeanKwok/statu...](https://twitter.com/JeanKwok/status...)



15 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

So glad you joined, @JLyetGassman #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

That's lovely to hear @_christymaguire! No worries, you can still read the chat in the tweets #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok

@JeanKwok

Please give my best and warmest regards to your son! #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Good night, everyone! You can find me here [@JeanKwok](#) or on Facebook too [facebook.com/JeanKwokAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/JeanKwokAuthor) #LitChat

 13 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

If you missed today's #LitChat with novelist [@JeanKwok](#), you can read a replay at [@Nurph: nurph.com/litchat/chats/...](#) #LitChat

 13 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Take care and it was lovely chatting with you all! #LitChat

 13 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

RT [@LitChat](#) If you missed today's #LitChat with novelist [@JeanKwok](#), you can read a replay at [@Nurph: nurph.com/litchat/chats/...](#) #LitChat

 13 MINUTES AGO



Jean Kwok
@JeanKwok

Thank you so much for having me, [@LitChat](#)! I loved it! :-) #LitChat

 12 MINUTES AGO