

by LitChat a minute ago

LitChat: Darcie Chan, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on August 17, 2015 with author Darcie Chan. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com



LitChat
@LitChat

Welcome to #LitChat. Today we're chatting with @DarcieChan, author of the MILL RIVER series. Join us. nurph.com/litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

Hi, 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



Lesa Howard Boutin
@LesaHowrdBoutin

Hi! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

#LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by @CarolynBurnsBass (@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



Katie Ann
@KatieAnn_76

Together we can bring [#AugmentedReality](#) to schools! [goo.gl/8AFxQm](#) [#hiphoped](#)
[#BacktoSchool](#) [#litchat](#) [#edbeat](#) [#edtechchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Hello and welcome! RT [@LesahowrdBoutin](#) Hi! [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Lesa Howard Boutin
@LesahowrdBoutin

I'm Lesa and I write fiction and YA. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

Nice to e-meet you, Lesa. :) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

Hallo, Hallo everyone! :) Hopefully everyone hasn't been hindered by severe storms & lightning (such as I); nice to be online! :) #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Today's #LitChat guest host has written 3 novels, each set in the charming community of MILL RIVER, Vt. Please welcome @DarcieChan! #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Greetings! :) #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Lesa Howard Boutin

@LesahowrdBoutin

Hi, @DarcieChan I've seen your books and plan to read them. Excited about this chat. #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Thanks, Lesa. :) #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Let's begin talking with @DarcieChan about her incredible success story, then about the books themselves, then her writing process. #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@LitChat @DarcieChan I personally *love!* small town fiction, which is why this chat perked my interest today. How lovely, Vermont #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Yes, small towns are close to my heart. I actually never visited Vermont until after my second book came out...and when I did... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Thomas Whaley**

@AuthorTomWhaley

"...go to the bathroom first, because you are not going to want to put this one down!"
ow.ly/QD6IT #LitChat #fictionbook #Read



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...oh my goodness. It was even more spectacularly beautiful than I'd imagined. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan have a feeling I'll feel the same way once I get up there myself! :) What a wonderful testimony on how it inspired you #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Would U take a few tweets to tell us about yr publishing journey. I understand THE MILL RIVER RECLUSE was self-pub'd. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I almost feel guilty setting my books there, given that I grew up mostly in the Midwest...

[#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

[@DarcieChan](#) You shouldn't feel guilty; stories can inspire writers to go places they've never been & they find something special :) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Yes, of course! RECLUSE was self-published, at first. I wrote it years ago, in the early 2000's, while working an attorney day job. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

[@DarcieChan](#) what inspired you to set a story somewhere you'd never been? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

[.@DarcieChan](#) What was it about Vermont that inspired you to set a book there when you had not even visited the state? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Jinx! RT [@JillMorrow1](#) [@DarcieChan](#) what inspired you to set a story somewhere you'd never been? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Back then, ebooks didn't exist, so I went about trying to get the book published the only way that a book could be published. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Found an agent after a long search and hundreds of rejections...she shopped it for two years. We finally decided to stop with it. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Years later, ebooks exploded, and I thought about uploading my manuscript, which was still in a drawer. I was looking for feedback. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

I never expected it to take off...or much less, to lead to a long-dreamed-about career change. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan I am so familiar with that story. What were some of the reasons editors used for not picking up the book? #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

'Listening' in on this interesting #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Mainly, that it was "quiet," that I was completely unknown. I'd never published anything, not even a short story. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Lesa Howard Boutin**

@LesaHowrdBoutin

"Quiet"??? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan I love how this series found traction & it does pull you once you read about the characters; it just need an audience #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Also, it was a book that crossed genres, and from a marketing perspective, was not easily categorized. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

That's what I imagined. RT @DarcieChan Mainly, that it was "quiet," that I was completely unknown. I'd never published anything... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan lol I oft notice that this is going to become my own writerly story in the future; I never 'listen' to genres :) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

JLoves, that's what I believed from the beginning, too. I had many, many "test readers" for that first novel... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

..@DarcieChan Would you describe to Lesa what editors mean by "quiet"? RT @LesahowrdBoutin "Quiet"??? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...and it consistently left them in tears and smiling at the same time. While it was on submission, I kept hoping someone would... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan I quickly read the synopsis prior to this convo; & felt I had found my 'next' favourite small town. It's *that!* good! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...feel that and take a chance on it...but alas... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

In terms of setting the story in Vermont -- there were a number of reasons. I was born in WI and LOVE snow/winter. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@DarcieChan What were some of the things you did with that debut self-pub'd novel that helped it get noticed? #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

I wanted the book to feel "cozy." Vermont is also full of wonderful little towns... #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

...and it has a town meeting tradition, which was exactly the kind of forum I needed to have Father O'Brien make an announcement... #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story
@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan That is definitely a way to have a small town translate as 'cosy' to a reader; to set it in a state which reflects it #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

...to the town without calling the meeting himself. #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story
@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan I think New England definitely charms us w/ their town meetings; more townships should have them; *community bonding* :) #LitChat

 AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

"Quiet" in editor-speak means no vampires, violence, or erotica. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Lesa Howard Boutin

@LesahowrdBoutin

LOL! Then I have several "quiet" novels. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

RT @DarcieChan "Quiet" in editor-speak means no vampires, violence, or erotica. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

At least, that was my interpretation! It wasn't the kind of story that could be summarized in a single catchy headline. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan Oyy vie. You know, there is so much more to fiction than those three things; mind you Berni Stevens wrote a vamp I love #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I am not ashamed to admit that I got sucked into the Twilight series.... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

A good story can take many forms. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan Isn't this close to the criticism Jan Karon received about Mitford? Sounds vaguely familiar; not every plot needs extras #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I'd read some articles about that, JLoves. But, given that my books are often compared with hers, I'm afraid to read any of hers. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan Truly the only vampire book I could soak inside was Dance Until Dawn; it wasn't what I was expecting it to be. :) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan Smart choice. I don't read authors who write in similar veins of my own works either; even though I'm not yet pub'd. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I haven't read all that many vampire novels, to be honest. But, I do think Bram Stoker's original will always be one of the best. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

Publishers want what is selling at that moment, which is unfortunate since they miss so many new things that way. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

I do think that it's harder to build a readership with a "quiet" novel or series...and Lazette, that is so true. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

The thing is, I have readers who have been readers since RECLUSE was self-pubbed, who keep in email/FB contact and have read... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

The world of Indie pubs is a boon for readers who don't want to read the same things. Sometimes hard to find good thing, though #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...my newer books. I'm grateful for them, and for others who enjoy my "quiet" books, because they're the kind of readers who will.. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...give "non-headline" stories a chance. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

They're also good at telling other readers about books they've enjoyed. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Lesa Howard Boutin

@LesaHowrdBoutin

Can you tell us how the book(s) actually gained an audience? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

@DarcieChan Which authors do you feel write the sort of books you write? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan TMRR is a truly heartwarming story that reaches across generations. What did you do to get it noticed? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan love gentle stories/small town fiction where the townpeople & community yield the best drama & humour; life stories #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Lesla and LitChat, as best I can tell looking back, the first step was me doing whatever marketing I could afford to get it... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...on readers' radar screens. Since RECLUSE was a bargain ebook, I figured my target readers would be tech-savvy... [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...so I searched for blogs and websites that catered to ebook readers. Back then, I was able to line up a handful of promos/ads... [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...on those sites for around \$500 total. I set up a website, FB author page, Twitter, etc. And then, I waited to see whether... [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...readers would start seeing and buying and reviewing my book...which they did, in increasing numbers. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Lesa Howard Boutin**

@LesaHowrdBoutin

That's awesome. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

Do you feel that self-promotion has changed since your first publication? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

At some point, word-of-mouth recommendations took hold and started driving sales...and the sales figures garnered media attention.. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Good question. RT @JillMorrow1 Do you feel that self-promotion has changed since your first publication? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...which drove more sales. So, in a nutshell, you have to get a story in front of enough readers to allow w-o-m to take hold. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...and it's basically up to the story at that point to determine whether it happens. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I think self-promotion is a lot harder now. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

Eek. And, I'm wicked happy to report my local #library has your novels in their ILL-cat! :) I'll be able to read them this Autumn! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Many, many more indie authors. Places offering ad slots and promotions for indie authors have become overwhelmed or very selective. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

You were part of the first wave. Thank you for that. RT @DarcieChan I think self-promotion is a lot harder now. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

Self-promo is the evil of the writing world. (Snarls at it some more) #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

@DarcieChan That's been my impression as well. The internet is a lot "noisier." It's harder to be heard. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

And, I think the quality of self-pubbed material has improved dramatically, at least in the top tier, and it continues to improve. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

MT @DarcieChan...the quality of self-pubbed material has improved dramatically, at least in the top tier, & continues to improve. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan I read a heap of self pub &/or Indie pub per year now; I agree on the quality & how diverse the stories are becoming :) #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

Let's talk now about your newest novel in the MILL RIVER series: THE PROMISE OF HOME. How is it different? How is it the same? #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Yes. It's interesting to me that ebook sales have sort of leveled off...I'm not quite sure the market has found a "happy medium"... #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Rajib Ahmed**

@kajolvomora

publicbooks.org/fiction/for-wo... #literature #books #classics #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...between print and e, but it's heading that way, I think. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Re PROMISE -- it features many of the same characters as the first two, and of course, it's set in Mill River. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

A lot of us noticed sales dropped off when Amazon instituted their 'read as much as you like' for a set fee stuff. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

Hi Darcy. Seems self promotion is an author's only option since publishers rarely promote any book after its launch. @DarcieChan #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

I expect the novelty to wear off soon, though. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

I consider my little fictional town an actual "character" at this point, LOL! #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan I'm thankful it's levelled off (ebks) because I'm a print reader who is happy to see direct e releases going into print #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

Grr... MT @LazetteG A lot of us noticed sales dropped off when Amazon instituted 'read as much as you like' for a set fee stuff. #LitChat



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

But, PROMISE has some new characters, and it goes back in time more than the first two -- all the way back to... [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...the Great Depression. That was both challenging and exhilarating to write. Challenging because it required LOTS.... [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...of exacting research. But really exciting because it was a fun story and an interesting time. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Lazette Gifford

@LazetteG

Darcie -- did you enjoy doing historical fiction and working it into your world? [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Judah -- I agree that you've got to promote the heck out of your book however you're published. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

[@DarcieChan](#) I wish I had more living histories of my grandparents from that era; they didn't want to share so I rely on [#histfic](#) :) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

Hi @LazetteG Seems publishing is moving toward subscription access to books, same as with music and video. #litchat [twitter.com/LazetteG/statu...](https://twitter.com/LazetteG/status...)

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

I actually LOVED writing the historical part! RECLUSE had a rather historical timeline, too, and in that way, PROMISE feels... #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Mary Vensel White**

@mvw888

@DarcieChan Sometimes it seems the ebook market and print market are entirely different-- readers, networks, marketing, etc. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...closer to RECLUSE than REDEMPTION. But, I found it really fascinating. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

MVW -- that is so true, and it's what I'm finding now, actually. It's hard, with a traditionally-published book... #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...to target a large number of readers in one place. The blogs, websites, etc. are more numerous, but there aren't really places... #LitChat

44 MINUTES AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

Which is why #litchat is a blessing for authors, I reckon. [twitter.com/DarcieChan/sta...](https://twitter.com/DarcieChan/status/1234567890)



44 MINUTES AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

I am starting to do both print and ebook, but it's still hard to market either one. lol #litchat



44 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...like Pixel of Ink and the other big ebook websites where it's easy to get a promo in front of half a million readers at once. #LitChat



44 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan One of your main characters--and most endearing--is Father O'Brien, the nonagenarian priest. Tell us how he came to be. #LitChat



44 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

And, advertising any kind of book continues to become more expensive, for authors and publishers. #LitChat



44 MINUTES AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@judahfreed I love LitChat for bringing us all together; chats in the twitterverse like this one helps bridge writers to readers :) #LitChat



43 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@judahfreed I owe you an email! #LitChat



43 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

Father O'Brien -- when I was planning out RECLUSE, I needed a character who would know almost everyone and everything in town... #LitChat



42 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

...someone who wouldn't succumb to small-town gossip, someone who was trusted and wise.
#LitChat



42 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

And authors to one another, I'm grateful to see. @JLovesAStory #litchat
twitter.com/JLovesAStory/s...



42 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

I also decided to give him a minor "flaw" -- i.e., his "spoon problem" -- for comic relief, as well as to show his own morals. #LitChat



41 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A Story
@JLovesAStory

@judahfreed True, of course! And, some of us readers are writers too, we just haven't entered our season of publishing. :) #LitChat



41 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I agree, Judah! LitChat is awesome! #LitChat



41 MINUTES AGO



Tianna Holley

@holley_tianna

Writer's Tip: Use Your Phone to Make Book Promo Pics bit.ly/1EyhVQg #CR4U #litchat
#MondayBlogs



40 MINUTES AGO



Miral Sattar

@miralsattar

Great #litchat with @DarcieChan going on right now!



40 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Blushing here from all of this. RT @DarcieChan I agree, Judah! LitChat is awesome! #LitChat



39 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Hi, Miral! #LitChat



39 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

waves #LitChat



39 MINUTES AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

Darcie, how did your first story come to you? What made you decide you wanted to write?

[#LitChat](#)



39 MINUTES AGO

**Mary Vensel White**

@mvw888

Well there's a timely spam :) [#LitChat twitter.com/holley_tianna/...](#)



39 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

I'd always wanted to write, Jill. When I was a little girl, I won a writing contest in our school district and announced to... [#LitChat](#)



38 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan For those who haven't read any MILL RIVER books, would you please give them an idea of Fr O'Brien's "spoon problem." [#LitChat](#)



38 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

my parents that I wanted to be a writer. Fast forward 35 years...I had the time to try to attempt a first novel. I based it on... [#LitChat](#)



38 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...the real-life story of a man who fled Nazi Germany and settled in my hometown of Paoli, IN.

[#LitChat](#)



37 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

He opened a dry goods store and lived there with his mother the rest of his life. He wasn't fully accepted, being a Jewish man... #LitChat



37 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...in the 1940s in a very Christian area, but he still considered the town his community and his people. When he died, the town... #LitChat



36 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...was shocked to learn that he had left millions of dollars to it, to be held in trust and expended for the benefit of the people #LitChat



36 MINUTES AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

(love how @DarcieChan's tweeting are mini-stories which you have to read consecutively!)
unique style which adds winks of curiosity #LitChat



36 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

of Paoli. The Sol Strauss Fund is still in operation today and provides \$\$ for clothing for needy children, children's programs... #LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

That's quite a story, @DarcieChan . But I think that writers see layers and story potential where others may not. #LitChat



35 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...books for the schools, and other grant funds for projects submitted by people in town.

[#LitChat](#)



35 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

RT @JillMorrow1 That's quite a story, @DarcieChan . But I think that writers see layers and story potential where others may not. [#LitChat](#)



35 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I thought that basing a story on a character who was on the fringes of her community...someone who is misunderstood and who still.. [#LitChat](#)



35 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...loves her neighbors, would be a good one. [#LitChat](#)



34 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

I oft wondered if we (as writers) have an insight that differs from those who do not write; if we inherently see stories to share [#LitChat](#)



34 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

Do you feel that your novels are character-driven, then? [#LitChat](#)



34 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

The "spoon problem" -- in having a priest as a character, I wanted to avoid the terrible problems with some priests/Catholic... #LitChat



34 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

officials re children...but I still wanted him to have a problem. So, my Father O'Brien character is obsessed with spoons. From... #LitChat



33 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

the time he is a young man, he is compelled to steal them. He takes them from restaurants, people's homes, anywhere he can get... #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Adding character flaws, even ones like FO'B's, help keep characters from being polarized as "too good." #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...them, and accumulates a big box of spoons in his office. No two are alike, and they are an enormous source of guilt and shame. #LitChat



32 MINUTES AGO



Mary Vensel White

@mvw888

@JLovesAStory I would hope so! #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Yes, that's true. I didn't want him to be perfect. I wanted him to be a good person, but human and flawed like all of us. #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Lesa Howard Boutin

@LesaHowrdBoutin

Spoons. Now that's funny. Yet serious! #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Exactly, Lesa. :) #LitChat



31 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

And kind of cute, too. #LitChat



30 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Jill -- I do feel that my novels are largely character-driven. #LitChat



30 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Which again, makes for difficult marketing, LOL. :) And, it makes it important to have characters that readers enjoy. #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO

**Lesa Howard Boutin**

@LesaHowrdBoutin

I'm encouraged to hear that your "doesn't fit a genre" has found success. I am writing one now I feel doesn't FIT. #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

I think this is true of all storytellers, cave wall painters, folk tale tellers, filmmakers.

[@JLovesAStory](#) #litchat twitter.com/JLovesAStory/s...



29 MINUTES AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

A good, believable character can take a reader anywhere. #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Your MILL RIVER books also feature contemporary issues, like the Middle East war, and others. #LitChat



29 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Yes, I try to incorporate current events and situations in the "present day" timeline in my books.

I want readers to be able... #LitChat



28 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

Absolutely. RT @JillMorrow1 A good, believable character can take a reader anywhere. #LitChat



28 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...to relate to what is going on in the story. #LitChat



28 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Jill, that is so true re believable characters. #LitChat



28 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

What surprised you the most being tucked inside this small town you've created? A character or a thread of story? #LitChat



27 MINUTES AGO



Mary Vensel White

@mvw888

@LitChat It's the most important thing, IMO. #LitChat



27 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Can you tell us about your writing process? Do you outline before writing, or do you discover the story as you write? #LitChat



26 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

JLoves, I think I underestimated how much I myself would want to crawl into my books and live in Mill River, LOL! :) #LitChat



26 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

@LitChat we think alike. I was just going to pop the same question! #LitChat



26 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

RT @JLovesAStory What surprised you the most being tucked inside this small town you've created? A character or a thread of story? #LitChat



26 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

@JillMorrow1 Really making me look forward to next week! #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

@DarcieChan have you found a real-life location that comes close to Mill River? #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed

@judahfreed

Publishers prefer a title that fits into a genre niche because it makes marketing easier.

@LesahowrdBoutin #litchat twitter.com/LesaHowrdBouti...



25 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

@LitChat Ha! #LitChat



25 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Writing process -- before I start writing, I need to know how a story begins, how it will end, major characters, and a few things.. [#LitChat](#)



25 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...that happen in the middle. Then, I do a basic chapter outline and start writing. REDEMPTION flowed out so easily...I had... [#LitChat](#)



24 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...a complete outline before I started, and I thought, wow, this writing thing is getting easier! Then, I started work on PROMISE.. [#LitChat](#)



24 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...I knew how the story would start and end, and who would feature as characters, but the middle was a huge blank void. [#LitChat](#)



24 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

[@DarcieChan](#) Those voids are scary. How did it get filled for you? [#LitChat](#)



23 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

I had a contract deadline, of course, so I had to start writing...and I did, making it up as I went. Somehow, ideas came to me... [#LitChat](#)



23 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...just at the exact time I needed them, and all fell magically into place. It was a scary process, to be sure... [#LitChat](#)



22 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...but I think PROMISE is the strongest of my three books. [#LitChat](#)



22 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan I've found the blank void most exciting--when you're through it. You look back and say, "Where did THAT come from." [#LitChat](#)



22 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

A real-life Mill River...well, there is no village in Vermont called "Mill River," but there is a river with that name... [#LitChat](#)



22 MINUTES AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

[@LitChat](#) Having that void fill "magically" is the closest thing to a muse we have, I think. [#LitChat](#)



21 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

...located southeast of Rutland. There are little villages there -- Clarendon in particular -- that might be considered similar. [#LitChat](#)



21 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Yes. RT @JillMorrow1 @LitChat Having that void fill "magically" is the closest thing to a muse we have, I think. #LitChat

 21 MINUTES AGO



Judah Freed
@judahfreed

If you are comfortable saying, @DarcieChan, are you novels now supporting you full time? This is every author's dream. #litchat

 21 MINUTES AGO



Lesa Howard Boutin
@LesahowrdBoutin

I have to duck out. It's been great meeting you guys. Thanks LitChat for hosting. Darcie, I can't wait to read your books! #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@LesahowrdBoutin Hope to see you back again. Watch what's coming up at litchat.com. #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

Judah, yes, for now, anyway. BUT -- this is a huge but -- it is true that staying published -- i.e., getting repeated contracts... #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

is just as hard as getting the first contract. There is pressure to maintain or improve the quality of your writing. And... #LitChat

 19 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Do you have other MILL RIVER books in mind? Or will your next book be something different? #LitChat



19 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

...I don't know that I would ever have left my attorney job, even with a nice contract being offered, without having... #LitChat



18 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

...a husband who was supportive and able to cover the income gap or absence, if it occurred. #LitChat



18 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

Nice chatting with you, Lesa! #LitChat



18 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan
@DarcieChan

I do have some ideas for other Mill River books. I also have a YA idea and a nonfiction book that I'm dying to write. #LitChat



17 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Here's to the partners who fill in the gaps so that us writers can do what we love fulltime. (Cheers to the BassMan!) #LitChat



17 MINUTES AGO

**Jill Morrow**

@JillMorrow1

Oh, @DarcieChan , what is it about we attorneys and writing? Why did we ever go into law in the first place? #LitChat



17 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Definitely, Carolyn!! :) #LitChat



17 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

Right? RT @JillMorrow1 Oh, @DarcieChan , what is it about we attorneys and writing? Why did we ever go into law in the first place? #LitChat



17 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

Final question for @DarcieChan: What did you learn about yourself from writing THE PROMISE OF HOME? #LitChat



16 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Jill -- to have a safety net. Or because we enjoyed the work, but then found that we enjoyed other kinds of writing more. #LitChat



16 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

At least, that's why I did it. :) #LitChat



16 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

@DarcieChan And what else does one do with liberal arts degrees? #LitChat



16 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Final question -- in writing PROMISE, I learned that I could be more creative than I imagined...and that I was capable... #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...of writing a book in more than one way. It is comforting knowing that, as I look toward my writing future! #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



Adam J. Wasko

@theMRWASKO

Give your chillllrens LOOT by Jude Watson, they'll love it! youtu.be/C78bBIOligY #edchat #IEP #englishteacher #bookreview #LitChat #read



15 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

Jill, I think having liberal arts education is SO important. Yes, it helps people become writers, but it also... #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Jorie Loves A Story

@JLovesAStory

Mill River gave you wings to create your stories, but it sounds like you've given readers a heap of joy in discovering the townne :) #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

...makes people more well-rounded. That is a good thing. #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

@DarcieChan Clearly, I agree ;) #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Darcie Chan

@DarcieChan

JLoves, I hope so! I get a warm fuzzy feeling every time I think about writing about Mill River...I hope my readers feel the same. #LitChat



13 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan Yes. Creativity is the lifeblood of the writer--it doesn't mean only experimental writing. It's creating good stories. #LitChat



13 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

We've just wrapped up the #LitChat hour with bestselling author @DarcieChan. Let's give her a HUGE round of THANKS for joining us. #LitChat



12 MINUTES AGO



Jill Morrow

@JillMorrow1

Thank you, and happy writing! #LitChat



12 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

I really appreciate all of you being here! And, a HUGE thank you to Carolyn of LitChat for inviting me to visit today! #LitChat



12 MINUTES AGO

**Lazette Gifford**

@LazetteG

Wonderful chat. Thank you. #LitChat



12 MINUTES AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

.@DarcieChan {{{APPLAUSE}}} Thank you for sharing so generously. Good luck with all of your creative projectys. #LitChat



12 MINUTES AGO

**Darcie Chan**

@DarcieChan

Happy reading and writing, everyone! And feel free to contact me via Twitter, FB, or my website if you ever have more questions! :) #LitChat



11 MINUTES AGO

**Jorie Loves A Story**

@JLovesAStory

@DarcieChan I truly enjoyed getting introduced to your lovely Mill River and eagerly look forward to #amreading your #books! Ciao! #LitChat



11 MINUTES AGO

**Judah Freed**

@judahfreed

Applause applause applause. @DarcieChan #litchat twitter.com/LitChat/status...



11 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Visit [@DarcieChan](#)'s website for more info about MILL RIVER books: darciechan.com.
#LitChat



11 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Be sure to return next Monday to chat with [@JillMorrow1](#) about her novel, NEWPORT, a rich historical set in the gilded age. #LitChat



10 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Then on Wednesday [@judahfreed](#) will be here to talk about a publishing/writing topic. See you then. #LitChat



10 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

If you missed today's chat, you can catch a replay on [@Nurph](#) at [nurph.com/litchat/chats/...](http://nurph.com/litchat/chats/)
#LitChat



9 MINUTES AGO

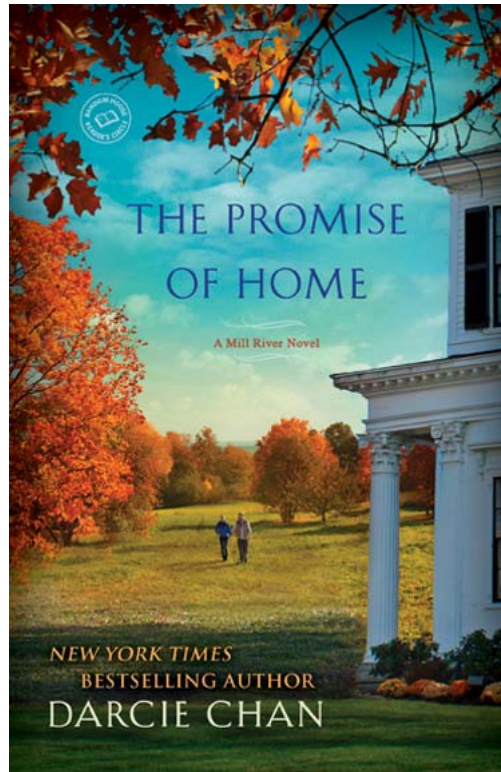


Judah Freed
@judahfreed

How about the topic touched on today: How authors can promote themselves with class? Open to better ideas! #litchat twitter.com/LitChat/status...



7 MINUTES AGO



Here's a direct link to THE PROMISE OF HOME by @DarcieChan: www.ow.ly/R123p #LitChat pic.twitter.com/x0molCwhek

 LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 6 MINUTES AGO