



Guest Host: Andrew Grant

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on January 11, 2016.

21:00 @LitChat

Welcome to #LitChat. Today we have novelist @Andrew_Grant with us. Join us for the next hour at #LitChat.

21:00 @LitChat

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

21:00 @LitChat

The easiest way to participate in #LitChat is through @Nurph. Just login at <https://t.co/5uq9fwj4Jg>, authorize and you're in the chat.

21:00 @LitChat

#LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by @CarolyBurnsBass (@LitChat). Visit our website at <https://t.co/6EsesNfJPi>.

21:00 @Andrew_Grant

Thank you! It's a pleasure to be here... #LitChat

21:00 @LitChat

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

21:01 @LitChat

Today's guest, @Andrew_Grant, is a crime novelist. His latest novel is called FALSE POSITIVE. Please welcome Andrew to #LitChat

21:01 @randomhouse

Crime novelist @Andrew_Grant's #LitChat starts now! Join in the conversation.
#FalsePositive <https://t.co/Agmvn2nnIV>

21:02 @robynmcintyre

Thank you for being here, @Andrew_Grant! #LitChat

21:02 @Andrew_Grant

I'm looking forward to taking your questions! Reading, writing, anything you like!
#LitChat

21:02 @LitChat

Let's dive right in with @Andrew_Grant. First thing I want to know is your path to publishing. When did you begin writing? #LitChat

21:02 @Andrew_Grant
My pleasure, Robyn! #LitChat

21:03 @Andrew_Grant
I began almost 10 years ago--June 2006. #LitChat

21:04 @LitChat
What was your experience before directing yourself toward writing? #LitChat

21:05 @Sophfronia
Hi Andrew_Grant! Sophfronia here. Did you start off writing crime or did you try other things first? #LitChat

21:05 @Andrew_Grant
My passion was always telling stories, right from being a little kid. That led me to Eng Lit at university, then the theatre... #LitChat

21:06 @Andrew_Grant
After that I had a 'sensible' job in telecommunications for a decade and a half, before escaping and telling stories for a living #LitChat

21:07 @LitChat
I like that--escaping. When you're a creative type in a non-creative job it feels like a type of prison. #LitChat

21:07 @Sophfronia
@Andrew_Grant And by that I mean something along the lines of short stories or plays. #LitChat

21:07 @LitChat
Referring to @Sophfronia's question, why did you navigate toward crime fiction? #LitChat

21:08 @Andrew_Grant
It really does! I remember heading home on the train thinking, there's another day I can never get back! #LitChat

21:08 @Sophfronia
@Andrew_Grant Sorry you didn't my question before: Did you start off writing crime or did you try other things first? #LitChat

21:09 @McGrawHillK12
Our Reading Skills cartoons can be a great way to kick off your class with a video!
<https://t.co/DAfdowrie9> #litchat <https://t.co/0VyH20clfx>

21:09 @Andrew_Grant

Sorry! Jumped straight into crime fiction. That's my favourite thing to read, so I figured that's what I should write. #LitChat

21:10 @LitChat

Did you ever toy with the idea of going into law enforcement? #LitChat

21:11 @Andrew_Grant

I actually did--I was even offered a job in that field, but ultimately decided on a different path. #LitChat

21:13 @LitChat

What intrigues you about crime fiction? #LitChat

21:14 @Andrew_Grant

Lots of things! The psychological puzzle: who's doing what to whom & why. The escapism: 'doing' things you can't do in real life... #LitChat

21:15 @LitChat

Escape. A common theme arises! #LitChat

21:16 @Andrew_Grant

I love Cold War spy fiction as well. A glimpse into such a strange world! In some ways so civilised, in others so savage. #LitChat

21:16 @Andrew_Grant

Ha! Yes. I guess escape is a common theme. I hadn't thought about it that way before... #LitChat

21:16 @LitChat

I think we'll be reading Cold War spy fiction for many years to come. There is so much possibility there. #LitChat

21:16 @Sophronia

. @Andrew_Grant I agree. I read Hunt for Red October and found it fascinating. Loved the movie as well. #LitChat

21:17 @Andrew_Grant

I hope we will! I agree--there's tons of unmined potential there. #LitChat

21:18 @Andrew_Grant

The Hunt for Red October is excellent. #LitChat

21:18 @Andrew_Grant

Did you ever read any of Len Deighton's Cold War books? #LitChat

21:18 @LitChat

You studied Eng Lit at uni, then went into theater. In what ways do you draw from these experiences in your writing? #LitChat

21:19 @LitChat

Afraid not. Will look into them. RT @Andrew_Grant Did you ever read any of Len Deighton's Cold War books? #LitChat

21:20 @Andrew_Grant

Not much from Eng Lit, but plenty from theatre. Dialogue, & the idea of building cast & bringing chrs 'on stage' at the right time #LitChat

21:21 @Andrew_Grant

He wrote 3 Cold War trilogies that I loved. Game, Set, & Match. Hook, Line, & Sinker. And Faith, Hope, & Charity. #LitChat

21:22 @LitChat

Let's get into your book, FALSE POSITIVE. Would you give us a few tweets of summary? #LitChat

21:22 @Andrew_Grant

I'd love to! #LitChat

21:22 @Andrew_Grant

FALSE POSITIVE is the first in a new series, featuring Cooper Devereaux. #LitChat

21:23 @Andrew_Grant

Devereaux is a detective in Birmingham, Alabama (I'm from Birmingham, England so I love the symmetry...) #LitChat

21:23 @Andrew_Grant

At the start of the book, Devereaux is on suspension. #LitChat

21:24 @Andrew_Grant

He's brought back just in time to catch the case of a missing 7 year old boy. #LitChat

21:24 @robynmcintyre

@Andrew_Grant Please include a little of Devereaux's personality. #LitChat

21:24 @Andrew_Grant

The missing boy is an orphan--and Devereaux also lost his parents when he was young #LitChat

21:25 @Andrew_Grant

The more Devereaux digs into the missing boy's background, the more he finds out about his own #LitChat

21:25 @Andrew_Grant
Leading to a discover that shakes his entire world. #LitChat

21:25 @LitChat
Devereaux is an interesting name. Where is the book set? #LitChat

21:25 @Andrew_Grant
Devereaux is something of a square peg in a round hole #LitChat

21:26 @Andrew_Grant
He went almost completely off the rails in his youth, following the death of his father, and was saved by an older cop #LitChat

21:26 @Andrew_Grant
He gets himself back on track, but can't help feeling adrift in the world and is constantly seeking a 'family' to belong to #LitChat

21:27 @Andrew_Grant
He's not one for following the rules or deferring to his superiors, so his professional life is far from smooth #LitChat

21:28 @LitChat
My husband was a police heli-pilot after retiring from USMC. Believe me, there are a lot of cops who fit that description. #LitChat

21:28 @Andrew_Grant
His personal life follows a similar path--his last girlfriend left him years before, and in FALSE POSITIVE he finally finds out why #LitChat

21:28 @robynmcintyre
He sounds like my kinda guy - if I didn't have to live with him! #LitChat

21:29 @Andrew_Grant
The book is set in Birmingham, Al. I found in research that there was a Bonapartist settlement there once, hence the French name #LitChat

21:29 @Sophronia
Will the story line in your trilogy be connected @Andrew_Grant or will each novel be an individual story? #LitChat

21:30 @Andrew_Grant
Yes! Living with Devereaux would be 'interesting' to say the least... #LitChat

21:30 @Andrew_Grant
Thank you! I hope his character rings true... #LitChat

21:30 @LitChat

You are an Englishman who splits his life between US and UK. Why did you set your novel in the US South, of all places? #LitChat

21:31 @Andrew_Grant

I hope the series will run for a while! Each instalment will feature Devereaux, but the stories will stand on their own. #LitChat

21:32 @Sophfronia

@LitChat Good question about the setting! #LitChat

21:32 @Andrew_Grant

Bizarre as this sounds, I dreamed the central 'reveal' in the book. It needed a certain setting, and Birmingham AL... #LitChat

21:33 @Andrew_Grant

...is the only place I'd been that fitted the bill. #LitChat

21:33 @robynmcintyre

Do you visit AL often? #LitChat

21:33 @amyignatow

@LitChat I am?!? I DID??? #LitChat

21:34 @Andrew_Grant

As often as I can. Coming from an industrial city I like places where useful things are made, & the fabric of our world was shaped #LitChat

21:35 @LitChat

Oh, I love when dreams influence fiction. Have you experienced this kind of dreaming before? #LitChat

21:35 @Andrew_Grant

No--this is the first time. I hope it happens again, though! It was a magical experience #LitChat

21:36 @Sophfronia

Your wife is a prolific author in her own right @Andrew_Grant. Do you ever discuss your work together, provide help & insight? #LitChat

21:36 @Andrew_Grant

I like some of the buildings in Birmingham such as the City Federal, which plays a major role in the book. #LitChat

21:37 @dokrauss

Ever been to LA- lower Alabama? #LitChat

21:37 @Andrew_Grant

Yes--all the time! We talk about ideas for future books, and are the first to read each other's manuscripts. #LitChat

21:38 @Sophronia

Cool RT @Andrew_Grant Yes--all the time! We talk about ideas for future books, and are the first to read each other's manuscripts. #LitChat

21:38 @Andrew_Grant

Having another person in the house who understands what the writing process is like is wonderful! #LitChat

21:38 @robynmcintyre

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RT @Andrew_Grant Having another person in the house who understands what the writing process is like is wonderful! #LitChat

21:39 @LitChat

How do you approach writing your first draft? #LitChat

21:39 @Sophronia

RT @Andrew_Grant Having another person in the house who understands what the writing process is like is wonderful! #LitChat

21:39 @Andrew_Grant

I'm not sure! Once I did drive 90 miles or so outside Birmingham to visit a library, but don't know whether that would count? #LitChat

21:40 @dokrauss

Depends on what direction you were going. #LitChat

21:40 @Andrew_Grant

Good point! #LitChat

21:40 @LitChat

. @Andrew_Grant How do you approach writing your first draft? #LitChat

21:41 @dokrauss

I lived about twenty miles outside of Enterprise in the late 60s. It was...different. #LitChat

21:41 @Andrew_Grant

I love starting a first draft. 1st, lots of thinking and planning. I like a good idea of where the story's going. #LitChat

21:41 @Andrew_Grant

I need to know what the villain in particular is up to, and why. #LitChat

21:41 @LitChat

. @Andrew_Grant do you know the ending when you begin? #LitChat

21:41 @Sophronia

Me too! MT @Andrew_Grant I love starting a first draft. 1st lots of thinking & planning. I like a good idea of where story's going. #LitChat

21:42 @Andrew_Grant

Yes! Always. Although once it changed as I went along, as a better idea came to me. #LitChat

21:43 @Andrew_Grant

Once underway, momentum is the key. A bad page can be fixed, but a blank page can't. #LitChat

21:44 @Andrew_Grant

I bet! A lot of what I read about Birmingham talks about that era, so I know what you mean #LitChat

21:44 @LitChat

RT @Andrew_Grant Once underway, momentum is the key. A bad page can be fixed, but a blank page can't. #LitChat

21:45 @dokrauss

It was a little crazy. Auburn, or Alabama? #LitChat

21:45 @Sophronia

So true! RT @LitChat RT @Andrew_Grant Once underway, momentum is the key. A bad page can be fixed, but a blank page can't. #LitChat

21:45 @Andrew_Grant

Talking of endings, I like the final scene of FALSE POSITIVE the most out of everything I've written... #LitChat

21:45 @Andrew_Grant

I've learned enough about Birmingham to know not to answer that question!!! #LitChat

21:46 @LitChat

. @Andrew_Grant What challenges did you find when writing FALSE POSITIVE that you didn't experience in your previous books? #LitChat

21:46 @robyncintyre

RT @LitChat RT @Andrew_Grant Once underway, momentum is the key. A bad page can be fixed, but a blank page can't. #LitChat

21:46 @Sophfronia

Me too! MT @Andrew_Grant I love starting a first draft. 1st lots of thinking & planning. I like a good idea of where story's going. #LitChat

21:46 @dokrauss

Ha! You're a 'bamian. #LitChat

21:46 @druchunas

@LitChat My first draft process is a) write some junk, b) outline, c) fill in the blanks. #LitChat @Andrew_Grant

21:46 @Sophfronia

So true! RT @LitChat RT @Andrew_Grant Once underway, momentum is the key. A bad page can be fixed, but a blank page can't. #LitChat

21:47 @Sophfronia

Sorry I'm repeating tweets but Nurph is being wonky. #LitChat

21:47 @Andrew_Grant

I really tried hard to get a sense of Birmingham and it's environment--I guess that was the biggest challenge #LitChat

21:47 @LitChat

Same here. What's up @Nurph? RT @Sophfronia Sorry I'm repeating tweets but Nurph is being wonky. #LitChat

21:48 @dokrauss

I don't know a lot about that part of Alabama. We considered anything north of Montgomery as Yankee territory. #LitChat

21:48 @robyncintyre

@Andrew_Grant Best way to learn something is to teach it to others, which writers do. #LitChat

21:48 @Andrew_Grant

I outline (to a greater or lesser extent depending on the book) then draft. Have to go from start to finish, though. Can fill gaps #LitChat

21:48 @LitChat

Birmingham is an important place in American Civil Rights history. Do you reference it anywhere in FALSE POSITIVE @Andrew_Grant? #LitChat

21:48 @LitChat

RT @robyncintyre @Andrew_Grant Best way to learn something is to teach it to others, which writers do. #LitChat

21:50 @Andrew_Grant

Not directly. It wasn't directly relevant to this particular story, but am planning to in a future book. #LitChat

21:50 @LitChat

Birmingham is an important place in American Civil Rights history. Do you reference it anywhere in FALSE POSITIVE @Andrew_Grant? #LitChat

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Not directly. It wasn't directly relevant to this particular story, but am planning to in a future book. #LitChat

21:51 @LitChat

. @Andrew_Grant What challenges did you find when writing FALSE POSITIVE that you didn't experience in your previous books? #LitChat

21:53 @LitChat

It seems @Nurph is acting up today. I apologize for that @Andrew_Grant. Thank you for bearing with us. #LitChat

21:53 @Andrew_Grant

I wouldn't say challenge, but a fun experience with FALSE POSITIVE was the research I did into criminal psychology. #LitChat

21:53 @Andrew_Grant

The human brain can be a dark and scary place! #LitChat

21:54 @Andrew_Grant

No problem! Computers like to show us who's in charge from time to time... #LitChat

21:54 @robyncintyre

@Andrew_Grant Have you ever been or plan to attend Killer Nashville? #LitChat

21:54 @LitChat

. @Andrew_Grant Criminal psychology and its cousin, profiling, are fascinating. What astonished you most? #LitChat

21:55 @Andrew_Grant

I went once when @talexander was attending, and would love to go again! #LitChat

21:55 @LitChat

RT @NewMillWritings: @Sophronia #LitChat @Andrew_Grant Absolutely. Metaphorically true for everyone, literally true for writers!

21:56 @LitChat

RT @Andrew_Grant The human brain can be a dark and scary place! #LitChat

21:56 @Andrew_Grant

The way that even the most bizarre behaviour makes sense to the person who acts that way, even if it's incomprehensible to us #LitChat

21:56 @robynmcintyre

@Andrew_Grant What's next for Devereaux? #LitChat

21:57 @Andrew_Grant

Starting with evidence of someone's behaviour and working back to find the kind of person who could be responsible is fascinating! #LitChat

21:58 @Andrew_Grant

Next up, in FALSE FRIEND, Devereaux will be tasked with stopping an arsonist who's on the loose in Birmingham... #LitChat

21:58 @Andrew_Grant

Only that won't be the only challenge--personal, as well as professional--that he'll face. #LitChat

21:58 @LitChat

. @Andrew_Grant That is a terrific title. Obviously one referencing a new series with FALSE as lead word. Great. #LitChat

21:58 @Andrew_Grant

Thank you! And yes--the #LitChat

21:59 @LitChat

Final question for @Andrew_Grant: What did you learn about yourself while writing FALSE POSITIVE? #LitChat

21:59 @Andrew_Grant

Yes--each book in the series will be FALSE (something...) #LitChat

21:59 @LitChat

Final question for @Andrew_Grant: What did you learn about yourself while writing FALSE POSITIVE? #LitChat

22:00 @Andrew_Grant

Hmmm. Excellent question! I guess to trust my instincts and try not to second guess myself too much. #LitChat

22:00 @robynmcintyre

@Andrew_Grant We could all stand to learn that! #LitChat

22:00 @LitChat

We're out of time with @Andrew_Grant, but wasn't this fun? #LitChat

22:01 @Andrew_Grant

Easier said than done, unfortunately! #LitChat

22:01 @Andrew_Grant

I certainly thought so! I had a blast. Thanks so much for inviting me! #LitChat

22:01 @robyncintyre

@Andrew_Grant Thanks for sharing Devereaux and your writing process with us.
#LitChat

22:01 @LitChat

Let's give @Andrew_Grant a HUGE round of #LitChat THANKS for joining us here today. {{{APPLAUSE}}}

22:01 @robyncintyre

RT @LitChat Let's give @Andrew_Grant a HUGE round of #LitChat THANKS for joining us here today. {{{APPLAUSE}}}

22:01 @Andrew_Grant

It was absolutely my pleasure! #LitChat

22:01 @Sophronia

Thank you @Andrew_Grant! Great #LitChat

22:01 @Andrew_Grant

Thank you! #LitChat

22:02 @robyncintyre

I hope you will guest again at some point. #LitChat

22:02 @LitChat

You can learn more about Andrew Grant and his book on his website at www.andrewgrantbooks.com. #LitChat

22:02 @dokrauss

Thanks for stopping by. Auburn, or Alabama? #LitChat

22:02 @Andrew_Grant

I would love to be! Say the word, and I'll be here... #LitChat

22:02 @Sophronia

Thank you @Andrew_Grant! Great #LitChat

22:02 @Andrew_Grant
That's one question I'll never answer ;-) #LitChat

22:03 @dokrauss
Peanuts in your RC Cola? #LitChat

22:03 @Andrew_Grant
Ha! Just don't get me started on 'cue... #LitChat

22:04 @dokrauss
The thick red sauce, always. #LitChat

22:04 @Sophfronia
Oooh! Save that conversation for next time! :-) RT@Andrew_Grant Ha! Just don't get me started on 'cue... #LitChat

22:04 @Andrew_Grant
One thing you can be sure of in Birmingham--you'll be well fed! #LitChat

22:05 @Andrew_Grant
I may have to do more research into the finer points of barbecue in the meantime!
#LitChat

22:05 @dokrauss
My first chitlin' was in Alabama. Also my last. #LitChat

22:06 @Andrew_Grant
My first barbecue was in Kansas City. I had to be converted! #LitChat

22:06 @dokrauss
KC 'cue is first rate. I like the NC and Memphis styles, despite the thinness. #LitChat

22:07 @Andrew_Grant
As it was my first, it's my frame of reference. And it was good! #LitChat

22:07 @dokrauss
Hear that. #LitChat

22:09 @dokrauss
Where was the library you visited outside of Birmingham? #LitChat

22:09 @Andrew_Grant
Books and barbecue. It doesn't get much better than that! #LitChat

22:09 @dokrauss
Beer. Add that. #LitChat

22:09 @Andrew_Grant

I'd have to check my diary--the name escapes me, I'm afraid... #LitChat

22:10 @Andrew_Grant

Beer. Yes! Definitely. #LitChat

22:10 @dokrauss

Your favorite Alabama expression? #LitChat

22:11 @dokrauss

Mine is "all y'all." #LitChat

22:12 @Andrew_Grant

Yes! I love "all y'all" too. I love the idea that "y'all" sometimes isn't plural enough... #LitChat

22:13 @LitChat

@Andrew_Grant Can you COPY ALL inside your Nurph window and then paste it into a Word doc and email it to me? #LitChat

22:13 @Andrew_Grant

Will do! #LitChat

22:13 @dokrauss

True. Have to differentiate between your pals and everyone else in the room. #LitChat

22:13 @LitChat

@Andrew_Grant My feed isn't complete because I refreshed my screen. I'd like to post an archive of your chat. #LitChat

22:14 @LitChat

@Andrew_Grant That's why I'd like you to copy/paste your feed. I think yours is complete from when we started. #LitChat

22:14 @dokrauss

And once archived, you are eternal. #LitChat

22:17 @dokrauss

Guess we're done. See ya's! That's a NJ expression, by the way. #LitChat

22:17 @Andrew_Grant

I'm struggling to make it copy! Is there a good way to do it? #LitChat

22:17 @Andrew_Grant

Goodbye! And thanks for joining us... #LitChat