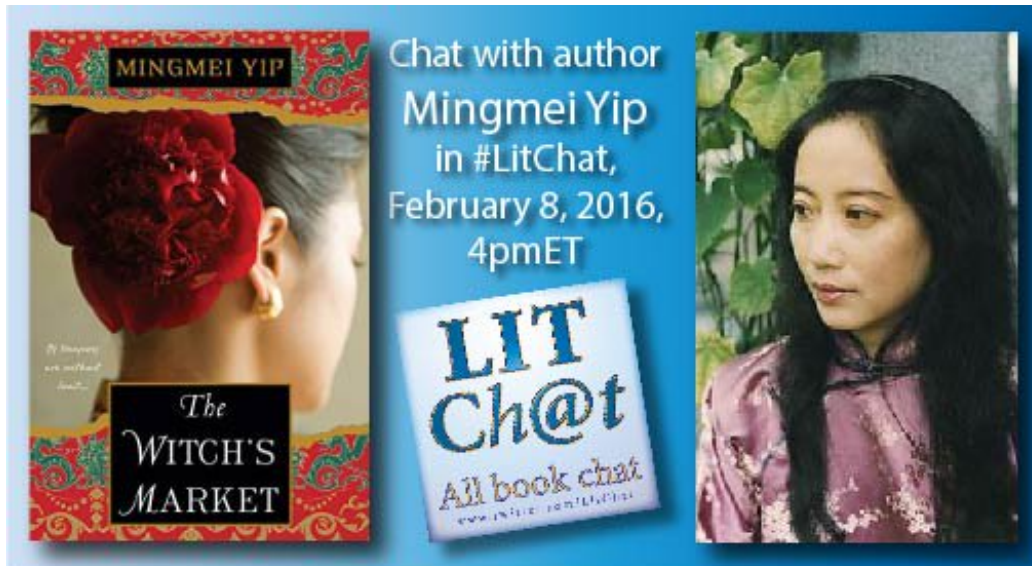


LitChat: Mingmei Yip, Author

The following is the complete #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on February 8 with author Mingmei Yip. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.



Welcome to #LitChat. In the author's chair today is internationally published [@Mingmeiyip](https://twitter.com/Mingmeiyip). nurph.com/litchat. pic.twitter.com/9N4eZOKQ8F

 LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 16 HOURS
AGO

 LitChat
@LitChat

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

 16 HOURS
AGO

 LitChat
@LitChat

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

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Hey [@joriestory](#). Great to see you here today. Hope you enjoy the chat. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory

[@LitChat](#) Good to be here! I caught sight of the announcement by email and knew it would be a chat I would not want to miss! :) #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We're hanging out here waiting for today's guest author [@Mingmeiyip](#). Hang in there. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

[@joriestory](#) I think THE WITCH'S MARKET is a book you would really enjoy. The setting, plot and characters are interesting. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

@LitChat By and large, I could not eat enough of the synopsis and it stirred a great interest due to the atmosphere of it's style #LitChat



16 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

I hope @Mingmeiyip is ok! I saw here logged in earlier, around 3 pm. I hope she didn't get the time mistaken. #LitChat



16 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

@LitChat @Mingmeiyip Yes, I hope your right! I was so looking fwd to hearing her thoughts today & to learn more about the book :) #LitChat



16 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

@joriestory Let's hang tight for a few minutes and give her a chance. I'll shoot her an email right now. #LitChat



16 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

I have read books along this nature of thought in the past; I am drawn to them because of how the writers add heart & depth :) #LitChat




16 HOURS

AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

@LitChat Not to worry - I am here and willing to wait. Unsure where the rest of the LitChattics are today... hmm. #sosad #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@joriestory You won't be disappointed with THE WITCH'S MARKET then. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@joriestory What have you been up to lately? I just returned from a glorious writing residency. Finished my WIP Saturday night. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

@LitChat I've just returned from a respite from blogging/tweeting; I went #knitty & appreciated the time away to re-balance :) #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

.@LitChat definitely agree! My next tweet was to send the same regards! Knew this book might spark your eye! #LitChat [twitter.com/SusanSpann/sta...](https://twitter.com/SusanSpann/status/1000000000000000000)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Oh joy! I see [@Mingmeiyip](#) is here! Hello there Mingmei. We've already been talking about THE WITCH'S MARKET. [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory


Good afternoon, Ms [@Mingmeiyip](#)! I caught sight of your book's premise & was enchanted by the story-line; hence why I came today :) [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Thanks for the congrats, dear writing comrades. Now it's off to find a new agent. [@SusanSpann](#) [@joriestory](#) [#litchat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I see your avatar [@Mingmeiyip](#). Are you having trouble with the chat app? [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory


[@LitChat](#) [@Mingmeiyip](#) I see her as well. Sometimes [#Nurph](#) can act up as you try to tweet. Maybe she's having a tech issue? Hmm. [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


@joriestory I emailed @Mingmeiyip my phone number. Hope we can get connected! #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@Mingmeiyip You're already logged into the app. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and you'll see a window to type into. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

hello I'm here! #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Great to see you now. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory

@Mingmeiyip Welcome! Welcome! :) So good to see you, here! :) Hopefully some reader friends of mine will catch the convo now! :) #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


We're talking on the phone now. @Mingmeiyip is ready to go. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Thanks everyone! It's the first time I do something like this, so need to get used to it [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Now that we're all in the same chat universe, I'm going to reintroduce [@Mingmeiyip](#), our guest author today. [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I remember my first chat & how I had trouble navigating Twitter; no need to apologise! It takes practice! :) [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Thanks and I'm thrilled to be on LitChat! [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

So, [@Mingmeiyip](#). You have such a rich and diverse creative history. I understand you did your undergraduate work at the Sorbonne. [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip


Thanks, I got my Ph.D at the surbonne on musicology.... [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Oh, @Mingmeiyip, I'm sorry. Did you do your undergrad and grad studies in China? #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Yes, actually it was in HK, but now part of China #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory


@Mingmeiyip I miss writing a friend I used to have in Hong Kong; she had the most beautiful handwriting. I think of her now/then. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I understand part of your creative studies, @Mingmeiyip, include music, calligraphy and literature. How brilliant is that. #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

I love beautiful handwriting, since I also practice calligraphy. Chinese say handwriting is like what you wear to impress #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Thanks and I also would like to thank my parents for taking me to all these lessons #LitChat

 16 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) This must be how my friend was raised to understand as well. Not heard of this expression & I thank you for sharing it [#LitChat](#)



16 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I love calligraphy. I taught italic calligraphy in past. Had the pleasure of teaching a master calligrapher in Japan. [#LitChat](#)



16 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

Wow, that's impressive! [#LitChat](#)



16 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

I'm sure they're proud of you. RT [@Mingmeiyip](#) Thanks and I also would like to thank my parents for taking me to all these lessons [#LitChat](#)



16 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@LitChat](#) [@Mingmeiyip](#) I have always appreciated the art form from afar. Never tried my own hand at it (yet). Such beauty in letters [#LitChat](#)




16 HOURS

AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's talk about your writing, [@Mingmeiyip](#). When did you begin writing stories? [#LitChat](#)

 16 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

I believe when I was eight. I saw the crescent moon and told my a that it looked like a clipped finger nail [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

She was impressed and said "You'll be a great writer someday!" [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) A very astute and clever observation to make! I can see how that sparked a writing career; you saw details early-on :) [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Thanks. Another time I told her that I wished the sun and moon could do a tango together. [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I can see where you came up with that idea; as sometimes it does seem unfair the moon & sun are so distant & apart [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

Indeed. Then I began to write stories to entertain my Ma [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Chinese & Asian culture is full of imagery, are stories, legends & myths are everywhere you go. Did this nurture you [@Mingmeiyip](#)? [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

I admit, this is the one main draw I have reading these types of stories & others like them; such a fantastical bridge to elsewhere [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

Yes, the inventor of Chinese writing was rumored to have four eyes. Two to see things above - heaven and two things below - earth [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

@Mingmeiyip Symbolism is heightened and enriched too, with observations which knit together culture and insightfulness; quite keen! #LitChat



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Ah ha, @Mingmeiyip! Case in point, stories are as real and relevant to Asians as their religions. #LitChat



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

I love to read and dream, then dream of reading #LitChat



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Where did you get the idea of THE WITCH'S MARKET @Mingmeiyip? Particularly in merging the different expressions of witch lore? #LitChat



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

When I learned that there's a witch market in Bolivia. #LitChat



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I do this too! Almost as if as you read you are carving out a niche of your dreams & your dreams thread through stories [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

I was so fascinated by the title that I decided to write a novel about it [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I was quite curious what came first: the story OR the title. Oft-times a title can spark the inspiration to a story :) [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

But then I had no idea what I was going to write about except there'd be witches and a market [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

The title first, it fascinated me [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) How did your character Eileen Chen start to speak to you about her story and the choices she was making? [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

You set THE WITCH'S MARKET in /Canary Islands. Why there? [@Mingmeiyip](#) [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

All my characters have bits of me in them. She speaks to me through a real Chinese author Echo [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

I read in Echo's essay that she encountered witches in th Canary Islands. [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Your protag Ellen is an intelligent/independent woman. I can see how she might have parts of you in her. [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

I like smart independent women, also compassionate, so my protag are never shady [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What was the most astonishing thing you discovered about witches and witchcraft while researching THE WITCH'S MARKET @Mingmeiyip? #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

What part of yourself did you see emerge out of her within this particular story? What part did you hope readers would find? #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

My novel is about shamans and witches, but it's really about human nature - greed, lust, love, compassion.... #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

I study fengshui for a long time, so I know something similar to witchcraft, my advise is to avoid them #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip


However, nowadays wicca are healers and nature lovers and totally harmless #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Interesting you mention fengshui as similar to witchcraft. This is fascinating. How are they similar?
[@Mingmeiyip?](#) [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) The greatest lessons are sparked out of knowledge and being open enough to learn about what is unknown. Great reply. [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Do you mind if we go a few minutes over 5 pm since we got a late start [@Mingmeiyip?](#) [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

There are some dark side to fengshui in Asian countries . In the west, it's more about decorating your home to get positive energy [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

No problem, I have time [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Is there a dark side of fengshui in Asia? Can you give us some examples, [@Mingmeiyip?](#) [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I have found similar discrepancies when I research cross-culturally; interpretations & even practices have new meaning [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

The best is "raising the ghost baby" for revenge, it's described in my novel The Witch's Market [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

. [@Mingmeiyip](#) Oh, I do remember that. It is a rather dark way of using energy. [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

Another is get some parts of your body - nails, hair - then burry them to attain immortality [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

What did you intend for your protag Ellen to learn from her research into witches in Tenerife?

[@Mingmeiyip](#) [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@LitChat](#) [@Mingmeiyip](#) It is interesting to see how you took what you learnt & turned it into a cautionary tale; one that teaches [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

Eileen's journey is to find out if she's a real shaman with supernatural ability. [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

She also learns quite a bit about her heart, does she not, [@Mingmeiyip](#)? [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) She must have to embrace the fuller scope of what her new responsibility granted her; good arc of a character's journey [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

But along the way, she discovers her true self and finds love. [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

By then whether she possesses supernatural ability or not is not important anymore [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) She was always seeking out her 'true authentic self' and part of accepting who she was in of itself was to be herself? [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

Our physical journey is always a mirror reflecting our inner journey... [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

Do find myself drawn to these types of stories; they reflect the greater whole of who we are and what we are striving to understand [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

RT [@Mingmeiyip](#) Our physical journey is always a mirror reflecting our inner journey... [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) Very well stated & a good way to insightfully give a notation on your novel The Witch's Market! :) Definitely [#nextread](#) [#LitChat](#)




15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Yes. That's why I love to travel to see what would be revealed to me, what lessons I'd learn on my way #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

@Mingmeiyip through experience and adventure we gain the most back in return; to go & be elsewhere from our living norm = growth :) #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

I rarely plan what I want to see during my trip. I let things happen to be -- probably by fate. I met my husband this way too! #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Exactly #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@Mingmeiyip What do you do for a day job? In other words, what creative endeavor pays for your travel and writing opportunities? #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) Much more interesting not to have it all planned out; to seek & explore and simply be 'in the moment' of 'there'; YES! [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip

@Mingmeiyip

I was a professor in the past. Now I write full time (children's books too) and also teach and perform [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



Jorie Loves A

Story

@joriestory

[@Mingmeiyip](#) I look fwd to seeking out your [#books](#); it's lovely to meet a [#newtomeauthor](#) who writes w/ both heart & depth of scope [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

You have a rich & diverse life. You are a lucky & self-disciplined scholar/artist. Thank you so much for joining us [@Mingmeiyip](#). [#LitChat](#)



15 HOURS

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Final question: What did you learn about yourself while writing THE WITCH'S MARKET, [@Mingmeiyip](#). [#LitChat](#)




15 HOURS

AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Thank you! Indeed I am lucky, thanks to Lit Chat and my readers too! [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

That I'll stay away from the supernatural -- as Confucius advised 3,000 years ago [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



**Jorie Loves A
Story**
@joriestory

I am grateful I caught sight of this convo & happily could stay to chat OT w/ [@Mingmeiyip](#)! A blessing & a great convo indeed! :) [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

So am I, thanks! [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

RT [@Mingmeiyip](#) That I'll stay away from the supernatural -- as Confucius advised 3,000 years ago [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Good [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's give @Mingmeiyip a HUGE round of THANKS for being with us today. {{{APPLAUSE}}}
#LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory

@Mingmeiyip Very wise man & very sage advice even for today's world! :) Thanks for sharing bits of your writing life & insight! :) #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip

Thanks! #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Next week in #LitChat we'll chat with @lotuswriter Michele Kelly, author of DOWNWARD FACING DEATH. A cozy mystery! #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory


Thx @LitChat for another brilliant #author convo where #readers & #writers can interact quite smashingly! All best @Mingmeiyip! :) #LitChat

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

[@joriestory](#) Try to come back next week for cozy mystery writer, Michele Kelly [@lotuswriter](#). Check out, DOWNWARD FACING DEATH. [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Mingmei Yip
@Mingmeiyip


Goodbye and happy year of the monkey! [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



Jorie Loves A
Story
@joriestory


[@LitChat](#) [@lotuswriter](#) I definitely shall! Thanks for the advance notice! You know I LOVE [#cosymysteries](#)! Hoping to be more regular! [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Thank you! XO RT [@Mingmeiyip](#) Goodbye and happy year of the monkey! [#LitChat](#)

 15 HOURS
AGO