


LitChat: Jenny Colgan, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on September 26, 2016 with novelist Jenny Colgan. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com





Welcome to #LitChat. With us today in @jennycolgan, author of more than 20 novels. litchat.com/guest-host-jen... pic.twitter.com/54w3Kz3K09

 LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 2 HOURS AGO


 **Jenny Colgan**
@jennycolgan

Hi there! #litchat

 2 HOURS AGO

 **LitChat**
@LitChat

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

 2 HOURS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

[#litchat](#) thanks so much for having me! It's bed time over here in Scotland :)

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Where are you chatting from today, [@jennycolgan](#)? [#litchat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Oh, I see you just answered that question. Thank you for staying up to chat with us. [#litchat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


[#litchat](#) We live just North of Edinburgh, on the other side of the water looking out over the city

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

First off, I am so impressed with your prolific career as a novelist, [@jennycolgan](#). [#litchat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


[#litchat](#) ha thank you! I'm scared they'll make me go back and do a real job

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Exactly how many novels have you had published now, [@jennycolgan](#)? In all pennames. [#litchat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


[#litchat](#) oh God, I can never keep them straight. And depends if you count the childrens... & the novellas. 29? Ish?

 2 HOURS
AGO



Anne J.
@TruthWFlair

#litchat Catch-22 is possibly the best banned book ever. If you know ANYONE military you'll understand how it hit t... twitter.com/i/web/status/7...

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

How about some background info, @jennycolgan? What did you want to be when you grew up? What did you study in school? #litchat

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat I do switch genres quite quickly! And try and stay focused :0

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat growing up I wanted to be a nun. Yes, really :) Gosh. That didn't really make it past puberty...

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat and I really really wanted to be a cartoonist. Still do. Charles Schulz and Gary Trudeau are my heroes. :)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) I was tryihng to make it as a cartoonist/ comedy sketch writer when Bridget Jones really took off in the UK. And a /

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


A nun! What was it about nuns that intrigued the child in you? Their awesome outfits? Their piety?
[@jennycolgan #litchat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) colleague said to me, I bet you could do that. Why not you? Which I think is good advice

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) oh the nuns are just being raised in a very catholic environment. And I thought The Sound of Music was cool, which it is.

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) so I'd had loads of rejections for comedy/ cartooning- getting a yes for writing novels was a total shock

 2 HOURS
AGO

Chat with author
JENNY COLGAN
in #LitChat,
September 26, 2016
4 pm/ET

LIT Ch@t
All book chat
www.twitter.com/LitChat

The BOOKSHOP on the CORNER
a novel

JENNY COLGAN
New York Times bestselling author of *Little Beach Street Bakery*

P.S. INSIGHTS INTO WRITING & MORE...

We are chatting for the next 15 minutes in #LitChat with @jennycolgan all the way from Scotland. Join us! pic.twitter.com/KieGqZUptH

LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 2 HOURS
AGO

LitChat @LitChat

Welcome, @ODwyer_Author. Please dive right into the chat. #litchat

2 HOURS
AGO

LitChat @LitChat

Bridget Jones and the chicklit mania that followed created a new shelf for female fiction. #litchat

2 HOURS
AGO

Jenny Colgan @jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat well yes, it suddenly became something that was actively being looked for, like The Girl on the Train style/ Gone Girl//

2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Do you think there is a formula for writing good chicklit, [@jennycolgan](#)? [#litchat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
[@jennycolgan](#)


[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) stuff is now- timing is everything!

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
[@jennycolgan](#)

[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) actually I hate that term- what's wrong with romantic comedy??!! :) :)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
[@jennycolgan](#)

[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) but if you want to write romcoms, then I suppose you want fun, relatable characters, an attractive hero and some zing

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
[@jennycolgan](#)


[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) 'zing' is the tricky bit. :)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Doug Brower
@Douglas_Brower

#litchat Yes - Bookshop on the Corner is funny! And sweet! (Haven't got far enough for the romance yet...)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@Douglas_Brower oh thank you so much! It's more books than romance focused, although that does show up :) #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I agree! #chicklit, like women's fiction is stultifying. Creates gender margins around good books. #litchat twitter.com/jennycolgan/st...

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat you end up in this ridiculous situation where everyone from Jojo to Curtis gets dumped in there and it's infuriating

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Must romantic comedies always have a happy ending, with the girl getting the boy, @jennycolgan? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat my rule of thumb is, if you wouldn't call any other professional woman a chick, probably don't use it. Chica is fine ;)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat I think there's a certain satisfaction in that. I have written a couple of sad and a cliffhanger which drove everyone nuts #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Brilliant. #LitChat [twitter.com/jennycolgan/st...](https://twitter.com/jennycolgan/status/1111111111)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's talk a bit about your newest novel, THE BOOKSHOP ON THE CORNER. Will you give us a summary @jennycolgan? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat It's about a girl, Nina, who loses her job in a library and decides to build her own bookshop in a van and hit the road!

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat she ends up in the distant highlands of Scotland and has to build a new life up there.

AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat it stems from my being a devoted bookworm, and my love of books- all sorts.

AN HOUR
AGO

Chat with author
JENNY COLGAN
in #LitChat,
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LIT Ch@t
All book chat
www.twitter.com/LitChat

The BOOKSHOP on the CORNER
a novel

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New York Times bestselling author of *Little Beach Street Bakery*
P.S. INCLUDES INTERVIEWS & MORE...


We are chatting for the next 30 minutes in #LitChat with @jennycolgan, author of more than 20 books. Join us! pic.twitter.com/KieGqZUptH

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LitChat
@LitChat

I enjoyed Nina's adventurous spirit. Where did the idea of a bookshop in a van come from, @jennycolgan? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat I love those little VW vans you see tootling about the place. And I loved the idea of having that kind of freedom.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat so from there really, except instead of being adapted to dispense coffee, they dispense books. In an ideal world //

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat// of course, they'd be able to do both. Wow there is a HUGE wasp in my room. I love Autumn, but, jings, WASPS.

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


It was the freedom that intrigued me, too, @jennycolgan. Traveling and reading are two of my favorite pasttimes. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Yikes! A wasp? [#LitChat twitter.com/jennycolgan/st...](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) where we lived in France there was the bibliobus, a library bus that stopped in our town once a week so you could hop on/

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


[@LitChat #litchat](#) and changed your books, and I always thought it was very cool. Yeah man the wasp is still here.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


[@LitChat #litchat](#) if I was your president I could just coolly snatch it out the air or something.

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


We have bookmobiles in the US, but they're much more businessy than Nina's approach, which sounded more fun, [@jennycolgan](#). [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat well yes, but I'm sure in real life Nina would be working super hard too! Like when I write about a bakery in The//

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Tell us about some of the odd and endearing characters who people Nina's world, @jennycolgan. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat //Little Beach Street Bakery series. I mean, catering is a Tough Job. But I like to make it fun.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat well in Scotland we have the night train; it takes you up and down to London and you sleep in little rooms. It's lovely.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Doug Brower
@Douglas_Brower

#litchat Nina's a bit goofy herself, IMO, in a nice way :)


 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan

@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) ... so I have Marek, a train driver and poet; there's a farmer called... omg I've written 3 books since then and can't//

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan

@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) remember his name! It's John. John Lennox. Durr.


 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan

@jennycolgan

[@Douglas_Brower](#) very few sorted and calm individuals populate novels DB ;) [#litchat](#)


 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan

@jennycolgan

[@LitChat #litchat](#) coming up with names is one of the hardest parts of my job. Get a bunch of novelists together and if you have an//

 AN HOUR
AGO



Doug Brower

@Douglas_Brower


[#litchat](#) thank God for that!

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat interesting name, every single one will write it down :)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat I mean it, watch us at signings. Names are HARD. You can't be too rich sounding, or poor sounding, or young or old.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat Douglas is good, I don't think I've had a Douglas.

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Yes, Nina was a bit ditzy, but in a Lucielle Ball kind of way. #LitChat twitter.com/Douglas_Brower...

 AN HOUR
AGO



Doug Brower
@Douglas_Brower


#litchat Oh absolutely. Refined characters, are we Douglasses

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Well, there you go, @jennycolgan. RT @jennycolgan @LitChat #litchat Douglas is good, I don't think I've had a Douglas.

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

With so many books/characters, how DO you keep them straight? Do you ever find yourself thinking, "Oh, I've already done that"? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat with names, it's hard. With books, no, I always have something else to say. There's always new ways to do things.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat someone once sent me a Jenny Colgan Books Internet Quiz and I scored about 60%

 AN HOUR
AGO

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pic.twitter.com/KieGqZUptH

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LitChat @LitChat

Novelist @jennycolgan in #LitChat [twitter.com/jennycolgan/st...](https://twitter.com/jennycolgan/status/781111111)

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LitChat @LitChat

Aside from Nina, which character did you enjoy writing the most in THE BOOKSHOP ON THE CORNER, @jennycolgan? #litchat

AN HOUR
AGO

Jenny Colgan @jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat I liked writing Lennox. I don't usually write my husband into things, but there's a lot of him in this one.

AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat he's quite taciturn and useful :)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What are some writing habits, routines, tools you use to enhance productivity, @jennycolgan?
#litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat well the whole job is habit really. I walk the dog- walking is a great way to solve just about everything I find-

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat - I go to the gym, then I sit down in a cafe for 2 hours and write 2,500 words. And that's all it is. Just keep typing!

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat the real work starts when you have enough words then have to shape them into something good. That's when it's tricky :)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


@LitChat #litchat it's all in the edit...

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


You come up with some zany situations for your characters. Do you lift ideas from newspaper, pop culture, or just your imagination? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


#LitChat Super-prolific author @jennycolgan says: [twitter.com/jennycolgan/st...](https://twitter.com/jennycolgan/status/1111111111)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat Well I always throw things I think are fun, or beautiful or interesting in some way at the charavters, see how they deal

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan

@LitChat #litchat I consume loads of popular culture, but I'd like to think my books are kind of a respite from that- there's no tinder!

 AN HOUR
AGO

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LIT Ch@t
All book chat
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The BOOKSHOP on the CORNER
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Only 5 more minutes in #LitChat with @jennycolgan, author of more than 20 books.
pic.twitter.com/KieGqZUptH

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AGO



Doug Brower
@Douglas_Brower

#litchat big question: favorite Doctor?

AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

You are a self-confessed bibliophile, @jennycolgan. Who are your favorite authors and which books? #litchat

AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny Colgan
@jennycolgan


@Douglas_Brower #litchat depends who I've written last, usually. I've worked with David a lot this year, and he is local so I'll say DT! :)

AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Oh, yes! [#LitChat twitter.com/Douglas_Brower...](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Doug Brower
@Douglas_Brower


[#litchat](#) One of the greats!

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


[@LitChat #litchat](#) I read a lot of non fic. I love Jon Ronson, Krakeur, That Michael Big Short guy. I love Curtis Sittenfed Tana French

 AN HOUR
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LitChat
@LitChat


David Tennant, right? My favorite TV Doctor. [#LitChat twitter.com/jennycolgan/st...](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


[@LitChat #litchat](#) I was enjoying the Passage but wasnt nuts about the third. I like Maggie O'Farrell and Alex Masters- oh I read anything!

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Final question for [@jennycolgan](#): What did you learn about yourself while writing THE BOOKSHOP ON THE CORNER? [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) yes we did an audio Doctor Who drama this year which was tremendous fun.

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan

[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) that I missed my calling running a bookshop!!! :) :) Thanks for the chat!

 AN HOUR
AGO



Doug Brower
@Douglas_Brower

[#litchat](#) Yes, indeed, Tennant. "My" first Doctor was Jon Pertwee, which quite ages me I'm afraid

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jenny
Colgan
@jennycolgan


[@LitChat](#) [#litchat](#) I thiknk the wasp is asleep now so I will be too :) :) Jenny xxxx

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


We've been chatting with [@jennycolgan](#), multi-published author of nearly 30 books. Thank you for being with us Jenny. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Let's give [@jennycolgan](#), author of THE BOOKSHOP ON THE CORNER, a big [#litchat](#) THANK YOU for joining us today. {{{APPLAUSE}}}

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Be sure to return next Monday when lit agent Kimberley Cameron [@K_C_Associates](#) & author [@ShannonCKirk](#) are here. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
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