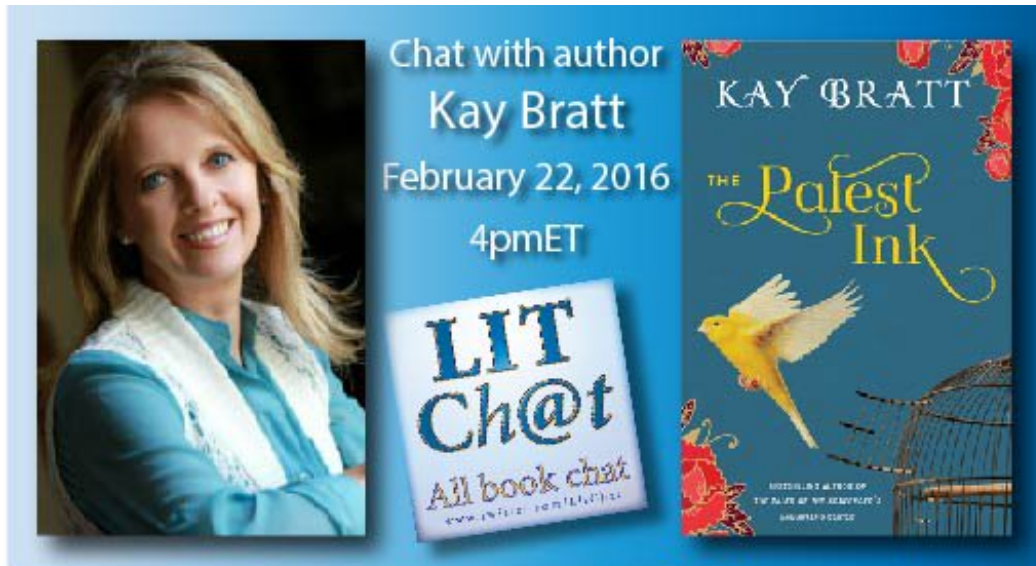


LitChat: Kay Bratt, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on February 22, 2016 with author Kay Bratt. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.




#LitChat begins in 15 mins with @kaybratt, author of THE PALEST INK & other novels. Login at nurph.com/litchat pic.twitter.com/RjN7lkbjff

 LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 2 HOURS AGO

 LitChat @LitChat

I'm so thrilled to have @kaybratt here today. She's a multi-published author of fiction and memoir. Please welcome Kay! #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO

 LitChat @LitChat

The easiest way to participate in #LitChat is through @Nurph. Just login at nurph.com/litchat, authorize & you're here. #LitChat

 2 HOURS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


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

 2 HOURS
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Hello everyone. I am Kay Bratt, the author The Palest Ink and other China-inspired novels. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I am fascinated with your background [@kaybratt](#). I lived in Japan for several years; Asian culture is so different and powerful. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


It truly is. I lived in China for almost 5 years and that's how my love for it grew. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

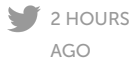
Let's talk some about your background [@kaybratt](#). When did you move to China and what took you there? #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



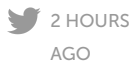
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

We moved there in 2003 for my husband's job. An 18-month assignment that turned into almost 5 years. #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

What type of work did your husband do, @kaybratt? Did you work when you were there also? #LitChat



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

While there, I involved myself in the community and their problem with the children's welfare. It was quite the eye-opener. #LitChat



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

But my husband was in manufacturing and involved in a Japanese-American venture to bring jobs to the community. #LitChat



LitChat
@LitChat

Do you have a social work background, @kaybratt? #LitChat



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


I do not. Only a heart for children. #LitChat





Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Since returning to the states, I have volunteered for a few years as as CASA, court-appointed special advocate. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

CASA works with children in the foster care system to be a voice for their rights. Very rewarding. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

This is one of the things that drew me to your profile, @kaybratt. You saw a need and made personal sacrifices to meet it. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



J. H. Bogran
@JHBogran

A few thoughts on @lisalutz new novel The Passenger: jhbogran.blogspot.com/2016/02/about-... #iamreading #suspense #recommendedreads #RT #litchat

 2 HOURS
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

I feel that volunteer work is a great way to stay inspired while not writing novels. #LitChat

 2 HOURS
AGO



Tim Schlatter
@MrSchlatter_GWA

7th graders participated in their first [#socraticseminar](#) They did a fabulous job and had great conversations! [#litchat](#) [#isd192](#) [#192gateway](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

My memoir, Silent Tears, has garnered attention from all over the world. amzn.to/1oDO7AM
[#LitChat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Were you a writer prior to moving to China? What is your professional background? [@kaybratt](#)
[#LitChat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


No, I wasn't a published writer, only a closet one. I came from a Human Resources background.
[#LitChat](#)

 2 HOURS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I think most writers begin as "closet writers." [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

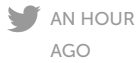
Many of us writers--in the beginning--don't want to expose our creative selves. I [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



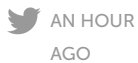
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

For years, I kept a journal. Actually my memoir came from the pages of my private journal. I felt the world needed to know. [#LitChat](#)



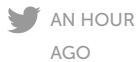
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

And that brings me to why I wrote The Palest Ink. Too many secrets with the Cultural Revolution. [#LitChat](#)



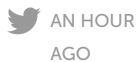
LitChat
@LitChat

What did you discover in China that led you to write SILENT TEARS? [#LitChat](#)



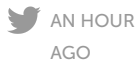
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

Only a limited amount of writers will tackle the subject of the Cultural Revolution. [#LitChat](#)



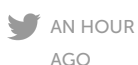
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

It was an emotional journey for me. And one of hope for the children. Abuse, neglect, and sad circumstances were rampant. [#LitChat](#)



LitChat
@LitChat

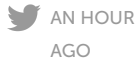
Have you read BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS by Dai Sijie? One of the best novels about the cultural revolution. [#LitChat](#)





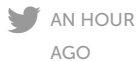
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

Yes, I have. A great little book! [#LitChat](#)



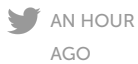
LitChat
@LitChat

We are chatting now with [@kaybratt](#), novelist, children's advocate, author of THE PALEST INK. Join us at [nurph.com](#). [#LitChat](#)



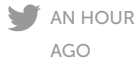
LitChat
@LitChat

Have you adopted Chinese children? [@kaybratt](#) [#LitChat](#)



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

No, I have not. That's a long story but ultimately felt I could do more good helping them all, rather than concentrating on one. [#LitChat](#)



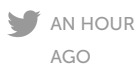
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

But one girl, Xiao Gou, still has my heart. [#LitChat](#)



LitChat
@LitChat


What are some of the ways you and others can help children in China? [#LitChat](#)





LitChat
@LitChat


About adopting. RT [@kaybratt](#) ...ultimately felt I could do more good helping them all, rather than concentrating on one. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


The best way is to donate a small monthly amount to support foster care, which gets the children out of institutional life. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Why are there so many children in institutions in China, [@kaybratt](#)? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


There are many vetted non-profits, but everyone should do their own screening before giving any monetary gifts. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


RT [@kaybratt](#) There are many vetted non-profits, but everyone should do their own screening before giving any monetary gifts. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Many children are there because their parents are unable to afford the medical care needed for their children. Relinquished by love #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


A small percentage are there because of the preference for boys over girls, but that is not as prevalent as it once was. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Does the effect of the cultural revolution accelerate or exacerbate the problems of institutionalized children in China? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Good question. Most likely the after effects of the Cultural Revolution are still rippling through China even today in many ways. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


We are talking right now with [@kaybratt](#) about China and her background as a children's advocate for Chinese children. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Many families were broken apart, father against son, husband against wife, all in an effort to save themselves. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Let's shift over to your books. THE PALEST INK is about two boys during the cultural revolution. Tell us more about it @kaybratt #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Two boys trying to be men, caught up in a chaotic period of history and forced to make terrible decisions regarding family. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


The Red Guards were made up of young adults their age, many doing horrific things. [nyti.ms/1PT3qhL](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/18/books/review/1984-by-arthur-hobbes.html) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

Even teachers were abused, tortured, even killed. [nyti.ms/1PT3qhL](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/18/books/review/1984-by-arthur-hobbes.html) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


I talk about the inspiration for the story in a post here: bit.ly/1T26QTo #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

THE PALEST INK: RT [@kaybratt](#) I talk about the inspiration for the story in a post here:
bit.ly/1T26QTo #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


I understand Benfu, the main character of THE PALEST INK, was based on a real person. Did you know him personally? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

Benfu was inspired by two different individuals I read about in newspaper articles. A man and a woman scavenger taking in children #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


In my series, The Scavenger's Daughters, Benfu is an older man but in The Palest Ink, I take the reader back to when he was younger #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


I love the idea of "scavenging children" as if they were garbage. I haven't read THE SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTERS, but it sounds great. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Benfu comes of age during the beginning of the cultural revolution. What kinds of trials and tribulations does he endure? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


The Scavenger's Daughters has been very well received, with readers picking up more books in the series. <http://> #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

The Scavenger's Daughters amzn.to/1TvRdlw #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


How many books have you written in THE SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTERS series? @kaybratt #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

In The Palest Ink Benfu is separated from his family for his own safety and must endure life in a commune with hunger and illness. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

The Tales of the Scavenger's Daughters has 4 books, plus the prequel of The Palest Ink.
amzn.to/1TvRdlw #LitChat

AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Benfu is a gifted young man. How does he find an outlet for his creativity during his struggles?
@kaybratt #LitChat

AN HOUR
AGO

Chat with author
Kay Bratt
February 22, 2016
4pmET

LIT Ch@t
All book chat

KAY BRATT
THE Palest Ink

Illustration of a yellow bird in flight near a wire cage, with red floral accents.

We have only 15 more mins in #LitChat with @kaybratt, author of THE PALEST INK. Follow:
nurph.com/litchat. pic.twitter.com/kfM4Xh8Jhy

LITCHAT @LITCHAT · AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

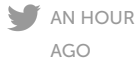
Benfu has a love for the violin, but all artistic outlets are forbidden so he *thinks* the music in order not to forget. #LitChat

AN HOUR
AGO



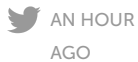
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

A list of all of my novels can be found here. amzn.to/1T2meiG #LitChat



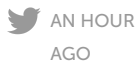
LitChat
@LitChat

I absolutely loved the "music thinking" of Benfu. Reminded me of how Beethoven might have "thought" music. @kaybratt #LitChat



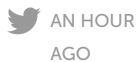
LitChat
@LitChat

RT @kaybratt A list of all of my novels can be found here. amzn.to/1T2meiG #LitChat



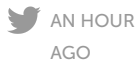
LitChat
@LitChat

Why do you think artistic endeavor was forbidden during the cultural revolution? @kaybratt #LitChat



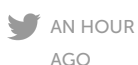
Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

The Cultural Revolution was a horrendous time for all artists. Many lost their lives for their gifts. The world looked away. #LitChat



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


In my opinion, Mao was afraid of intelligence and abilities. He wanted a new society of the lower society members to be on top. #LitChat





LitChat
@LitChat


Artists of all genre tend to think more independently and are harder to transform. All totalitarian regimes go after the artists. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

If the intelligent and elite were persecuted and suppressed, then Mao would face less dissension. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Amazing isn't it, how history repeats itself? Look at North Korea. [@kaybratt](#) [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


North Korea is a very scary subject and yes, history has a way of repeating itself. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

A wonderful book about China's Cultural Revolution is Wild Swans by Jung Chan.
amzn.to/1OqUNXu [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Let's spend the last 10 minutes talking about craft. Where did you study fiction--and more specifically--novel writing? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


RT [@kaybratt](#) A wonderful book about China's Cultural Revolution is Wild Swans by Jung Chan. amzn.to/1OqUNXu #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

I learned novel writing with a few creative writing courses, instruction books, but mostly by studying other novels. And practice! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


The best writers are readers first. I try to remember that. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Absolutely! RT [@kaybratt](#) The best writers are readers first. I try to remember that. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

When you begin a new novel, do you plot it out first, or do you just plunge in and let the story take you, [@kaybratt](#) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


I start a novel with loads of research, a loose outline, then once I'm in I usually stray to where the inspiration sends me. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


I love this: "stray to where the inspiration sends me"~ @kaybratt #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

It sounds like you write from both sides of the pantster/plotter process. Do you know the ending when you begin? @kaybratt #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


Usually I do know the ending immediately. But once or twice I've been in the dark until the last few chapters. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


In all of the books you've written, who is your favorite character, and why? @kaybratt #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

Benfu in The Palest Ink, and the series is my favorite as he is full of love, loyalty, and compassion..all admirable qualities. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


We're out of time, but I have one more question: What did you learn about yourself while writing THE PALEST INK? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt


While writing TPI, I learned that I don't know near enough about the world's history and I aim to try to learn more everyday. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Kay Bratt
@kaybratt

Thank you for having me! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

This has been terrific. Here's a HUGE round of THANKS for being with us today: {{{APPLAUSE}}}
#LitChat

 44 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

You can learn more about @kaybratt and her books at kaybratt.com. #LitChat

 44 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Next Monday in #LitChat you'll meet @EGMarro Elizabeth Marrow, author of CASUALTIES. Hope to see you then. #LitChat

 43 MINUTES AGO