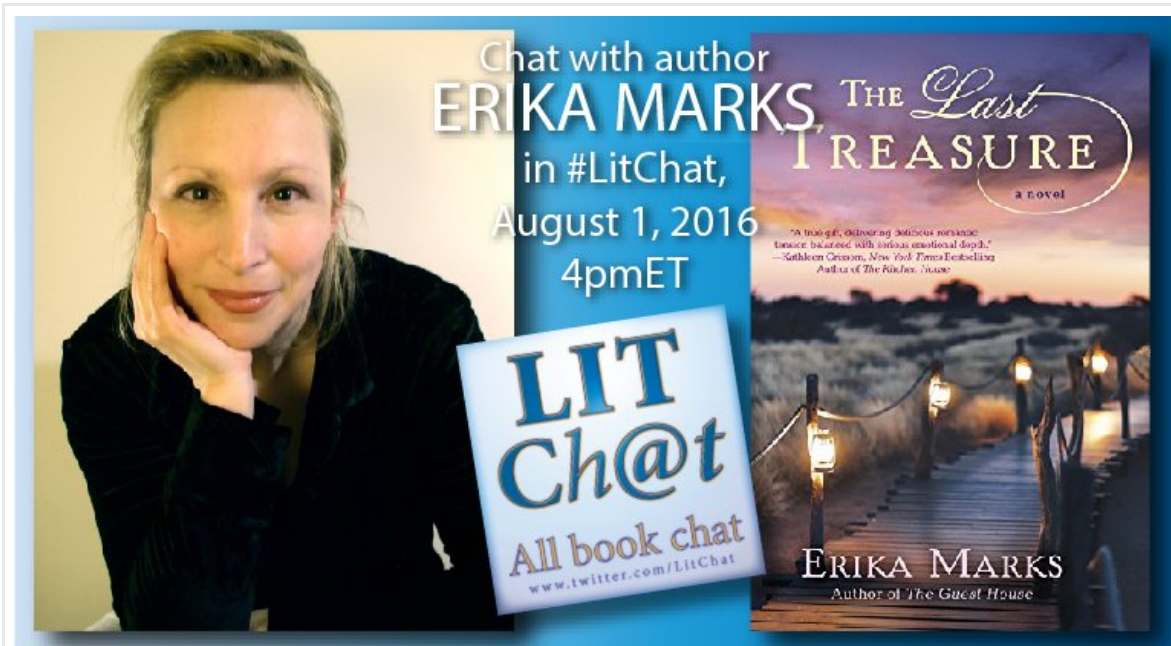


LitChat: Erika Marks, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on August 1, 2016 with novelist Erika Marks. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.



Swing by #LitChat at 4pmET for @erikamarksauthr, author of THE LAST TREASURE. ow.ly/7uZ4302O6ur pic.twitter.com/1NHizFIVhw

LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 3 HOURS AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

It's almost time! And make sure to use the hashtag #LitChat to join the fun!
twitter.com/LitChat/status...

3 HOURS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Welcome to #LitChat with @erikamarksauthr guest host. #LitChat

AN HOUR AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Hi everyone! I'm so thrilled to be here today to chat with you all! [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

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



AN HOUR

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

[#LitChat](#) was founded in 2009 and is moderated by [@CarolyBurnsBass](#) ([@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



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

I'm chatting with you all from NC today where I write women's fiction novels set by the sea.

[#LitChat](#)




AN HOUR

AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Great to have you here, [@erikamarksauthr](#). I am a fellow North Carolina resident, though a few miles (well, about 150) miles east. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

So great to know! So you get to be closer to the water, then? Jealous! [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Oops... I meant WEST. (Would love to be closer to the water.) I'm near Hillsborough. Where are you? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


I'm in Charlotte and feeling very far from the water--probably why I enjoy writing myself there so often! I grew up near ME coast. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

[@LitChat](#) Any NC beach you prefer? [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


I've wanted to set a novel on the Outer Banks for years so to be able to do so for THE LAST TREASURE was very special. [#LitChat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


But if pressed, I couldn't pick a favorite beach for myself ;) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


There us something about living near the coast, isnt there, @erikamarksauthr. I grew up near the coadt of SoCal. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

There really is. And I love the CA coast as well, having lived in Venice for a time. Maybe the next story should be set there? Hmm. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


Any Chatters out there near the coast today? Or planning to get to the water soon? Summer isn't over yet! #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Tina Ann
Forkner**
@tinaannforkner

I love @erikamarksauthr and she's on #LitChat right now! twitter.com/litchat/status...

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Thank you, @tinaannforkner --you are a sweetheart.:) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Of course, part of the fun of writing is research. Any beaches out there I should be writing about, friends? I love suggestions! #LitChat



AN HOUR

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

My DH is from NC & we vacationed here each summer. Fell n love with Outer Banks. Enjoyed the familiarity in THE LAST TREASURE. #LitChat



AN HOUR

AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

.@jmunroemartin You will love it there. And you can even see shipwrecks on the beach! It's every bit as beautiful as you've heard! #LitChat



AN HOUR

AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Thank you, @LitChat. The National Seashore is so untouched, so raw and beautiful. Makes it very easy to write about:) #LitChat



AN HOUR

AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

When did you begin writing fiction and what has been your journey up yo now? #LitChat



AN HOUR

AGO



Kristy Harvey

@kristywharvey

Catch @erikamarksauthr on #LitChat right now! [twitter.com/tinaannforkner...](https://twitter.com/tinaannforkner)




AN HOUR

AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


I was 20 years of writing novels and submitting before getting my first novel published. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


I shudder to think what those early manuscripts (on floppies!) read like now--but I had to write them. Shudder-worthy or not;) #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


Yes! It takes what it takes--and there are many different stories of the publishing journey. But nothing compares to the words. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


I think patience is one of the hardest things to accept about the craft--and business--of writing. #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Isn't that one of the measures of success? When you look at how far you've come by the words that were never published? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

How many novels have you had published now, @erikamarksauthr? #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Absolutely. I think too about how many manuscripts I sent out before they were ready. Ack.
[#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

What you're describing now, [@erikamarksauthr](#), is persistence. Lack of such is why many writers do not succeed. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

I've published 5 novels--feel very fortunate to have the chance to share so many stories. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Persistence is key. And it helps to be stubborn too, which I was (am!) [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

This is a very challenging publishing climate. Many good authors don't get that second, third, or even fourth book published. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Very true. And I've been fortunate to work with the same wonderful editor for all of them which is very rare too. [#LitChat](#)




AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Would you give us a few tweets of summary for your latest novel, THE LAST TREASURE?


#LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr


Love to! Three divers--a woman and the two men she's loved--reunite for one final salvage mission on the Outer Banks. #LitChat

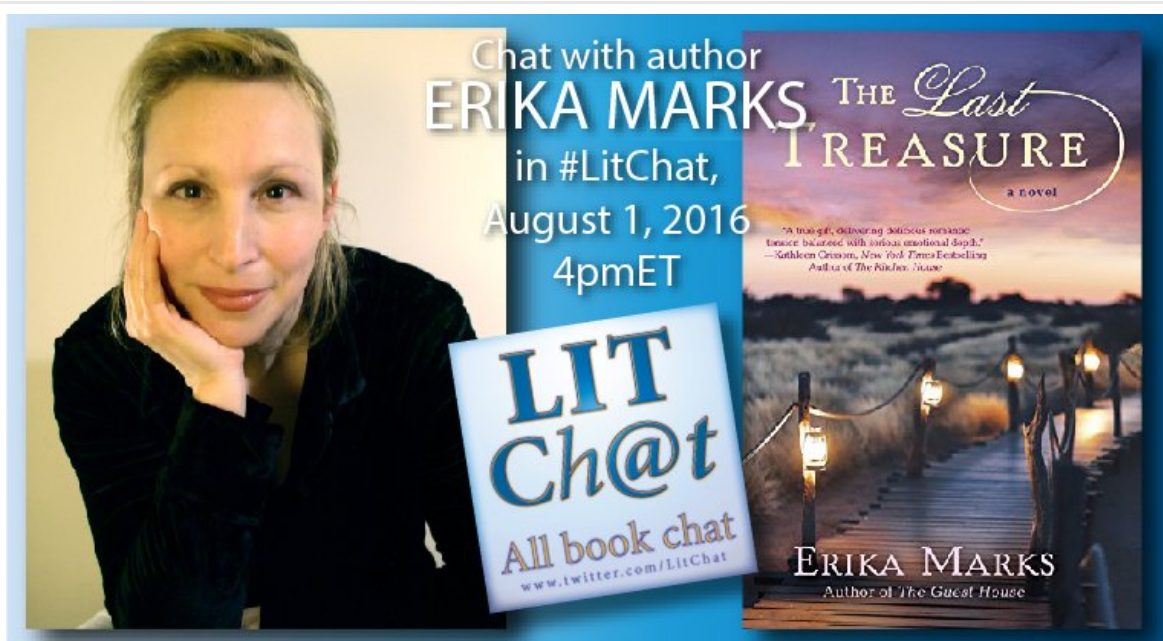
 AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

There she finds clues to the mystery of the schooner Patriot that disappeared in 1813 carrying Aaron Burr's daughter, Theodosia... #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



We are chatting for next 30 mins with novelist @erikamarksauthr about her novel, THE LAST TREASURE. #LitChat pic.twitter.com/7K1vYDPiOe

 LITCHAT @LITCHAT · AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

It's the story of what we do for love--and what we treasure most of all. [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

When did you first learn about the loss of The Patriot and Theodosia Burr? What sparked your imagination? [#LitChat](#)



AN HOUR
AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

I knew I wanted a shipwreck to feature in my novel--during my research, I learned about the Patriot disappearing off the NC coast. [#LitChat](#)



44 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Then when I learned it was carrying Burr's daughter Theodosia--and what a complicated relationship they had--I had to include it. [#LitChat](#)



43 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

It's magic when that happens in a book--when pieces fit and themes bloom. [#LitChat](#)



43 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

And since no one knows what happened to the schooner, it allowed for conjecture--but Theodosia as a person was well-documented. [#LitChat](#)



41 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

This is what I love when researching. It's like finding treasure. #LitChat
twitter.com/erikamarksauthr

 41 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Well put, @LitChat! It feels exactly like that. Unexpected and utterly priceless! #LitChat

 40 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

There are so many different theories regarding the loss of The Patriot. How did you filter them into your approach? #LitChat

 39 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

The many theories made the plot even more interesting. The three main characters each had their own belief of her fate... #LitChat

 38 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Liv's was also hopeful, that Theodosia had escaped and survived. Sam believed it was the storm. Whit believed pirates. #LitChat

 38 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

It was fascinating to research all the legends and the ghost stories associated with the mystery. #LitChat

 37 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

In the end, I wanted to propose a solution that would allow the reader to make up their mind somewhat about what really happened. #LitChat

 36 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I'm sure you did quite a bit of researching pirates. They weren't quite the misunderstood romantics today's culture has made them. #LitChat

 35 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Exactly. They are definitely not romanticized in my novel. No Jack Sparrows in THE LAST TREASURE;) #LitChat

 34 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Seeing how those scenarios fit each character, can you tell us which of these characters did you enjoy writing the most? #LitChat

 34 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Thankfully. RT @erikamarksauthr Exactly. They are definitely not romanticized in my novel. No Jack Sparrows in THE LAST TREASURE;) #LitChat

 34 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I liked writing Whit the most. He is a bit of a hot mess at the book's opening but his journey for redemption was exciting to write #LitChat

 32 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

His devotion to his marriage--despite his obvious failings--kept me rooting for him. His devotion to Liv above all else. [#LitChat](#)

 31 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Which character was most challenging to write? [#LitChat](#)

 31 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I think Liv was most challenging--we watch her get out from under her father's thumb and yet she feels deeply responsible for him. [#LitChat](#)

 29 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Some authors have greater difficulty writing characters of their own sex. Did you find any conflicts here when writing Liv? [#LitChat](#)

 28 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I absolutely did. I wanted there to be a duplicity to Liv--but often times I found myself at odds with her character's choices. [#LitChat](#)

 27 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

She is guarded at times, and at other times, an open wound. [#LitChat](#)

 27 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Which I think is many of us:) #LitChat

 27 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What extraordinary things did you discover while researching THE LAST TREASURE?
[@erikamarksauthr](#) #LitChat

 25 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

For starters, I am not scuba certified, so that required A LOT of research with accomplished divers
#LitChat

 24 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

And it was fascinating to research maritime preservation and what goes into the restoration of materials that have been submerged. #LitChat

 23 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I have a degree in historic preservation but working with wood and metal that has been underwater for years is very different. #LitChat

 22 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Wow. That is fascinating of itself. #LitChat [twitter.com/erikamarksauthr...](https://twitter.com/erikamarksauthr)

 21 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What discovery did you find most fascinating in all of the research? Do you have a personal Theodosia Burr theory? #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

My background--in architectural preservation and carpentry specifically--does keep cropping up in my novels;) #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I think I was most fascinated by the enduring quality of the mystery--that two hundred years later so many theories remain #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@erikamarksauthr Have you ever done a writing residency at Weymouth in Southern Pines? #LitChat

 20 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

And yet, no evidence of the ship has ever--to my knowledge--been found. #LitChat

 19 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I haven't--but I am familiar with the residency. And Southern Pines is a beautiful spot! Have you been? #LitChat

 18 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Final question for [@erikamarksauthr](#): What did you learn about yourself while writing THE LAST TREASURE? [#LitChat](#)

 18 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

THE LAST TREASURE was my first time writing in the present tense--which I loved and will do again. The immediacy of it thrilled me. [#LitChat](#)

 17 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

[@erikamarksauthr](#) I've had a residency at Weymouth several times. It's a lovely old residence and so welcoming to writers. [#LitChat](#)

 17 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I had never thought I could do so and still keep my voice intact. I hope I have succeeded! [#LitChat](#)

 17 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

I will have to look into the Weymouth program--thank you for that recommendation! [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

[@erikamarksauthr](#) Why did you choose present tense for THE LAST TREASURE? [#LitChat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



**Tina Ann
Forkner**

@tinaannforkner

@erikamarksauthr That sounds exciting! You really go all out in the name of research! #LitChat



16 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

I wanted the present storyline to feel urgent and when I played around with the tenses, past tense seemed to hold it back. #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Sorry, @erikamarksauthr, I know I said final question. Just couldn't resist... you opened up a new element of convo. #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Thanks, @tinaannforkner! I know you know better than anyone! We love our research, don't we?? #LitChat



15 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

I love that you asked, @LitChat. It was a big part of the process of this novel for me. #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

We've been chatting for the last hour with @erikamarksauthr, author of THE LAST TREASURE. Read more at erikamarksauthor.com. #LitChat



14 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Thank you so much for letting me visit with you all today, @LitChat! It's been wonderful. hope everyone has a lovely week ahead! #LitChat

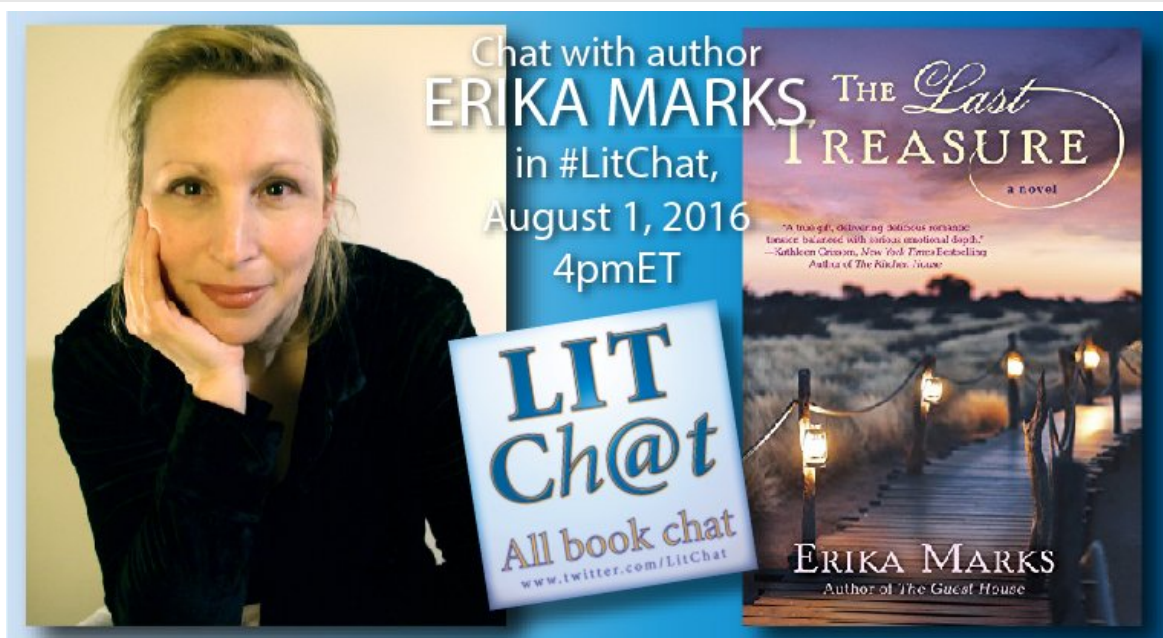
13 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Thanks so much for joining us, @erikamarksauthr. Here's a treasure chest of good luck for tomorrow's launch of THE LAST TREASURE. #LitChat

13 MINUTES AGO



Let's give @erikamarksauthr a HUGE round of #LitChat THANKS for joining us today: {{{APPLAUSE}}}
pic.twitter.com/Y14g4JKBlx

LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 12 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks
@erikamarksauthr

Thank you so much! And maybe our paths will cross on a NC beach someday! I'll be the one with the pockets full of seashells!;) #LitChat

12 MINUTES AGO



Erika Marks

@erikamarksauthr

Thank you, everyone! And Happy Summer! We've still got plenty left!:) #LitChat

 11 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Be sure to return next Monday when @richard_fifield joins us to discuss his novel, THE FLOOD GIRLS. See you then. #LitChat

 10 MINUTES AGO