

LitChat: Richard Fifield, Author

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on August 8, 2016 with Richard Fifield, author of THE FLOOD GIRLS. @LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.

Chat with author
RICHARD FIFIELD
in #LitChat,
August 8, 2016
4pmET

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

RICHARD FIFIELD
The Flood Girls
a novel

NOËL LINDQUIST
©PHOTOGRAPHY

#LitChat begins in 15 mins with guest host @richard_fifield. litchat.com/8822-2/pic.twitter.com/8uK8gQ15cW

LITCHAT @LITCHAT · 7 DAYS AGO

McGraw-Hill Education McGraw-Hill PreK-12
@McGrawHillK12

Word Wonderland (Elementary) for #iPad is FREE for the month of August! Download it here: [itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-wo...](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-wonderland/id1011111111) #litchat #backtoschool

7 DAYS AGO

Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat Hello there! #LitChat

7 DAYS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Welcome to #LitChat on this sunny Monday! #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We're here today with @richard_fifield, author of THE FLOOD GIRLS. Welcome, Richard. Where are you coming from today? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 7 DAYS
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.

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 7 DAYS
AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

syup #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Are you there, @richard_fifield? I saw you popped in right at 4pm. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Always great to see you here, JR. RT @JRSinason syup #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@richard_fifield Have you logged into the chat app? It will automatically add the #LitChat tag to your posts. nurph.com/litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Missoula, Montana! I've heard about Missoula for years. A couple of my cousins live there. They absolutely love it. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat Safari is blocking me. Argh! Can I still answer questions via Twitter? Will use #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat It's absolutely beautiful here! Such a great writing town. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We're diving right into #LitChat with @richard_fifield. So, Richard, were you a dreamy, reading kind of kid? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat Perhaps I know your cousins! It's a very small town. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

@richard_fifield Try this instead: twubs.com/litchat. It may be friendlier to Safarians. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

I'm here via twubs. So sorry I'm so lame at the internet! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

#litchat I think I've got it together! Am at my real computer. Thanks again for your patience!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

[@richard_fifield](#) Now you'll be able to see the entire convo in one place. Great! [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[#litchat](#) Awesome! Greetings, everybody!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Did you see my question [@richard_fifield](#), about your background. I'm just wondering if you were a kid like Jake in THE FLOOD GIRLS. [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[#litchat](#) I was very much like Jake as a child. Much inappropriate reading material! However, I didn't sew.

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I think many of us writers are precocious readers as kids, [@richard_fifield](#). It does something (good) to our brains. [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[#litchat](#) I was beyond precocious. My poor mother! [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

When did you first discover you had a knack with a phrase? Did you always know you wanted to be a writer? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@Richnessofbeing @LitChat Flood is an awesome last name! Thanks for the well wishes!
#LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat There was never any doubt. Writing was always my goal!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Welcome, @Richnessofbeing. Adding #LitChat tag to convo. [twitter.com/Richnessofbeing...](https://twitter.com/Richnessofbeing)

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What were some of the stories you made up in your mind as a child? Did you ever write any of them into fiction, @richard_fifield? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat I didn't need to make anything up! My real hometown was an embarrassment of riches!
#LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

#litchat @Richnessofbeing. Thanks for joining us! #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

This last answer brings me to your book, @richard_fifield, a debut novel called THE FLOOD GIRLS. Will you give us a summary? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat A summary? Small towns, softball, alcoholism, thrift stores, redemption, cast of crazy characters. And a stray dog!

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

#litchat @holliewestring Thanks for joining us, Hollie! I just now got your instagram post. You are a doll! #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

THE FLOOD GIRLS is a smart and sassy story about small-town life. It's edgy, gritty, and yet heartwarming. That's a hard mix. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat It is a very hard mix. I apologize to any readers who were expecting something light and fluffy. So much fun to write!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Yes, do join us! #LitChat [twitter.com/richard_fifiel...](https://twitter.com/richard_fifield)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@thebooksweluv #litchat You bet. A summary: A small town girl returns to her hometown and cleans up the wreckage of her past. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's talk about Rachel, @richard_fifield. She's been broken, but is putting herself together. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Rachel is a victim of her upbringing, and yet she is also a victor in spite of it. @richard_fifield, was this your intention? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat Rachel is broken, but there is lots of crazy glue in that small town. I love her character.

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat Very much so. I wanted to write a book about a woman who's past does not define her. She's unwilling to be tarred by it.

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Oh, gads. I love the notion of "crazy glue" to put together broken people. @richard_fifield, some of your phrases just slayed me. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

So what is it about writers and baseball? (or softball in this case) How does that fit into your crazy glue metaphor? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat Thank you so very much!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Sadly, I don't have my copy of THE FLOOD GIRLS with me on the road, but I tagged several passages. [@richard_fifield](#) [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[@JRSinason](#) [#litchat](#) Softball in the early nineties was a great way for women to come together. Before book clubs and social media!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

The first one I tagged, I remember, was something about a person being "stuck like barnacles." [@richard_fifield](#) can you tweet that? [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[@JRSinason](#) [#litchat](#) It certainly takes a lot of crazy glue to keep a softball team together. I coach, so I can testify to that!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

The first line I tagged was something about a person being "stuck like barnacles." [@richard_fifield](#) can you tweet that? [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat "Bert was a human barnacle that had attached itself to Jake and Krystal's trailer house in 1989."

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

A women's or a coed team? #LitChat [twitter.com/richard_fifiel...](https://twitter.com/richard_fifield)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat Right now, I coach a coed team. The women are the most ferocious!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Yes! I LOVED that line. Immediately drew vivid picture of Bert. #LitChat [twitter.com/richard_fifiel...](https://twitter.com/richard_fifield)

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

All of your characters were rather zany. Which character did you enjoy writing the most, @richard_fifield? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat I have empathy for Bert. A lot of readers are surprised by that!

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat Without a doubt, Laverna was my favorite to write. My favorite character, however, was Black Mabel.

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I grew up around some Bert types, @richard_fifield. I turned out okay. (I think.) #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Black Mabel was really a paradox. What makes her your favorite character, @richard_fifield. Especially over Rachel? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat #litchat Thank God! You are lucky! You seem okay to me! We all know Berts.

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat I want to write an entire book about Black Mabel. She was just intriguing. I know she has many tales in her. #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Well, I am a Christian, but so NOT LIKE the good Reverend. My god does not live in a box of my own making. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

#litchat I adore writing characters who try to do the right thing, but always fail miserably!

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I could see you writing a series about Quinn, Montana, @richard_fifield. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

So like most of us, Right? RT @richard_fifield I adore writing characters who try to do the right thing, but always fail miserably! #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat Thanks for that response. Reverend Foote is unlike any Christian I know! I am a very spiritual person myself. #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Another thing I loved about THE FLOOD GIRLS is Quinn, Montana. It's like a character in itself, right, @richard_fifield #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat I would love to! Especially if there is a demand for more. #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat Small towns are the best settings for books. They are tiny universes! And if you hate someone, you can't avoid them! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I enjoyed how Quinn is different from other character/locale novel towns. There is so much NY, LA and Southern fiction already. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Can we talk a bit about craft, @richard_fifield? Would you tell us a bit about your process? #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat Most definitely! Montana deserves a place in the sun! It's an awesome place, and not full of stoic cowboys. #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat You bet! My craft is very weird! I write longhand, and fill the margins with sketches and little clippings. First drafts. #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat I don't think I could write a very convincing stoic cowboy! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Do you complete entire first draft longhand, [@richard_fifield](#)? Does this method keep you from editing, but getting story down? [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Now that THE FLOOD GIRLS is out in the hands (and hearts) of readers, what are you working on now, [@richard_fifield](#)? [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[@LitChat](#) Exactly! I can't edit myself while drafting. It's dangerous. I need to feel free to make mistakes and go weird places. [#litchat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[@LitChat](#) I'm working on a novel about a book club in Montana in 1982. It's kind of like Bel Canto meets The Hills Have Eyes. [#litchat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Final question for [@richard_fifield](#): What did you learn about yourself while writing THE FLOOD GIRLS? [#LitChat](#)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat I learned to trust myself, to have faith in the process, and to let go of the wheel at times. The characters led me. #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



J Sinason
@JRSinason

Books looks good, thanks for chatting! #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

BEL CANTO is one of my fave books. HILLS... no so much. But I'd give it a chance for you, @richard_fifield. #LitChat [twitter.com/richard_fifiel...](https://twitter.com/richard_fifield...)

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@JRSinason Thank YOU! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

@LitChat I swear that it will be hilarious! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

All the best learning experiences in writing. #LitChat [twitter.com/richard_fifiel...](https://twitter.com/richard_fifield...)

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Thank you so much for being with us today, [@richard_fifield](#). Sending you the best of everything with THE FLOOD GIRLS. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

If you want to learn more about [@richard_fifield](#) and his novel, THE FLOOD GIRLS, go to his website at richardfifield.com. #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[@LitChat](#) Thank you! It was an awesome experience. I am very grateful! Be well! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's give [@richard_fifield](#) a HUGE round of #LitChat applause for joining us today! {{{APPLAUSE}}} #LitChat

 7 DAYS
AGO



Richard Fifield
@richard_fifield

[@LitChat](#) The pleasure was all mine. Have a great day! #litchat

 7 DAYS
AGO