

LitChat: Terez Mertes Rose

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on November 7, 2016 with novelist Terez Mertes Rose, author of *OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT*. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.



Welcome to #LitChat today. Our guest host is Terez Mertes Rose aka @ClassicalGrrl.
pic.twitter.com/D1L9KwKLf0

 LITCHAT @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



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

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

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

 AN HOUR
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I am Carolyn Burns Bass, your moderator and founder of [#LitChat](#). Follow my personal feed at [@CarolyBurnsBass](#).

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

[#litchat](#) - I saw you "welcome" come through but not on this chat page...?

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


I don't see any tweets coming through Twubs if sent from Twitter. Strange. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


Anyway. We're here with [@ClassicalGrrl](#) Terez to talk about her new book, OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



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@LitChat


Before we begin talking about books, I want to know more about you, Terez and what drives you to write. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl


Sure thing! I'm a writer, former dancer, obsessed with figuring life out, and putting it into fiction. (Nonfiction, too!) [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
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It soundslike you're a renaissance woman. You play violin, also, right? [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl


I definitely TRY to play the violin, LOL, but it's lower on my skill level. Love classical music, tho!
[#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Music is the blood of the dance, so it doesn't surprise me that you are drawn to music now that you don't dance, @ClassicalGrrl. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Interesting to note, however, that while I wrote the novels with classical music, I played violin, and with this last novel, dance. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Which is to say, I started taking ballet classes as an adult and have kept up with it more so than the violin. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico


Hi @classicalgirl Your love of music certainly comes through within your books. Do you like to write to music? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


How long were you a ballet dancer? Did you ever dance with a company? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Hi, @RadioRico - I'm so glad you can "see the love" in my books. I always play music - usually classical - when I write #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


There is something about ballet that reaches people viscerally--a blend of music, story and the body's response to both. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

And I noticed below that @astenehjem posed a question early. I'm going to answer that one on "my inspiration" for this book #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl


You bring up a great point, @LitChat, about the body's response to music and that shows up in my book a lot, in fact. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl


The inspiration for my book is that my sister had this medical condition, an acoustic neuroma, and it really messed with her body. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Jeffrey Allan
@JeffreyAllan61

@ClassicalGrrl Cool Terez, since classical music feels like music for a journey real or creative. Love seeing you use it to write #LitChat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Dena had to struggle with her body betraying her, which is a tough, tough thing for a ballet dancer. They are usually so strong. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

I do agree too, that there's such a visceral response to music. And the story within a ballet. And the costumes! #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

#litchat curious if you ever get feedback from anyone in the ballet? With likes or dislikes or comments on your portrayal of that world?

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Now that we're talking about OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT, can you give us more summary, @ClassicalGrrl? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes

Rose

@ClassicalGrrl

I've gotten some wonderful replies from ballet dancers, former professionals. Was afraid they'd be critical but they've loved it! [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR

AGO



Terez Mertes

Rose

@ClassicalGrrl

Okay, summary of OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT... [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR

AGO



Terez Mertes

Rose

@ClassicalGrrl

Two sisters, in the same professional dance company, only the younger one gets more notice, the other cast "outside the limelight." [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR

AGO



Terez Mertes

Rose

@ClassicalGrrl

But a devastating medical condition, a brain tumor, sidelines Dena, younger one, indefinitely. Rebecca has to pick sides. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR

AGO



Terez Mertes

Rose

@ClassicalGrrl

Hi [@RKnyte](#) - ooh, another one who loves classical music! [#litchat](#)




AN HOUR

AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl


Back to summary, Rebecca has shared a unique relationship with the artistic director. & is getting noticed. But Dena needs support. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
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The sister theme is always good in literature. (As is the brothers.) [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl


So, in the end, it's a choice for Rebecca. And in the middle of it all, is an exploration of sibling rivalry & rehashing old pains. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Agreed, the sister theme is SO big. Editors who declined this book said they loved the sister angle and that it sells well. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl


Oh, the old pains stuff, particularly with sisters, was great material to mine! [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Thanks, @RKnyte, for the nice words! So glad you enjoyed Book 1! They are very different, aren't they? #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

1 of the things I love is the way the sisters assume 1 role, then circumstances flip them, then THEY redefine their relationship. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
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Rebecca, the older sister, once thought herself ballerina of the family. It's hard being shown up by a little sister. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico


Your characters are very complex. Never flat or unbelievable. #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl


Agreed, @RadioRico! I liked sort of playing with which sister was right, was justified, was (well... a bitch). Then flipping it #litchat

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat


What are some of the struggles Rebecca and Dena face that people outside the dance world can relate to, [@ClassicalGrrl](#)? [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico


Yes, exactly! You kept my alliances shifting the whole time. In the end, I was routing for BOTH of them! [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

[#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Same here. RT [@RadioRico](#) Yes, exactly! You kept my alliances shifting the whole time. In the end, I was routing for BOTH of them! [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

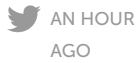
Yes, [@LitChat](#) - that's brutal. And she thought she was being fast-tracked, but in the end her little sister got the promotion. Ouch [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR
AGO



Mary Wade
@mary_teaching

Just finished reading "The Inquisitor's Tale." Refreshingly unique, engaging, & timely. Thank you, @AdamGidwitz! #litchat #edchat



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

So glad you were rooting for both, @LitChat. Some reviews have mentioned Dena as being very unlikeable. That shocked me! #litchat



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Oh, sorry, that was @RadioRico who said that! #litchat



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

#litchat I think Dena was likeable because she was relatable- good, bad, and ugly. I could see myself having her feelings.



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

I like to write complex characters, who are a little on the "difficult" side. Those are the kind of people I like to meet, too! #litchat

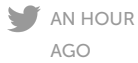




LitChat
@LitChat

Dena lost so much through her condition. Her bitterness was understandable for that reason.

#litchat



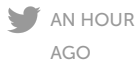
Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

The question "what are the struggles they faced that people outside the dance world can relate to..." #litchat



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

I'd say that any athlete can appreciate devoting one's life to a physical pursuit and have it all going great and body betrays you. #litchat



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Or a musician, carefully honing their art, and an accident destroys one hand. End of violinist or pianist career. #litchat



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

I love to research, @RKnyte. In fact, I always over-research and over-write. I'm not good at quick, concise stories! #litchat





Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Dena DID lose a whole lot. I love that I could give her story a satisfying ending, though. #litchat



42 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Another interesting theme in OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT is the corps de ballet. They all want to be stars, but only a few can attain. #litchat



42 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Oh, Turning Point - what a wonderful film! You know, that DID inspire me, but more for OFF BALANCE. Very much that one! #litchat



42 MINUTES AGO



Chloe Berringer
@ChloeBerringer1

#LitChat "The Guide To Identify The DL Guy" [amazon.com/gp/aw/d/147877...](https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/147877...)



41 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Should shout out to the cyber-world, as well, that OFF BALANCE is free, but will go back to regular pricing tonite. #litchat



41 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
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The corps de ballet is where most of dwell. Doing what they want, but always hoping to be noticed. #litchat



41 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Should also mention that a Goodreads giveaway is in effect, and that, too, will end tonite. 5 free copies of LIMELIGHT! #litchat

 40 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

It's a bittersweet place to spend one's ballet career, in the corps. Not too many dancers want that. But they still dance, so hey! #litchat

 40 MINUTES AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

#litchat Did you see the Starz Network's "Flesh and bone?" also a good, HARD look at the corps de ballet.

 40 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
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And then finally the realization that one will never be the prima. Can you speak on that, @ClassicalGrrl? #litchat

 40 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Some dancers make their peace with a humble status, and, like Rebecca, start to do other things - college degree, photography. #litchat

 39 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

The realization that one will never be prima is a tough one. These dancers are used to being the top of the top of the top. #litchat

 39 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

#Goodreads giveaway for OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT ends tonight. #LitChat
twitter.com/ClassicalGrrl/...

 38 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

But, like I said, most dancers make their peace and, years down the road, agree they made the right choices, took the right path. #litchat

 38 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
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To have a chance to dance for a living--what a gift. Like writers who are able to write for a living.
#litchat

 37 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

I never saw "Flesh and Bone" - just one of those wonderful ballet-related thing I couldn't find time for. (Watch... or write?!) #litchat

 37 MINUTES AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

#litchat It seems like such a short career, even if you ARE at the top. Certainly they must go into it knowing they'll have to adapt later?

 37 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Truly, what an incredible privilege, to be able to dance for a living. What not everyone knows is what a BIG DEAL it is in Russia. #litchat

 36 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I haven't seen FLESH AND BONE. Sounds brilliant. #LitChat [twitter.com/RadioRico/stat...](https://twitter.com/RadioRico/status...)

 36 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

In Russia, prima ballerinas are like rock stars. But they have to go through a grueling training to arrive there. Lots of pain. #litchat

 36 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Yes, such a short career. But they're so single minded, you'd be surprised how "what comes after" is NOT on their mind. #litchat

 35 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
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You love research, @ClassicalGrrl. What's the most astonishing thing learned about ballet while researching OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT? #litchat

 34 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

I think the ones who get hit the hardest are those with injuries early in their careers. Fortunately, medical care is better now. #litchat

 34 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

The most astonishing thing - just how TOUGH these dancers are. So silent about their pain. So much gets physically compromised. #litchat

 33 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

But dancers don't show their pain, and they will do all in their power to perform and not give up a role or a performance. Amazing #litchat

 32 MINUTES AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

#litchat Did you consult with your sister on the accoustic neuroma details?

 31 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

In Russian, thousands of little girls aspire to that title, @RKnyte Tens of thousands. But would I, as a parent want that? No! #litchat

 31 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

The sheer athleticism required to dance ballet is at the caliber of any professional athlete. It could be an Olympic sport. #litchat

 30 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

I did consult with my sister, @RadioRico. Dena's whole hospital chapter, in the ICU, was pretty much my sister's story. #litchat

 30 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

A funny thing, tho - my editor told me "this doesn't sound true" a few time, and when I told her it WAS true, she laughed. #litchat

 29 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

Hi Terez, I'm curious if you can tell us how you started writing fiction... #litchat

 29 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Sometimes a writer can be TOO close to the real thing, and it gets in the way of writing fiction. #litchat

 29 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
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Good Q. RT @anne_clermont Hi Terez, I'm curious if you can tell us how you started writing fiction... #litchat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Hi, @anne_clermont! I started writing fiction when I thought I was writing a nonfiction journal of my Peace Corps days... #litchat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

... and in the midst of the rather pedestrian stuff, I thought, what if this gorgeous, exotic, African guy showed up in the story? #litchat

 28 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

Oh, wow. I didn't know you were in the Peace Corps. And how fun! :) #litchat

 27 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

And so I just wrote him in and from that moment on, dang, it just exploded in me, this crazy story that I couldn't stop writing. #litchat

 27 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

The guy showing up, I mean ;) #litchat

 27 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

Did you write any books prior to these two? #litchat

 27 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

I was going to say, my fictional Peace Corps experience was a lot more fun than the real one!
#litchat

 27 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

@ClassicalGrrl I'm sure! #litchat

 26 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Yes, @anne_clermont, this was actually novel #5 #litchat



26 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Love this. RT @ClassicalGrrl I was going to say, my fictional Peace Corps experience was a lot more fun than the real one! #litchat



26 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

I am picking the Africa one back up very shortly and I'm hoping that will be published book #3 #litchat



26 MINUTES AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

#litchat Are you going the self-pub route?



25 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

That takes a lot of patience and courage. What happened to the first three? #litchat



25 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Ain't fiction great, @LitChat? Don't like your reality? Write a better one! #litchat



25 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Does the Africa book feature ballet, @ClassicalGrrl? #litchat

 25 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

The first novel is Africa, the second one is edgy thriller (my agent seriously scolded me and said 'DON'T' about it). 2 ballet ones #litchat

 24 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

And novel #4 is a "spirituality" one, for lack of better description. 13 y-o narrator, and 41 y-o narrator. Editors very "meh". #litchat

 23 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
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Do you have any more books lined up for The Ballet Theater Chronicles, @ClassicalGrrl? #litchat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Yes, the Africa book features ballet. That's how I hooked my agent, actually. She loved the two elements tossed together. #litchat

 22 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

I would like to write one more Ballet Theatre Chronicles story, but it takes me a long time to write/revise. The Africa one is 1st. #litchat

 22 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Which of your sisters in OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT was your favorite to write, [@ClassicalGrrl](#)?
[#litchat](#)

 21 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Yes, I will continue to go the self pub route, [@RadioRico](#). It has considerable advantages! Namely, it took 12 months to revise! [#litchat](#)

 21 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Favorite sister in LIMELIGHT - I think I adored them both equally. But I think I was more protective toward Dena. [#litchat](#)

 20 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

But Rebecca's first half of the story was "easy" to write, and Dena's second half. Pain is tiring to write about! [#litchat](#)

 19 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I felt that protectiveness toward her too, which is why I forgave much of her bitterness. [#litchat](#)

 19 MINUTES AGO



Terez Mertes
Rose
@ClassicalGrrl

Aww, I'm so glad to hear that, [@LitChat](#)! [#litchat](#)

 19 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

The Africa story sounds incredible! I'm looking forward to it! #litchat

 18 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Now I just need to hunker down and revise it, @anne_clermont. And every published writer know it's about marketing work too! #litchat

 18 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

It sounds like you have a lot on your plate! And yes - marketing the work is the tough part. #litchat

 17 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

It could be that my protectiveness is because I have a younger sister who died. I really rooted for Dena. #litchat

 17 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

@LitChat I'm very sorry to hear that... #litchat

 17 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Final question for @ClassicalGrrl: What did you learn about yourself while writing OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT? #litchat

 16 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

One never thinks about the post-pub work involved when one aspires to write novels, LOL! The first one is so easy, in that way! [#litchat](#)

 16 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Learn about myself that the bond of sisterhood is so very, very powerful. My sister is not well right now, but I feel close to her [#litchat](#)

 15 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

[@ClassicalGrrl](#) That is so powerful and important. Thank you for sharing! [#litchat](#)

 14 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

[@RKnyte](#) - sob! :([#litchat](#)

 14 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Oh dear, [@RKnyte](#). So sorry to hear that. [#litchat](#)

 14 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

I love the power of books. And of friends. And THANK YOU, all of you, for joining me here today!!
[#litchat](#)

 14 MINUTES AGO



Anne Clermont
@anne_clermont

I'm so sorry, @RKnyte. How incredibly devastating. #litchat

 13 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We've just spent the last hour in #litchat with @ClassicalGrrl, Terez Mertes Rose. Learn more about her at terezrose.com.

 13 MINUTES AGO



**Terez Mertes
Rose**
@ClassicalGrrl

Thanks, all, and signing off here! #litchat

 12 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

You can buy OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT and its sister novel, OFF BALANCE from here: amazon.com/Terez-Mertes-R... #litchat

 12 MINUTES AGO



Lauren Rico
@RadioRico

Thanks!! #litchat

 12 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's give TEREZ MERTES ROSE @ClassicalGrrl a huge round of #litchat THANKS for joining us today. {{{APPLAUSE}}}

 11 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Be sure to stop by next week for [#litchat](#) when [@brandigranett](#) is here to talk about her novel, TRIPLE LOVE SCORE.



9 MINUTES AGO