

by LitChat a few seconds ago

LitChat: Stephanie Austin Edwards

The following is the #LitChat conversation held through Twitter on December 12, 2016 with Stephanie Austin Edwards, author of *WHAT WE SET IN MOTION*. #LitChat was founded in 2009 and is moderated by Carolyn Burns Bass (@LitChat). www.litchat.com.

Welcome to #LitChat with Stephanie Austin Edwards @saedwardsauthor! Join us for the next hour. pic.twitter.com/xFKsKmyPwl

 LITCHAT @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



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

Hey Im here. Looking forward to chatting today. #litchat

 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



LitChat
@LitChat

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

 2 HOURS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Today's guest host, [@saedwardsauthor](#) is author of WHAT WE SET IN MOTION. Please welcome Stephanie to [#litchat](#)

 2 HOURS AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Let's talk some about your background and connection with literature, [@saedwardsauthor](#). When did you first begin writing? [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

I really began in highschool, on the school newspaper and literary magazine. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

Then there was a fairly long pause in my writing life as I became a dancer in NYC. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

During my 22 year career in theater in NYC, I worked on Broadway and in film and TV. And took writing classes at The New School. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

What were your reading influences at that time, @saedwardsauthor? #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

Although I loved Gail Godwin and Lillian Hellman and Nora Ephron, I also adored my friend Pat Conroy. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

You have a great story in leaving the lowcountry of SC to be a dancer in NY and years later returning to your Southern roots. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Pat Conroy had just finished *The Prince of Tides* and I knew I wanted to write more than I was, maybe even a novel. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

My story seems to be a fairly universal one of trying to figure out what you should do with your life after college. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Did you know Pat Conroy from your youth in Beaufort, the town he called home? #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

When Nadine tells her father she wants to move to NYC to dance, he tells her if you leave, don't ever come back. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Pat Conroy and I were in high school together. We were in French class and both on the Literary Magazine. Sections editors. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Nadine is your protag in your novel, *WHAT WE SET IN MOTION*. She's a very headstrong woman. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Oh yes, she is. But her heart is broken when her beloved father turns on her because she has a different idea for her life. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Can you give us a few summary tweets about WHAT WE SET IN MOTION, @saedwardsauthor? #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Yes, its the story of trying to create a life of ones own when society and family say no you can't. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

We're chatting for the next 45 mins with @saedwardsauthor, author of WHAT WE SET IN MOTION. Join us. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

It takes place in the late 1960's to1970's in the South, when women weren't going off on there own very often. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

I loved sitcoms THAT GIRL and MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW when I was young. Those shows featured independent women moving to the city. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

It sums up the notion that choices are our destiny. So choice wisely. #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

WHAT WE SET IN MOTION: RT @saedwardsauthor It sums up the notion that choices are our destiny. So choice wisely. #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

The story takes the reader from the rich Lowcountry of South Carolina to Greenwich Village in NYC and back to the Lowcountry. #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Nadine reminds me of both of those 1960s women, confident and willing to follow dreams, rather than heart or family. #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

It has the background of the eclectic and sometimes dangerous Greenwich Village of the 70's . #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

What are some of the choices that Nadine faces that form her destiny? Leaving home, for one. What else? (Without spoiling) #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Interestingly my novel has been compared to a cross between Ann Rivers Siddon and Nora Ephron. Both courage women. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

those are two couragoeous women. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Whenever we try to break norms or barriers, we make the world a little better for everyone else. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

I wanted to run away to follow my dreams, but mine only went 50 miles from home. I sometimes which I had moved to NYC. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Nadine learns that following your heart can also mean incurring many losses. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Is there a difference between following your heart and following your dreams? #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Ive heard from readers who had a similar experience to Nadines journey, and those who are reminded that they wish they had [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

had just a bit more courage to do something different. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

I think that following your dreams and your heart can be the same. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

[#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

But your heart has a lot more to tell you about yourself than just following a dream that may not be the best thing for you. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Lynsay_tweets

@Lynsay_Lambert

So, hitting [@WStonesArgyleST](#) tomorrow with a £10 [#book](#) [#giftcard](#) ... what do I buy? [#books](#) [#bookworm](#) [#litchat](#) [#booklovers](#) [#bookbuying](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

I think of HEART as romance and DREAMS as destiny. They can be the same, but often they aren't. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

Nadine is seeking her dream in the beginning and realizes that a full hearted life may entail something more, something richer. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

Interesting about heart as romance and dreams as destiny. My definition of heart may be more expansive. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Tell us more about NYC and Greenwich Village back in the edgy 60s and 70s, @saedwardsauthor. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

We're chatting for the next 30 minutes with Stephanie Austin Edwards @saedwardsauthor, author of WHAT WE SET IN MOTION. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

Greenwich Village in the 70's was magic, eclectic, you never knew what you would run into or find. It made me smile a lot. #litchat



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

In those days the Halloween parade snaked through the streets of the Village not on 6th Avenue.

[#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

How much of yourself and personal experiences of NYC did you reclaim for Nadine's character?

[#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

People were dressed up on many nights. Not just Halloween. The streets were like going to a performance. the rents were affordable. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

I ended up changing to first person. So people think its me. Its not. But I used places and side stories for the atmosphere. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

I have so many stories about dancing, theater, NYC, that I could fill another book. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

They say write what you know, so to tell this particular story, I used what I knew as a basis only.

[#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

I let the muse take me where 'my heart' wanted it to go. I knew there was something I wanted to say. it took a while to take shape. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

I did not experience what Nadine experienced. I gave her many, many obstacles to deal with. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**LitChat**

@LitChat

Let's talk about some of the other characters. Nadine's beloved aunt back in Beaufort is a wonderful character. Begin with her. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

Aunt Amelia is one of my favorites too. I did not have anyone like that in my life. I wished I had. so I created her for Nadine. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

Aunt Amelia was her mothers sister. She was a healer and a visionary with her following. She was Nadine's go to person. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO

**Stephanie A Edwards**

@saedwardsauthor

Nadine meets Aunt Amelia and Uncle Hamp at the Fish Camp in Chapter one. The cover reflects what Nadine is going through. [#litchat](#)



AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Aunt Amelia is the voice of wisdom for Nadine and yet is the embodiment of whimsy. I adore her. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

thank you. I find that when I ask book clubs, she is often their favorite. Everyone needs someone as supportive as Aunt Amelia. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

There is the theme that to achieve your desires, one must be focused and truthful with themselves at all times. Not an easy task. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Only 15 more minutes with Stephanie Austin Edwards [@saedwardsauthor](#), author of WHAT WE SET IN MOTION. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

Nadine loved her daddy [that's southern speak] with a passion and he loved her. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

But when she wanted to do something on her own, he couldn't handle it. [#litchat](#)

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

So she leaves for NYC with the breakdown of this relationship hanging over her, and no financial support at all. . #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Are there other characters who unexpectedly asserted themselves into Nadine's life? Tell us about them. #litchat

 AN HOUR AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Father Benjamin is a parapaelgic man who claims to be the first gay priest of the first gay parish in Greenwich Village. #litchat

 44 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

He and Nadine become fast friends. He cares for everyone in a place where many people never felt caring before. #litchat

 43 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Without spoiling, would you say the father/daughter relationship finds resolution one way or another? #litchat

 43 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

One review said that the story is about loss and rememption, and yearning for family connections. Read into that what you will. #litchat

 42 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Greenwich Village was a haven for anyone who felt different, and that certainly includes the GBLT community. Why would that be? [#litchat](#)

 41 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

The Village was a refuge for artists and misfits of all kinds going back to the Beatnik era. [#litchat](#)

 39 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

It's always been a magnet for expression of all kinds. [#litchat](#)

 39 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

I miss the Greenwich Village of that time. [#litchat](#)

 37 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

What readers would you say *WHAT WE SET IN MOTION* appeals to, [@saedwardsauthor](#)?
[#litchat](#)

 37 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

When doing book festivals I ask if you like *Secret Life of Bees* or *The Help* you will enjoy my novel. [#litchat](#)

 35 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

Now that WHAT WE SET IN MOTION is in the hands of readers, what are you working on, @saedwardsauthor? #litchat

 35 MINUTES AGO



Marzano Research
@MarzanoResearch

Avoid class reading strategies that stigmatizes poor readers & weaken comprehension...
edut.to/2draEQ1 #engchat #litchat #literacy

 34 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

What I hear from others who have been on this journey with me is about my perserversance and trust. #litchat

 33 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

I started and stopped several time but quit. #litchat

 32 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards
@saedwardsauthor

I am proud to say that my novel won a Best Submission Award at The Atlanta Writers Club Conference. #litchat

 31 MINUTES AGO



LitChat
@LitChat

This has been a terrific chat today, @saedwardsauthor. Thank you so much for joining us today. {{{APPLAUSE}}} #litchat

 31 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

My Cover won a Gold Award at The BookDesigner.com #litchat



31 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

I have loved this Chat Miss Carolyn. #litchat



30 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

You can read more about [@saedwardsauthor](https://twitter.com/saedwardsauthor) on her website at stephanieaustinedwards.com. #litchat



30 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

My next novel, Oyster Island, is about 2/3 finished. It takes place in The Lowcountry. #litchat



28 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

One day, a character from What We Set in Motion showed up in Oyster Island. I was blown away. That muse of mine is cool. #litchat



27 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Great stuff today with [@saedwardsauthor](https://twitter.com/saedwardsauthor). The Lowcountry of SC to Greenwich Village in the 60s and back again. THANK YOU! #litchat



27 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

Its the story of a mulato highschool girl who finds her Memaw [grandmother] unconscious on the floor #litchat



25 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

and the house in disarray when she comes home from school. #litchat



25 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

Thank you again, Stephanie @saedwardsauthor. Here's wishing you happy holidays and much success in your writing career. #litchat



22 MINUTES AGO



Stephanie A Edwards

@saedwardsauthor

And the same to ya'll. #litchat



22 MINUTES AGO



LitChat

@LitChat

We begin our winter break next Monday. We'll be back in #litchat on January 9. See you then!



22 MINUTES AGO