



Chat met Margaret Weis

Op dinsdag 19 december 2000 vond in de Gelagkamer van Dromen & Demonen een chatsessie met Margaret Weis plaats. Om 20.30 uur logde Margaret Weis vanuit Wisconsin in, en vervolgens sprak zij ruim een uur met haar Nederlandse en Belgische fans.

Hieronder volgen de *transcripts* van deze chatsessie. Deze zijn ingekort tot de vragen van de fans en de antwoorden van Margaret Weis. Alle commentaren en opmerkingen zijn er uit gehaald, om alles zo duidelijk mogelijk te maken.

De *transcripts* zijn in het Engels. We hebben het niet vertaald, omdat het op deze manier het snelst op de site geplaatst kon worden.

{{REDACTIE}} Welkom allemaal! Margaret Weis heeft erg veel zin om vanavond met jullie te komen chatten. Bij haar in amerika is het nu half twee s middags. Zoals jullie weten vormt Margaret Weis samen met Tracy Hickman het beroemdste fantasyteam van de wereld! Samen hebben zij tientallen boeken geschreven en schitterende rpg' s en games ontworpen die over de hele wereld met veel plezier door fantasyfans gelezen en gespeeld worden.

Zogauw Margaret de gelagkamer binnenkomt zullen we overschakelen op Engels. Als jullie problemen hebben met het engels, schroom niet, vraag ons om een vertaling; die zullen we je met veel plezier geven (denk aan titels van boeken ed).

*** Margaret-Weis joined De GelagKamer ***

{{REDACTIE}} welcome Margaret Weis in de gelagkamer. We're very happy to have you here in our dutch chatroom. As you can see there are a couple of fans here, who would like to ask you some questions!

{{Margaret-Weis}} Hi! That's why I'm here!

* Isabel Starts pointing and running in Circles around Margaret-Weis yelling: "Look Who's Here! Look Who's Here!!!"

{{REDACTIE}} i suggest everybody who would like to ask a question starts his or her sentence with ?? so that everybody can recognize them. I would say, who's got the first question!!!!

{{Liandra}} ?? What made you decide to write fantasy?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I enjoy writing fantasy because it provides the greatest freedom to create.

{{WolfBrother}} !! I just wanna say I love Tasselhoff! that's all..oh...??is he based on someone you knew in Real Life?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Roger Moore, former editor of Dragon, wrote the first Tasselhoff story. He developed Tas's character. To me, he reminds me of Harpo Marx and the child actress Margaret O'Brien.

{{WolfBrother}} ah....I don't know any of them..sorry..

{{Margaret-Weis}} As to Harpo Marx, you can rent American movies featuring the Marx brothers. They're really funny!

{{REDACTIE}} ??I would like to ask you about THE SOVEREIGN STONE. When will this trilogy be finished?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Tracy and I are working on the second volume right now. The title is Guardians of the Lost.

{{REDACTIE}} ?? How did you invent Gareth? Is a whipping boy a well known personality?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes, the whipping boys really existed in medieval times because one dared not lay a hand on the future king.

{{Sinistrad}} ?? I'm addicted to fantasy and a great fan of your Work!! But what made you decide to add lasers and SF aspects to the final part of the doomsword series?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Well, it fit in with what we wanted to do with the world and it also allowed us to continue to develop the theme.

{{Kayama}} ??what is it like to work with a co-writer?

{{Margaret-Weis}} It's fun. It's always good to have someone around to help you develop the plot. I get the characters into really tight situations, then call Tracy to get them out.:)

{{Liandra}} ?? What would you do if you had to marry someone to save the world, like the girl in The Rose of the Prophet (hope I got the title right)?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I loved Rose of the Prophet. That was sort of a royal marriage.

{{Sinistrad}} You totally suprised me with a new kind of fantasy by the way :)

{{Margaret-Weis}} Really? In what way?

{{Sinistrad}} The arabian nights kinda stories

{{Margaret-Weis}} Oh, yes. That took a lot of research.

{{Sinistrad}} no dragons or knights

{{Margaret-Weis}} No, but we had angels and djinn.:)

{{Elvendream}} ?? what kind of research do you do for your work?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I researched Arabian culture, what the people wore, what they ate, how they lived.

{{Elvendream}} ?? Do you research the middle ages, or the modern times?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I researched middle ages.

{{Elvendream}} how much time do you spend on research for a book?

{{Margaret-Weis}} It's hard to say. The research is on-going. I'm always looking up something or other. For Sovereign Stone, I researched the kind of food that people ate in late medieval times and the sort of clothes they wore. So every time there was a meal, I had to go look up recipes! I really enjoy research. I always had fun writing research papers.

{{Elvendream}} I'm taking courses in the middle ages, and very often I'm surprised. Is that the same for you?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes, one tends to think of the middle ages as being dark and gloomy, but they knew how to party!:) The upper classes, at any rate. Not too pleasant for the lower classes.

{{Elvendream}} what was the most surprising thing you found out while doing research?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Probably that the lady wife of a nobleman was responsible for giving a visiting noble a bath on his arrival.

{{REDACTIE}} Is Tracy just as interested in research as you are? Or does he play a different part in your cooperation?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Tracy does research in different areas. He was responsible for developing the magic system in Deathgate. It's all based on probability theory.

{{Kayama}} ??Do you and Tracy ever disagree on a storyline?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Not often. We work out the plot synopsis ahead of time.

{{WolfBrother}} ??Oh...what are you're favorite authors and where do you get your inspiration from?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Favorite authors are Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Alexander Dumas, Mary Renault, among others. Regarding inspiration, it comes from various places. Deathgate came to me in Epcot Center in Disney World.

{{Haplo}} How did you get the idea for the Labyrinth where you once put me in ??

{{Margaret-Weis}} The Labyrinth came about because we needed a prison.

{{Liandra}} ?? What is the best way to get inspiration?

{{Margaret-Weis}} As far as inspiration, you really shouldn't wait to be inspired. Just sit down and start to work. If you wait for inspiration, you'll never write. I write everyday from 8:00 am to 11:30. I love my work, but I can't sit around and wait to be inspired.

{{Liandra}} ?? Do you read other fantasy? Which do you like?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I don't read fantasy. Never read what you're writing.

{{REDACTIE}} ?? How much of the book Well of Darkness is based on a RPgame?

{{Margaret-Weis}} We developed the game at the same time we were working on the novel. Actually the game setting is about two hundred years after the novel. Volume 2 picks up where the game is.

{{Isabel}} which rpg is that??

{{Margaret-Weis}} The RPG is called Sovereign Stone. You can find out more about it on our website at www.sovstone.com.

{{REDACTIE}} ?? Do I understand correctly that you are writing now on the Sovereign Stone and at the same time at Dragonlance Chronicles?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes, Tracy and I are working on the two simultaneously. We weren't supposed to, but our Sovereign Stone publisher went through a buy-out and the book was pushed back. We work for about nine months on DL and then nine months on Sovereign Stone. We don't write them together!

{{REDACTIE}} by the way, the first part of sovereign stone will be published in dutch in april 2001

{{howan}} ?? any chance of an dragonlance movie ? (almost afraid to speak out)

{{Margaret-Weis}} After the D&D movie, I think that killed any chance of DL being a

movie.

{{WolfBrother}} yeah...what do you think of the upcoming AD&D movie? (to be honest..what I saw of it was kindof really bad...)

{{Margaret-Weis}} The D&D movie was the absolute worst movie I have ever seen in my life. That includes a video made by a kindergarten class.

{{Sinistrad}} How important is the internet for writers like yourself? (I'm thinking of research, communication etc.)

{{Margaret-Weis}} I wrote my first books way, way before the internet. I still use the library for research.

{{howan}} ?? you seem to embrace internet more than others, I remember you posting on usenet quite regularly

{{Margaret-Weis}} I really enjoy the internet. It's fun talking to people.

{{Haplo}} How does your husband feel about you spending an awfull lot of time with another man?!

{{Margaret-Weis}} Tracy lives in Utah. That's a long way away. We don't see each other that often. Don doesn't mind. He and Tracy are friends.

{{REDACTIE}} so you use email a lot yhen, i guess?

{{Haplo}} Do you and tracy mail eachother your progress?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Oh, yes. Daily!

{{REDACTIE}} ??Margaret, I heard an upsetting story about you, that you are suffering from a very bad RSI (pain in the arms etc) - is that true?

{{Margaret-Weis}} No, I'm a breast cancer survivor. Seven years now. Otherwise, I'm in great shape. I exercise and lift weights.

{{Sinistrad}} Are you ever going to write a story similar to the deathgate series?! It's still my Fav!

{{Margaret-Weis}} There are so many other worlds to explore! I think you'll enjoy Sovereign Stone.

{{WolfBrother}} ?? Do you don't like some of your own books? or aren't happy about it?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I never like to go back to read what I've written. I always want to change it.

{{REDACTIE}} ??how does it feel to be in virtually in the netherlands (and belgium)??

{{Margaret-Weis}} Lots of fun! And you're virtually in Wisconsin. With twenty inches of snow on the ground.

{{REDACTIE}} TWENTY INCHES????? That's how much? 50, 60 centimeters??

{{Sinistrad}} good writing conditions ;) Must feel real good, writing a book in front of the fireplace ;)

{{Margaret-Weis}} Well, I'm upstairs and the fireplace is downstairs. We live in a converted barn. Lots of fun. I write in the loft. That's the upper portion of the barn, where they store hay.

{{REDACTIE}} do you often go out in the snow? Walking or skiing or anything?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes, I like snow. I walk the dogs. And I like to snow-shoe. I don't ski. I'd kill myself.

{{Kayama}} ??what kind of dogs do you have?

{{Margaret-Weis}} I have a collie, a lab and a border collie. Plus three cats.

{{REDACTIE}} ??what are their names???

{{Margaret-Weis}} The dogs are Shasha, Kelly and Tess. The cats are Nickolai Mouseslayer, Motley Tatters and Shiva Destroyer of Worlds.

{{WolfBrother}} do you listen music when you're writing? (yeah...I know its a really standard question) and what then? does it influence your writing?

{{Margaret-Weis}} No, I can't listen to music while I write. I need to hear the music of the words.

{{howan}} ?? want to say bye mrs weis , gotta check out what greenspan has done

{{Margaret-Weis}} You mean Alan Greenspan?

{{howan}} yeah the big man

{{Margaret-Weis}} You must follow the stock market!

{{howan}} i'm a floorbroker

{{Margaret-Weis}} Oh, cool! Here's hoping he cuts interest rates.

{{howan}} i dont' think he will cut interest, with the plans of bush

{{Margaret-Weis}} They figure he'll cut them this time or next time the Fed meets. He's worried.

{{REDACTIE}} ?Greenspan does not sound like fantasy novels - do you read AND follow the stock market, Howan?

{{Margaret-Weis}} it's probably more fantasy than what we write.:)

{{REDACTIE}} anyway, margaret, how do you feel about the president/electionthing??

{{Margaret-Weis}} The election was fascinating.

{{Isabel}} ??what kind of women do you like to write, nice women , stubborn etc??

{{Margaret-Weis}} I like writing strong women.

{{REDACTIE}} strong in what way?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Women who take control of their lives. I think Maigrey in Star of the Guardian is my favorite character. She is not who I am, but who I'd like to be.

{{REDACTIE}} that' s not (yet) published in dutch...

{{Elvendream}} do you write somewhat autobiographic?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Every writer draws on personal feelings and experiences.

{{REDACTIE}} could you give an example?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Well, if you try to describe what a character feels like when he's afraid, you have to be able to think of what you feel like when you're afraid. Then you write about those feelings.

{{Elvendream}} but if the character is from another gender, or race... then you cannot really do that, can you?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Sure, you can. You just need to put yourself in their position.

{{REDACTIE}} but how do you do that???

{{Margaret-Weis}} I write from a male viewpoint lots of times. You get inside the character's head. You make yourself into that person. Sometimes I make myself feel the emotion while I'm writing. I think back to an experience when I was afraid and I relive it. Not very pleasant sometimes.

{{Isabel}} isn't that hard

{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes, it's hard. But it makes for a more realistic character. Readers say, Yes, I've felt like that. I know what that person is going through.

{{WolfBrother}} Do you ask other people for advise then?

{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes. For example, my husband is a retired Captain in the military. He helps me on the military bits.

{{WolfBrother}} By the way, I suppose you play ADnD?
{{Margaret-Weis}} No, we're playing Sovereign Stone. A MUCH better system!:)
{{WolfBrother}} ah...I don;t know it...is it that good? Do you know the White-Wolf system?
{{Margaret-Weis}} No, I don't play White Wolf.
{{Margaret-Weis}} But we own a game/bookstore so I'm familiar with most of them.

{{Medin}} What are your hobbies?
{{Margaret-Weis}} I knit, I love opera (just got to hear the Three Tenors), and I'm training my dog Tess in Agility competition.
{{REDACTIE}} what do you knit?? sweaters and stuff?
{{Margaret-Weis}} I knit shawls and afgans. Nothing too hard.
{{WolfBrother}} hehe...in front of the tv or something?
{{Margaret-Weis}} Yes, I knit while I watch Buffy. Keeps me from feeling guilty.
{{Medin}} Do you like Buffy??!!
{{Margaret-Weis}} Love Buffy. Some of the best writing on television. I met Spike at a convention. What a sweetheart!
{{WolfBrother}} yeah...whats the actor like? he's so cool in the show...
{{Margaret-Weis}} As to Spike (James McMasters), he was so very friendly at the convention.
{{Medin}} Which tv-programs do you like besides Buffy?
{{Margaret-Weis}} I like West Wing and Mystery.

{{Margaret-Weis}} How long are we scheduled for? My cat is lurking around, wanting to be fed.
{{REDACTIE}} Well, Margaret, we've got one final question: if you would have to go to a deserted island, what book would you take with you??
{{Margaret-Weis}} Bleak House by Charles Dickens.

{{REDACTIE}} Well, thank you very much for spending this virtual time with us, it was a pleasure having you here in de gelagkamer!
{{Margaret-Weis}} Bye. Thank you. I'd love to do this again. if anyone wants to e-mail me, they can write to me at mweis@mag7.com. I answer all my own e-mail.
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*** Margaret-Weis has quit ***