

Angie's Tribute to Lynn Wright (2009)

I rediscovered the Beauty and the Beast TV series (on DVDs borrowed from our library), almost 20 years after I had first seen it, in its original airing. I fell in love with it all over again.

I am a journalist by profession but had never been very good at writing fiction – no ideas, stories that died stillborn – all the usual reasons. But when I tried to write B&B fanfic, the ideas seemed to just come from thin air - and the words and plots poured out, as if I had tapped into a special place of inspiration/ I had written quite a few stories before I began to wonder what to do with them. I discovered CABB and the Steam Tunnels – and read all the fan fiction there - but it took me weeks to get up the nerve to email Lynn her and ask if she wanted any more.

From the very beginning, she encouraged me, corrected my technical bloopers and made me feel special. I was honoured – and still am – to have so many stories posted online.

Lynn also became part of the B&B Museum Project and set up our special home in the Steam Tunnels. It would not have been possible without her talent and dedication.

Then, she and I made Vincent dolls, swapping materials, ideas and tips. We had a hoot (the results can be seen in the Treasure Chambers)! She also encouraged me to make cross-stitch patterns of our favourite couple and posted the images.

When she had to give up some of her online activities because of failing eyesight, I took over the Treasure Chambers, which by then had become a labour of love.

Although we've never met, Lynn's been like a sister to me – supportive, helpful and always there. My B&B experience would have been very different but for Lynn - less inspiring, less meaningful – and a whole lot less interesting!

For all her unswerving friendship, and sharing of her marvelous fanfic, as well as that of many other writers over the years, I thank her.

Angie