

30th Anniversary Special Interview

Barbara Anderson Fanfic writer

1) When did you first become aware that B&B had a fandom?

I first became aware that B&B had a fandom in 2015. I had found the show on Netflix in 2013 at a very stressful time in my life and had fallen in love with it for the second time. I was surprised to find the show was actually available on DVD and ordered it immediately. I was very happy in my private BATB chamber and fanclub of one for quite a while. Imagine my surprise when I discovered there were others, many others, just like me.

2) Why did you decide to write fanfic?

When Season 3 aired, in 1989, I was so traumatized by the turn of events that I immediately began creating a scenario in my head, of how it could be different. How she didn't really die and how he might find Catherine again. I watched my vhs tapes over and over. I stayed awake in bed at night fixing it all in my head. Finally real life and 4 children took over and the tapes slowly disappeared into the back of our cabinet.

When I rediscovered the show in 2013 I was a brand new grandmother, with no children at home needing to be fed or taken to boy scouts or baseball practice. Needless to say, my obsession was reborn.

After months of laying awake at night developing a scenario of how Vincent and Catherine could find each other again, even after all these years, I began to worry that perhaps I was experiencing some type of mental breakdown. I came to the conclusion that the only way I could get it all out of my head would be if I wrote it down, so that is what I began to do.

The story took on a life of its own, once I got started, and I didn't want to stop. I had a ball playing with it for about a year. I thought I was just writing it for myself, so there were no rules to worry about (I still don't worry about the rules) Rules, schmules! It was my story and I could take them wherever I wished.

I didn't even imagine that there was anyone in the world that would be interested in reading it, besides myself. That is until my 26 year old daughter laughingly, lamented that she couldn't believe her mother was writing fanfiction... I guess old people don't do that. HA!

She had to explain to me what fan fiction was, and soon after that I began to look around online to see if there were any people who still loved the show.... And WOW! What a surprise it was ... The rest is history.

3) What character(s) do you enjoy writing about the most?

Definitely Vincent and Catherine. But I also love to explore all of the character backstories.

4) Do you prefer long stories or short ones?

I let the stories lead me. Sometimes they are short and sometimes they're long. I let the story tell me when it's finished.

5) Do you feel you have more stories in you yet to write?

Yes, so many that I sometimes get frustrated that I will lose the ideas before I have a chance to write them down. I recently found a drabble that I had scribbled in a notebook, and I didn't even remember writing it. I must have though, because it was in my handwriting.

6) What aspect of the B&B fantasy world intrigues you most?

I suppose I am most intrigued by the multi-layers the show had. The characters are so three dimensional and complex. Once they capture you, you can't get them out of your head.

7) Have you written other fiction, or any non-fiction?

I've written poetry sporadically since I was in high school. And I have written a lot of personal history and family history stories. But I have never written fiction for any reason. It was never even something I wanted to do. I believed that once I got that first story out of my head, I would just go on with my life as before ... I've since discovered, there is no going back. And I don't want to.

8) What person do you prefer to write in (i.e. first, second, third)?

Definitely third person. I like to make the reader an observer to the scene. I want them to feel swept up in the moments. I also like to write the thoughts the characters have but never fully express. So the reader gets a little glimpse into the inner workings of the character's hearts and minds.

9) What do you wish they had explored (or explored more) in the series?

I'm pretty much like most of the fans, I wish they had explored the physical limits of the relationship between Vincent and Catherine. They deserved a happy ending and so did we.

10) What aspect of the series do you like least?

I'm boring. I dislike what everyone else dislikes. That Vincent and Catherine were doomed to forever live in romantic limbo, ie: So much more than friends, but never never to be lovers. GAG!! And then, that Catherine was killed off and that the "Powers the Be," thought they could just plug in another strong female character and go on as if nothing had happened.

Are you kidding me?

***Beauty and the Beast** was an incredibly intelligent show, but for some reason they grossly underestimated the intelligence of their audience.*

They made an implied promise with the opening credits of the pilot that no matter how much suffering there was in the middle of their story, that ultimately there would be a happily ever after.

They owed it to their audience, and in my opinion, they still do.

Haven't we all waited long enough?