

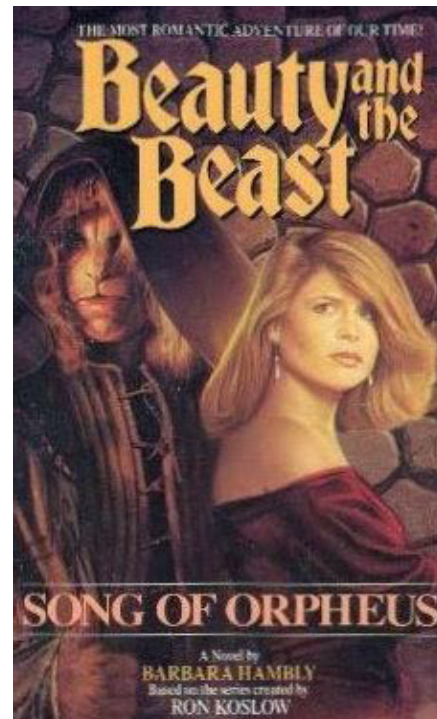
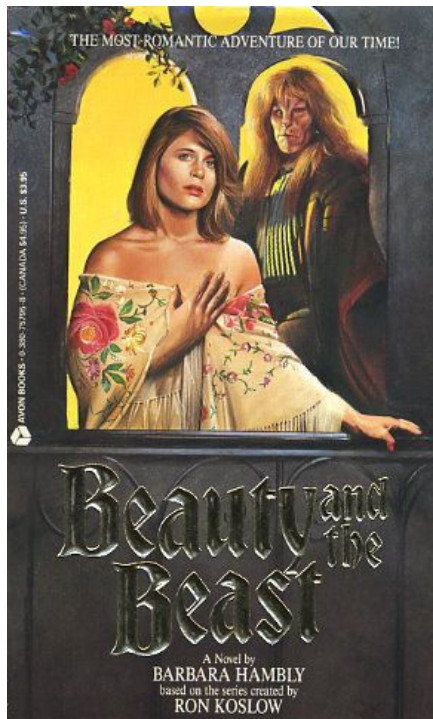
Barbara Hambly Interview

Author of

'Beauty and the Beast' (1989) and 'Song of Orpheus' (1990) novels

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Thank you for your interest in the writing process of how those novelizations came about.

I didn't see all the episodes of the first season of B&B, but I enjoyed the ones I saw, and I found the premise interesting. (I sort of gave up watching TV regularly in 1972).

I was already a published fantasy writer when the show came out, and was having lunch with an editor friend in New York when we started talking about novelizations of TV shows. (I had written a couple of Star Trek novels at that time).

I said, "Actually, the show I'd like to do a novelization of would be Beauty and the Beast." She said, "That's funny, because my husband [also an editor] is in charge of that project over at Avon."

I was introduced to Husband and offered the work-for-hire contract. They wanted an 80,000 word novel to be taken from a 60-page shooting-script, so I had to come up with a "B" story, and since I hadn't seen all the episodes (and they weren't commercially available on videotape at that time) I had to come up with a "B" story that they COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE DONE on TV.

That's why I chose to do a flood in the tunnels, because I figured they couldn't get Ron Perlman wet in that makeup.

Later, when I talked to George RR Martin (the story editor) and mentioned this, he said, "You know, I ALWAYS wanted to do a flood in the tunnels but you couldn't get the sets wet."

When they asked me to do a second book (actually Ru Emerson did a third book - I simply didn't have the time), they asked what episodes I wanted, so I chose Fever, Song of Orpheus, and Shades of Gray because I felt they had the strongest stories, and would weave together into the best book.

I borrowed home-taped videotapes of episodes from the fans I knew. I didn't know there was an organized fandom at that time, but I knew several people who were very much fans of the show. I would not describe myself as a "fan" - I enjoyed the show, and thought a lot of the episodes were well-written (and thought Ron Perlman and Roy Dotrice were great!).

Somewhere in the boxes in my garage I have fragments of a fan-fic B&B/Ghostbusters crossover, but it was sheerly for my own entertainment and never finished.

Thank-you to Barbara Hambly for sharing her story with us.

She was sent a special certificate in appreciation. Her response was:

"Many thanks for the certificate! I feel very honored."