

Special Interview

Jess Rae

Fanfic Writer

1) When did you first become aware that B&B had a fandom? *I first found the fandom in 2017. I ran across the series on Amazon while looking up Beauty and the Beast, which is already my favorite fairy tale. I love remakes, and it piqued my interest so I looked it up on youtube to see what it was about. I fell in love the first time I saw a clip of the intro, and proceeded to annoy my sister with my exuberant excitement about this 'real' Beauty and the Beast story that I had found.*

2) Why did you decide to write fanfic? *I have been a writer since I was a teenager. My first foray into fanfiction began with the Mitford books. I tried my hand at fanfiction before I really knew what it was. It wasn't till later that I discovered it actually was a thing. For me it was like finding the entrance to a treasure cave. There were so many tunnels and treasures to find and explore. The world of BATB is a highly moldable world, there are so many different directions a story can go. It was exciting to consider that the world I had found had room for my dreams and creative spirit to run free. I found the actual fanfiction site through a different fandom I was into at the time, and looked for BATB on there. I was pleasantly surprised to find a wealth of creativity. I then asked myself "What if?" Those simple words started the journey for me.*

3) What character(s) do you enjoy writing about the most? *My favorite characters to write are Mouse and Father. Mouse has such amazing potential for stories, as his story is never fully told. Father, as well, carries this enigma about him, of never quite knowing everything he has seen and experienced. The idea that there's more to them than meets the eye is intriguing.*

4) Do you prefer long stories or short ones? *I prefer whatever has been written! I have read both. Short stories do allow for quicker journeys into the world of creativity, but longer stories allow more time to become immersed in the woven threads of the tale and to become self-invested in the outcome. Some of those long ones can be the most heart wrenching or satisfying at the end, because the reader has gone on a journey with the characters. I like both!*

5) Do you feel you have more stories in you yet to write? *Oh, absolutely!*

6) What aspect of the B&B fantasy world intrigues you most? *The most intriguing thing to me is that the world Below is composed of broken, mismatched people. Their stories blend into a world that cares for its own, even though it is aware of their faults. But acceptance and love overcomes all of those. The characters are not portrayed as perfect people, but they try to be a family and a community. Would be interesting to see that put into effect in real life.*

7) Have you written other fiction, or any non-fiction? *I have written other fanfiction for other fandoms. I have always immersed myself in the stories and movies that I read/watch, and*

fanfiction gives me an outlet for my overactive imagination!

8) What person do you prefer to write in (i.e. first, second, third)? *I prefer to write in the third person. It gives me the opportunity to portray emotions as the writer from the angles of all the characters. It is harder for me to write in first or second because the viewpoint is very singular and I can't express myself as well. But I love to read them!*

9) What do you wish they had explored (or explored more) in the series? *I wish they had explored Vincent and Catherine's relationship more. They had so much more potential. I also wish they had explored the back stories of other characters better, Mouse, Father, Winslow, Pascal. They were so monumental to the series, and deserved more character development. I love a good character arc!*

10) What aspect of the series do you like least? *The part I think I disliked the most was the way the plots were written. The writers constantly had poor Vincent flipping between the gentle, kind persona to the throat slashing anger. This was very hard on his character, and I wish he had received more sympathy. Also, I feel like Catherine slightly depended on his devotion, although not intentionally. She is a bit flighty at times in the series, in turmoil about where her life is going, and trying to come to grips with the fact that she will never lead a normal life if she chooses Vincent. I find that a bit frustrating, as Vincent is nothing but accepting. This is not their fault. The writers put them in a state of perpetual confusion as far as their life choices, and I think this hindered the growth of their romance story.*