

# Special Interview

## Michaela Buzsaki Struchova

Fanfic Writer

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

In January 2020, I re-watched the show on my DVDs again, after a little while. And it was the first time that I actually thought of looking for some fan fiction on the internet. I used to browse for pictures and music from the show before, but never really for fan fiction. Through it, I found a few fan sites, including Treasure Chambers.

2) *Why did you decide to write fanfic?*

I think in February 2020. I did write a couple of fanfic pieces for the show 'Sherlock' not long before and thought, why not give it a try with 'Beauty and the Beast'? I've loved the show for so long and have found quite a few places in the episodes where one could expand the story. That inspired me to start writing my own versions.

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

I think it's quite obvious from my stories, it's Vincent and Catherine. Especially Vincent is such an extraordinary character that it's a joy to 'write him'. I like to stick to his character from the show, his spirit, his way of talking and behaving. That rule is important for me for any character I write about. I hope I'm not as bad at it so far.

But I also like writing about Father. He is one of my favourite characters apart from Vincent and Catherine.

4) *Do you prefer long stories or short ones?*

From my own experience, I think I have a tendency to write the long ones. Not that it's my preference, but sometimes once I start and have the inspiration, I can't stop... But I have shorter ones too. As long as it makes sense, it's relevant and has a point, I don't really have a preference. Though I don't think I could stick just to 100 words!

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

Oh definitely!

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

There are many, but I think one of them is the world Below. The combination of the morals of the people living there, the beautiful settings, the candle light, the music, the literature.... It's like stepping away from a ranging river and entering an enchanted forest where everything is peaceful, quiet and beautiful. Food for the soul...

And then, of course, the relationship between Vincent and Catherine. I love the fact that it's not the usual way of writing where the main two characters are an item by the third episode, including bed scenes. Their relationship is based on something so much deeper, which is so rare to see nowadays - the connection between them, deep understanding, empathy, love in its purest form (though you

can definitely feel the physical attraction, too). The writing in the whole show is just exquisite, I don't think I've ever seen anything as meaningful and relevant as this show.

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

As I mentioned before, I wrote a couple of fanfic stories for 'Sherlock'.

Apart from that, I wrote loads of short stories ever since my university times, when they were part of my written assignments. After university, I started writing whenever I got an inspiration. They have been stories about various topics, mostly based on real experiences (mine or of people I've known). There have been a few purely fictional ones though. I also started writing a longer piece a couple of years ago, a cross between period drama, fantasy and romance. I have never shown those pieces to anyone though. The university stories and BATB ones are the only ones someone else has read.

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

I think the third person. Maybe because when I have more characters in a story, I like switching between their thought process. If I wrote only in first person, for example, I couldn't do that.

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

That's a tough one... I think most fans would say Vincent and Catherine's physical relationship (or the lack of). But I think they've actually moved around the subject quite well in several episodes, especially in Season 2.

I can't think of one thing, right now. I think, it would have been much different if Catherine had lived beyond the pilot of Season 3. Then, there could have been options, like the possibility of them living together, raising children, Catherine's way of adjusting to living in both worlds on another level, Father preparing Vincent for the role of the tunnel leader, etc.

But based on reality, I think the only thing coming across my mind now is Joe getting to know Vincent. I think I understand why it didn't happen, but I always thought they could have developed a great friendship based on respect, understanding, and especially their mutual love for Catherine.

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

I think it's quite obvious - Catherine dying... It sort of lost the point after that because the show was based mainly on that incredible connection and love between Vincent and Catherine and how they made it work. On the other hand, it gave Ron Perlman some incredible stuff to work with as an actor and he did some amazing acting after her departure.