

30th Anniversary Special Interview

Skippy Fan

1) When did you become a B&B fan?

1989, when it first showed in Western Australia - not too sure of the month as I missed the first few shows due to working shift work.

2) What attracted you to the series?

As soon as I saw the show, that was it, Vincent just grabbed at my heartstrings and I just loved the whole way the show was presented.

3) What changes have occurred in B&B fandom over the years?

I was very disappointed when they stopped the episodes here in Oz, about half way thru 2nd season, and it wasn't until I found out more about the show some years later, as my computer at work didn't have internet and I couldn't access it either. We lived in the backblocks of North Western Australia, 1,000 miles north of the capital city, and it was about 10 years before I was able to get to the internet. Linda Mooney was my main contact, I found out about her books etc., and she has been exceedingly helpful throughout. Not too happy with the way that fandom seems to have split a bit, we are supposed to be a family and should stick together, but then I guess there will always be differences in opinions etc., but don't let them spoil what we have. I think there are a few people who like me don't really like the undercurrents. But I try and ignore them (the undercurrents that is) and don't want to spoil my friendship with them, so I hear what is going on, and keep quiet.

4) What do you enjoy most about the series?

I just love reading fan-fiction, always looking for new authors/stories - classic - am not a 3rd season fan unless it's SND!! I also love the cons, chance to meet up with my tunnel family and friends I haven't seen for a year.

5) What do you wish B&B fans would do?

Ignore the back-biting, undercurrents, and just be there for each other. That is what the tunnels are there for - maybe I'm too naive to expect everybody to get on well together, but at least we could all try!

6) How much time do you devote to B&B in an average month (including social media time)?

At least a couple of hours each day, sometimes longer - trolling the different sites, going back over past conventions, WFOL's, answering emails, trying to persuade my mind to do something constructive like write stories myself!!!

7) How many B&B fans have you met?

Having been to six cons now, I've met so many people, and made so many new friends, it's impossible to count how many, and not only from USA, I've made friends with people from all over the globe. And it's amazing wearing a BatB t-shirt, and people from here asking where I got it from, and talking about the show with them, and telling them about The Treasure Chambers, and BatBland and CABB. I've met heaps of people like that.

8) What is your favourite memory as a fan?

My very first convention, 2012 in Dallas - my hubby passed away in late 2011, and I was looking at WFOL2012, and decided that I would go to the Dallas con. I remember the receptionist taking me into a room where some of the ladies were packing tote bags, and she ushered me in with the words, "Ladies, I have another one of your lot here!!" I just looked around and said "G'day, girls, I'm Skippy!" I was pounced on, and hugged within an inch of my life - it was just the most lovely feeling, and everyone from that day on made me so welcome, and I've never missed a con since!!!

9) How has B&B changed your life?

Made me much happier, I've always been fond of fantasy, and always felt that I was basically afraid to talk to people about it, in case they thought I was weird - but now I tell everyone about the show, and it's amazing how many people say "Oh, yes I remember that show" And I get to travel more and meet more new people.

10) If you could have one B&B wish granted, what would it be?

I had the great pleasure of meeting David Greenlee in Ohio, he's just the nicest man, but I would give my eye teeth to meet a real live racoon!!! I love animals, ALL of them, and racoons just have a special spot in my heart since I first saw the show. One of these days I'll get to cuddle a baby racoon and I'll be in 7th heaven.