

# 30th Anniversary Special Interview

## Angie Fanfic writer

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

*I saw the original airing, partly in Canada and partly in Hong Kong (except for Season 3), but was unaware that any fandom existed. I borrowed the Season 1 and 2 dvds from the library, when they were first released in 2007 and became hooked all over again. Then I bought all three seasons and wondered what was online. The rest is history.*

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

*I'm fascinated by the Vincent character. He has such lion-like banked strength and sexuality, not quite human, yet all too human, empathic, literate, violent when necessary. What other character on TV had all these qualities? They needed exploring. My first fic was a steamy one, 'Sweet Release', because I felt all that sexuality couldn't be always unsatisfied.*

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

*Naturally, Vincent and Catherine together. They have so many possibilities, so many levels and depths to explore. But I also love developing the Vincent/William one, and Father, as well as introducing my own characters, such as the dwarf Annabelle, the seamstress of the tunnels. We never learned who made those costumes, so I had to create someone.*

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

*I think every writer will tell you that a story is as long as it takes. You can't force it. The characters run away with it and they have to be satisfied. If you try to cut it short, the story is unsatisfying, too long and it drags and is yawn-inducing. Although I write long fic, I prefer the shorter pieces, which are much easier for me because of my journalism background.*

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

*Always. Inspiration comes from many things in real life, or from watching an episode, or even looking at series memorabilia.*

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

*The utopian, yet not divorced from the reality above, aspect of the tunnel world. There are always problems, but theoretically, they are worked out jointly. They rely on helpers to survive - and that is a problem, because where do they draw the line? Who decides if a cash donation, for instance, is to be accepted? And what strings are allowable? What do helpers get out of the relationship, besides a party once a year? Altruism isn't totally believable. They must get something, even if only the knowledge that some day they could retire to the tunnels. Perhaps they're thanking the tunnel people by giving help in return, but that can't account for all of them. So it's fun to speculate.*

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

*I have quite a lot of published poetry and some short fiction. Nothing on the scale of what I've written for B&B though,, which I recently realized has reached over 140 fics, not counting 100 word flash fics, which amount to about 70 as of May 2017. During my career as a journalist I wrote a lot of non-fiction of course. So writing is something I have always enjoyed. I just never got so inspired by any other kind of writing before B&B.*

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

*Generally third person, but I like to explore Vincent's and other character's mental processes as well, so I've experimented from all points of view. Even wrote about the Abyss in the first person. There truly are no limits in fan fiction!*

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

*There's so much about life in the tunnels we don't know. How did they dispose of waste? Where did their food come from? You can't feed dozens of people from a Chinese grocery. Who made the clothing? Where did the materials come from for the clothing. Leather isn't found in garbage dumpsters. How did they wash clothing? How did they deal with damp and dust - and candle smoke? On the other hand, the lack of detail gives fanfic writers plenty of material to explore. I do wish we had been given more helper stories. Although they're essential for the continued existence of the tunnel community, we learn of only a handful.*

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

*Even the episodes I didn't like have some beautiful scenes. The balance was carefully maintained. I'm not fond of the violent episodes, but they had to be there for that balance - after all the main character is conflicted. My least favourite aspect is that the tunnel community seems to expect Vincent to be their champion fighter (China Moon). There's no suggestion that their sentries can fight, and we have to wonder how effective they are, since when there is a serious incursion (Outsiders, Snow), some are killed. All we get in Vincent's defense are platitudes and a pacifist argument from Father - a very unrealistic attitude for a society like that. Changing the ways didn't work against a really dangerous gang.*

*No community like that could rely on one person, even a Vincent, to do all their dirty work. What if he got sick, or badly injured - as happened. Or what did they do when he went to the nameless river? And what is their back-up plan if he can't help? There doesn't seem to be one, and when push came to shove, they chose to abandon all they've built to the invaders (Outsiders, again). This makes no sense. And what happened to all the bodies?*

*When Catherine suddenly enters the scene and also needs his protection, it's more strain on Vincent. Father sees it, but does nothing to address it, except to initially blame Catherine. Of course, plenty of fanfic has been written about exactly this issue.*