

30th Anniversary Special Interview

Odile Fan

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

A little less than 5 years ago, in December 2012, I bought by chance the three DVD boxes. I did not know that series at all. It had been broadcast on French television but I had not seen it at the time. I immediately fell in love with the series. Some months later, I discovered fandom and it's at that point where I really became a "fan".

2. What attracted you to the series?

I have always been interested in fantasy films and the films of Science Fiction. I like what is strange. I like to escape into different worlds. This love story between a lion-man and a lawyer had attracted my attention. Moreover, I have always loved the story of "Beauty and the Beast" since I was a child. This theme of love between two beings dissimilar physically, and yet soul-mates that everything separates, fascinates me.

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

I have not been in the fandom for a long time but it seems to me that over time it has become a big family.

4. What do you enjoy most about the series?

What I love most about the series is the exceptional, extraordinary and almost supernatural bond that unites Catherine and Vincent, as well as the pure and true love, deep and infinite between Catherine and Vincent. This love makes me dream. Everyone dreams of knowing such love. But unfortunately, it does not exist in real life.

I also love so many other things:

- *The contrast between good and evil, light and darkness, the intense contrast between the two worlds of which Catherine and Vincent originated. It is dark below, but here is the light that comes from heart. It is clear above, but it is a merciless and cruel world.*
- *The fact that the series reveres culture in all its forms: adults and children of the below community have access to literature, poetry, music, painting. Culture is not reserved for the rich. It belongs to everyone.*

- *The importance that the series gives to the education of children.*
- *The messages it transmits. They bring hope. There is always a solution, a light in the night. Even in the most dramatic situations, we must never cease to hope. Although the world is cruel, everyone can, at his level, make his contribution, no matter how small, to make it better.*
- *Positive thoughts it broadcasts: sharing, giving, solidarity, kindness, mercy, love, happiness, trust, tolerance, respect, equality ...*
- *The philosophical themes it addresses through the eyes of others; The outer and inner beauty; Self-acceptance; What is to be a human being? The foundations of a society; The value of money versus human values; The price of love; Life choices; Forgiveness.*

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

I think everything has already been done: conventions, fanfics, fanarts ...

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

It's variable. Between 30 and 40 hours a month, a few times more when I'm on vacation. I read fanfics in English (it takes me a while to translate them in French) and I go on Facebook to keep in touch with the other fans. I dedicate a lot of my free time to the series.

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

I met a lot of fans when I went to the Minneapolis Convention in 2014. There were American, Australian, Canadian...and more. Then I spent a few days in Paris with European fans. I also participate in the European chat which takes place every Tuesday at 8:30 pm on Skype. We watch episodes at the same time and we comment on them. We also talk about our lives, about what we do.

8. What is your favourite memory as a fan?

My trip to Minneapolis. This was the first time I went to the US. It was wonderful to discover both a country I did not know and participate in a convention. And also to meet fans. I came back enchanted (especially since I had the privilege of wearing one of Vincent's coats).

9. How has B&B changed your life?

BatB has opened all the doors of the world to me: I have met interesting and friendly people, who resemble me in certain respects because they too have been touched by the messages it disseminates and by the story of the love of Catherine and Vincent.

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

I wish Linda Hamilton had not left the series. I would like the series to have had many seasons. I wish it had lasted until the marriage of Vincent and Catherine. I wish they had children and see their whole family in many episodes.