

## *Fan fiction*

### **De nieuwe manier van schrijven!**



**Rinske van Oudenaren  
3212459  
BA-scriptie Media en Educatie  
Docent: Eef Masson  
Inleverdatum: 1 juli 2010**

## De inhoud

<b>Wat?</b>	<b>Waar?</b>
Voorkant	Blz. 1
Inhoud	Blz. 2
Inleiding	Blz. 3
Methodologie	Blz. 5
Indeling	Blz. 6
Theoretisch kader	Blz. 7
Hoofdstuk 1: <i>Twilight en Fanfiction.net</i>	Blz. 8
Hoofdstuk 2: De Bèta's	Blz. 10
Hoofdstuk 3: De Schrijvers	Blz. 13
Hoofdstuk 4: De Lezers	Blz. 15
Conclusie	Blz. 17
Literatuurlijst	Blz. 19
Bijlage: interviews	Blz. 20

## Inleiding

Populaire cultuur en fans zijn twee fenomenen die onlosmakelijk met elkaar verbonden zijn. Populaire boeken en films zoals *Harry Potter* en *The Lord of the Rings* worden gevolgd door miljoenen fans. Op het internet zijn deze fans terug te vinden op fansites waar ze meer dan eens erg actief zijn en bijvoorbeeld tekeningen maken van hetgeen waar zij fan van zijn ('fanart'), of plaatjes, nieuws etc. verzamelen om het vervolgens online te delen met andere fans.

Behalve met deze activiteiten zijn sommige fans ook actief bezig met *fan fiction*. *Fan fictions* (ofwel 'fanfics') zijn verhalen die geschreven worden door fans die met hun verhaal voortbouwen op het originele werk waar zij fan van zijn.

Sheenagh Pugh beschrijft in haar boek *'The Democratic Genre: Fan fiction in a Literary Context'* *fan fiction* als: '[...] i.e. fiction based on a situation and characters originally created by someone else.'<sup>1</sup>

Iemand die *fan fiction* schrijft, schrijft dus verhalen die hij zelf verzonnen heeft, maar maakt daarbij gebruik van verhaallijnen of personages uit andermans werk. *Fan fiction* auteurs kunnen hun inspiratie halen uit games, boeken, films, animé enzovoorts.

Pugh schrijft in haar boek dat fan fiction de snelst groeiende vorm van schrijven in de wereld is.<sup>2</sup> Een bekende en overkoepelende fan fiction site, Fanfiction.net, heeft duizenden leden, waaronder lezers, schrijvers en beta's<sup>3</sup> Bèta's zijn de controleposten van de schrijvers. Wanneer een schrijver een fanfic wil plaatsen, is het gebruikelijk dat hij eerst door de bèta laat controleren of er fouten zitten in de stijl, grammatica of verhaallijn. Belangrijk om te weten is dat dit niet betekent dat bèta's alleen maar werk nakijken; vrijwel alle bèta's zijn ook zelf schrijvers.

Naar aanleiding van de populariteit van *fan fiction* vraag ik mij af welke ervaring *fan fiction* te weeg brengt bij de fans om het zo geliefd te maken. En nog specifiek: Wat ervaren deze fans wanneer ze in aanraking komen met fan fiction? En is die ervaring bij beta's, schrijvers en lezers hetzelfde? De hoofdvraag die uit deze vragen voortvloeit is:

---

<sup>1</sup> Pugh, Sheenagh. *The Democratic Genre: Fan Fiction in a Literary Context*. Glasgow: Seren, 2005. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Pugh, Sheenagh. *The Democratic Genre: Fan Fiction in a Literary Context*. Glasgow: Seren, 2005. Flaptekst.

<sup>3</sup> "Fanfiction.net" 15-06-2010 [www.Fanfiction.net](http://www.Fanfiction.net)

‘Hoe ervaren *Twilight* -beta’s, -schrijvers en -lezers (15 - 25 jaar) *Twilight* fan fiction, en waarin verschilt die ervaring onderling?’

Wetenschappelijk gezien kan dit een interessante vraag zijn omdat het ons een inzicht geeft in hoe jongeren omgaan en leven met de populaire cultuur en hoe ze die cultuur creatief verwerken in hun fanfics ofwel in hun fan fiction sites.

Daarnaast zijn er al verschillende boeken geschreven over hoe fans met *fan fiction* omgaan, maar relatief weinig over hoe ze het ervaren. In sommige boeken wordt er wel gesproken over de ervaring van de fans, maar dan slechts heel kort en binnen het onderwerp van dat boek. In dit onderzoek wil ik dieper ingaan op de ervaring van de fan om te kijken wat die ervaring nou eigenlijk is.

Ik heb het onderzoek uitgevoerd met behulp van een publieksonderzoek. Ik heb binnen de gekozen leeftijdscategorie twaalf respondenten gezocht, en daar twee gescheiden interviews aan afgenomen. Hierover meer bij de methodologie.

Omdat dit onderzoek een geringe omvang heeft, is het voor mij onmogelijk om alle leeftijdsgroepen te onderzoeken. Daarom heb ik gekozen om alleen te kijken naar jongeren tussen de 15 en 25 jaar.

Ik heb mijn respondenten gezocht op Fanfiction.net. Dit omdat het een bekende en overkoepelende fan fiction site is waar vele (duizenden) fans vertoeven. Ik heb mijn respondenten gezocht in de *Twilight* sectie van de site omdat het gezien de grootte van de site onmogelijk is om alle secties te behandelen in één onderzoek

Verder is hier sprake van semi-diepte-interviews, omdat alle interviews via de mail hebben plaatsgevonden. Ik heb de respondenten dus niet ‘live’ kunnen interviewen. Dit komt omdat ik een onderzoek doe over een online fenomeen. Hetgeen betekent dat mijn respondenten zich waar dan ook bevinden. Het is voor mij dus onmogelijk om al deze mensen op te zoeken, omdat zij zich overal op de wereld kunnen bevinden.

Het is verder belangrijk om te weten dat, omdat dit een kleinschalig onderzoek is, dit onderzoek niet als representatief voor alle *Fan fiction*-beta’s, -lezers en -schrijvers kan worden beschouwd. Ik hoop dat het een aanzet zal zijn voor een groter onderzoek naar dit onderwerp.

## Methodologie

Dit onderzoek wordt voornamelijk uitgevoerd met behulp van semi-diepte-interviews met *Twilight*-lezers, -schrijvers en -bèta's. Door een oproep te plaatsen op een forum binnen Fanfiction.net heb ik mijn respondenten geworven. Ik heb bij het selecteren van de respondenten alleen naar de leeftijd en niet naar culturele achtergrond of andere factoren gekeken. Als ik dat wel zou doen, dan zou ik ook moeten onderzoeken wat voor rol die extra factoren spelen in de ervaringen en daar is in dit onderzoek te weinig ruimte voor. Wel zijn bij wijze van toeval alle respondenten vrouwelijk.<sup>4</sup>

Ik heb geprobeerd om zoveel mogelijk diepte in de interviews te krijgen door de vragen zo open mogelijk te stellen. Ook heb ik de respondenten aangemoedigd om zo uitgebreid mogelijk te zijn en gewoon te zeggen wat in ze op kwam.

Verder heb ik geprobeerd om de vragen neutraal te houden om zo de respondenten met de vragen geen antwoorden in de mond te leggen.

Ik heb in totaal 12 interviews afgenomen waarvan 4 met lezers, 4 met schrijvers en 4 met bèta's. Ik heb twee interviews per persoon afgelegd. Het eerste interview was voor elke onderzoeksgroep hetzelfde. Die vragen heb ik op 23 mei 2010 verstuurd. Hierdoor kon ik nagaan of de verschillende groepen op dezelfde vragen anders antwoordden.<sup>5</sup>

Vervolgens heb ik in een tweede interview vragen gesteld die per groep verschillen, om zo beter achter de specifieke motieven te komen van lezers, schrijvers en bèta's. Dit interview is verstuurd op 7 juni 2010.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Bij een grootschaliger onderzoek zal het interessant zijn om ook naar de mannelijke *fan fiction*-fans te kijken en ook zou het interessant zijn om te onderzoeken wat voor rol het geslacht speelt bij *fan fiction*.

<sup>5</sup> Voorbeelden van vragen zijn: Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fan fiction? Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it?

<sup>6</sup> Voorbeelden van vragen zijn: Voor de schrijvers: You write fanfictions now. Do you have an ambition to become a writer someday? Voor de bèta's: What motivated you to become a beta? Voor de lezers: Do you aspire to be a writer / beta some day?

De antwoorden op de interviews zal ik in de komende hoofdstukken gaan verwerken. Vervolgens zal ik met behulp van de literatuur de antwoorden proberen te verhelderen.

### **Indeling**

Omdat het onderzoek gebaseerd zal zijn op interviews met *Twilight fan fiction* fans is het van belang dat er eerst verhelderd wordt wat *Twilight fan fiction* is. Het is om deze reden dat ik dit onderzoek zal beginnen met een verklarend hoofdstuk over *Twilight* en *fan fiction*.

Ook zal ik in dit hoofdstuk een korte schets geven van de site Fanfiction.net, waar ik in dit onderzoek de proefpersonen voor mijn interviews vandaan zal halen. Ik zal dit doen omdat ik meerdere keren in mijn onderzoek naar de site zal verwijzen. Het is daarom belangrijk dat de lezer een beeld heeft van datgene waarnaar ik verwijs.

Hoofdstukken twee, drie en vier zullen dezelfde indeling kennen.. Deze hoofdstukken zijn elk in drie paragrafen verdeeld. In het eerste deel zal ik de hoofdlijnen van de antwoorden van de respondenten weergeven. Vervolgens zal ik in het tweede deel de antwoorden proberen te verklaren vanuit een psychologische en sociologische invalshoek.

In de conclusie zal ik eerst kort de resultaten van het onderzoek samenvatten. Vervolgens zal ik doorgaan met het beantwoorden van de hoofdvraag, door eerst het eerste gedeelte van de hoofdvraag te behandelen: 'Hoe ervaren *Twilight* bèta's, schrijvers en lezers (15 - 25 jaar) *Twilight fan fiction*?' en vervolgens te kijken of en hoe deze ervaring onderling verschilt.

## Theoretisch kader

De literatuur die ik in mijn onderzoek gebruik, zal vooral dienen als hulp bij het verklaren van de antwoorden van de respondenten. Hieronder staan de boeken die ik zal gebruiken kort geïllustreerd. Ook zal ik uitleggen waarom ik juist deze boeken nodig heb.

Rebecca W. Black. Black is zelf actief in de *fan fiction* community en heeft op grond van deze ervaring meerdere boeken over het onderwerp geschreven. Wat al haar publicaties gemeen hebben, is dat ze allemaal de nadruk leggen op de educatieve functie die *fan fiction* zou kunnen vervullen. In haar boek 'Adolescents and Online Fan Fiction'<sup>7</sup> besteedt ze uitgebreid aandacht aan identiteitsvorming, educatie en geletterdheid.

Ik verwacht dat ik dit boek nodig zal hebben wanneer ik de antwoorden van de bèta's moet analyseren. Omdat bèta's aan andere fans literaire adviezen geven, vermoed ik dat ze hierover iets zullen zeggen in hun antwoorden. Black zal dan nodig zijn om hun antwoorden te verduidelijken.

Sheenagh Pugh besteedt in haar boek 'The Democratic Genre, Fan Fiction in a Literary Context'<sup>8</sup> uitsluitend aandacht aan de taalkwaliteit van de *fan fictions*. Hoe worden ze geschreven? Hoe steekt een *fan fiction* taalkundig in elkaar. Ik denk dat dit boek ook erg handig zal zijn bij mijn hoofdstuk over de bèta's, omdat hier ook veel over taalkunde gesproken wordt.

---

<sup>7</sup> Black, Rebecca W. *Adolescents and Online Fan Fiction*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Pugh, Sheenagh. *The Democratic Genre: Fan Fiction in a Literary Context*. Glasgow: Seren, 2005.

## Hoofdstuk 1, *Twilight* en Fan fiction.net

Zoals eerder vermeld, zal ik dit hoofdstuk beginnen met een korte schets van de romanserie *Twilight*, vervolgens zal ik het fenomeen *fan fiction* nader toelichten, om te eindigen met een beschrijving van de site Fanfiction.net.

### *Twilight*

*Twilight* is een romanserie van vier delen geschreven door Stephanie Meyer. Het eerste boek, *Twilight* genaamd, werd gepubliceerd in 2005. Het vervolg, *New Moon*, kwam uit in 2006. Daarna volgde *Eclipse*, in 2007 en de serie eindigde met *Breaking Dawn* in 2008. De boeken worden op dit moment ook verfilmd (*Twilight* en *New Moon* zijn al verfilmd, *Eclipse* komt in juni 2010 uit en *Breaking Dawn* moet nog gemaakt worden).

De serie gaat over de 17-jarige Bella (ik-figuur) die naar Forks verhuist en daar Edward ontmoet. Edward is een erg knappe jongen en het duurt niet lang voordat de twee verliefd zijn op elkaar. Er is echter iets vreemds met Edward en voordat Bella goed beseft wat er aan de hand is, blijkt Edward een vampier te zijn die leeft van dierenbloed. Edward is alleen niet de enige vampier en het merendeel leeft wel van mensenbloed. Deze boekenserie vertelt het verhaal van hoe Edward en Bella, stapelverliefd, zich als een koppel staande houden in een wereld vol vampiers die allemaal hunkeren naar Bella's bloed en haar einde.

### *Fanfiction.net*

Op het internet zijn veel verschillende soorten *fan fiction* sites. Veel sites zijn persoonlijke sites van *fan fiction*-auteurs die daar hun eigen *fan fictions* plaatsen. Vaak hebben deze persoonlijke *fan fiction* sites betrekking op een of twee verschillende canons. Met een canon bedoel ik het originele werk, dus in dit geval *Twilight*, dat gebruikt wordt door *fan fiction* fans. Een canon is dus het originele werk van de originele schrijver.

Er zijn echter ook enkele sites die een database van *fan fictions* aanleggen. Deze *fan fiction* sites hebben een overkoepelend karakter, in die zin dat ze niet slechts betrekking hebben op een of twee canons, maar op elke canon die de gebruiker wenst. Indien de canon nog niet op de site te vinden is, mag de gebruiker deze aanmelden. Wanneer een gebruiker een canon aanmeldt, wordt deze aanmelding altijd gehonoreerd tenzij de canon al aangemeld

is (anders zouden er dubbele canons op de site voorkomen en dat zou de site onoverzichtelijk maken).

Een site die alle canons toestaat, krijgt hierdoor ook een grote database. Zo heeft de canon *Twilight* op de overkoepelende site, [www.Fanfiction.net](http://www.Fanfiction.net), al 147,824 *fan fictions*. Dit in vergelijking met de persoonlijke sites waar slechts enkele tientallen *fan fictions* op staan. Op Fanfiction.net zijn honderden verschillende canons te vinden. Op deze manier kan een database van een overkoepelende site enorme proporties aannemen.

Op Fanfiction.net worden *fan fiction*-lezers ook in staat gesteld om ‘reviews’ (commentaar) achter te laten bij de *fan fictions* die ze lezen. Ze kunnen hiermee aan de schrijvers laten weten of ze de *fan fiction* goed vonden of niet en eventuele opbouwende kritiek leveren. Ik zal in hoofdstuk 3 verder ingaan op de reviews.

## Hoofdstuk 2: De Bèta's

In dit hoofdstuk behandel ik de antwoorden van de bèta's op de interviews . De respondenten bij de bèta's zijn Ayana (15 jaar oud), Case (15 jaar oud) en Hannah (16 jaar oud).

Bij het analyseren van de antwoorden constateer ik dat er veel sociale en educatieve elementen een rol spelen bij de ervaring van de bèta's. Ik zal hieronder ingaan op de sociale elementen. De educatieve elementen behandel ik in hoofdstuk 5 bij de schrijvers omdat bij de schrijvers de educatieve elementen de grootste rol spelen, terwijl bij de bèta's de sociale elementen vaker genoemd worden.

Een voorbeeld van een sociaal aspect dat ik regelmatig in de antwoorden tegenkom zijn de forums. Hierbij gaat het niet om de forums zelf, maar om de interactie die daar plaatsvindt tussen de leden van Fanfiction.net. In deze forums zijn zowel *fan fiction* -beta's, -schrijvers als -lezers te vinden. De forums dienen binnen Fanfiction.net dan ook als een ontmoetingsplek voor deze drie groepen. Er wordt in de forums gediscussieerd over *fan fiction* maar ook over de boekenserie van de *Twilight saga* zelf. Daarnaast worden er ook gesprekken gevoerd over het alledaagse leven. Uit de antwoorden van de bèta's blijkt dat er veel waarde wordt gehecht aan de forums. Case zegt in het interview: 'It is a fun experience and you get to meet people from other countries. It is wonderful.'<sup>9</sup> Wanneer Hannah wordt gevraagd wat ze het meeste zal missen al zou Fanfiction.net een tijd uit de lucht zijn, dan noemt ze als eerste de forums, omdat 'That's the place to meet new people but also to speak with my *fan fiction* friends'.<sup>10</sup>

Ik vraag mij hierbij af wat deze forums zo geschikt maakt om sociale relaties te onderhouden. En hoe komt het dat fans zoals de bèta's zich zo aangetrokken voelen tot deze forums? Becca Schaffner gaat niet specifiek in op de forums binnen *fan fiction* maar geeft wel een verklaring waarom sociale relaties een grote rol spelen bij *fan fiction*:

'Community and friendship come naturally in fandom, because the fan world is both free and reciprocal. It is ingrained with practices of sharing and responding, of reviewing what you read, of giving fanfics as gifts, making reading recommendations to friends (and recommendations, not automated searches, are the final word in finding good stuff), and "beta reading" friends' stories before they're posted. Although, as with any community, fighting

---

<sup>9</sup> Case, interview 2, vraag 2.

<sup>10</sup> Hannah, interview 1, vraag 4.

can occur, fandom at its best allows every member to add to the collective enthusiasm, analysis, and creativity.’<sup>11</sup>

Als wij deze redenering aannemen, dan staat hier ook meteen de verklaring waarom de forums zo belangrijk zijn voor de bèta’s. Volgens Schaffner zijn sociale relaties binnen een fandom zo’n succes omdat de interacties binnen een fandom zo interactief zijn, maar ook omdat een fandom ruimte biedt voor creativiteit, analyse en feedback.

De forums op Fanfiction.net voldoen aan deze criteria. Zij bieden ruimte voor discussie en het delen van bestanden. Wanneer er een antwoord op een vorig bericht wordt gegeven, krijgen de betrokkenen meteen een mail om ze zo in de gelegenheid te stellen weer te reageren. Daarnaast bieden de forums ook de ruimte voor rollenspellen.

De rollenspellen zijn onder de bèta’s ook erg populair. Case licht in dit citaat de rollenspellen en forums toe en beschrijft ook hoe zij ze ervaart:

‘These are both my reasons for participating in forums, in one I get to discuss one of my favourite series and have fun doing so and in the other I get to roleplay. Roleplaying, in my case, is where you create your own character and write them - as if writing a story - except that you do it with other people and their characters; you can never be too sure what will happen! I find roleplaying an excellent way to get inspired and it definitely helps improve my writing. Therefore, I find the forums a great way to 'meet' new people and to become a better writer!’<sup>12</sup>

In dit citaat komen al drie motieven voor haar participatie in de rollenspellen en de forums naar voren. De eerste die zij noemt is dat zij haar inspireert. Case schrijft, net als veel andere bèta’s, ook *fan fictions* en vindt in de rollenspellen haar inspiratie voor nieuwe *fan fictions*.

Haar tweede motief is dat de forums en rollenspellen haar manier van schrijven verbeteren en dat ze haar tot een betere schrijver maken. De forums worden door de leden ook gebruikt voor feedback en discussies en het is dus niet vreemd dat Case aangeeft dat ze van de forums leert. Daarnaast wordt er ook bij de rollenspellen veel geschreven en dankzij het interactieve

---

<sup>11</sup> Schaffner, Becca. “In Defense of FanFiction” *The Horn Book Magazine*. 613-618.

<sup>12</sup> Hannah, interview 2, vraag 2.

karakter van rollenspellen zal zij ook direct feedback krijgen wanneer haar manier van schrijven niet correct is.

Als laatste motief geeft ze aan dat de forums en de rollenspellen haar in staat stellen om nieuwe mensen te leren kennen. Dat de forums van Fanfiction.net een goede achtergrond bieden voor het ontwikkelen van sociale relaties heb ik al eerder aangetoond. De rollenspellen draaien op sociale interactie omdat ieder constant op de acties van de ander reageert. Wanneer fan A besluit om haar personage een actie te laten ondernemen, zal een andere fan hier met een andere actie op reageren. Rollenspellen zijn door deze interactie erg geschikt voor het ontwikkelen van sociale relaties.

### Hoofdstuk 3: De schrijvers

In dit hoofdstuk zal ik mij gaan richten op de antwoorden van de schrijvers. De respondenten bij de schrijvers zijn Daniëlle (16 jaar oud), Corinne (25 jaar oud), Ella (onbekende leeftijd) en Dia (18 jaar oud).

Bij de schrijvers zie ik dat er veel aandacht is voor reviews en educatieve elementen. Deze aspecten zijn niet los van elkaar te bespreken omdat ze sterk met elkaar in verbinding staan, aangezien een review an sich al educatief te noemen is. Met behulp van reviews laten de lezers van de *fan fiction* namelijk aan de schrijver weten wat er goed of fout aan was. Wat vonden ze van de spelling? De grammatica? De schrijfstijl? De verhaallijn? Al deze aspecten die zo belangrijk zijn voor het schrijven van een verhaal worden bekritiseerd met behulp van de reviews. De schrijvers lezen deze reviews en trekken daar hun voordeel van door ervan te leren. Het volgende citaat van Ella licht toe hoe de schrijvers met de reviews omgaan:

“[...] You can also learn about your writing from honest reviews – they can tell you if you need to brush up on anything, they can tell you if you need to work on your OCs and stop them from being Mary Sues...One can learn that you have to work hard and you must accept bad reviews, move on, and try to use the advice in them, instead of getting angry or upset. One can also learn how to develop their own style of writing and more about the fandom they are writing for.”<sup>13</sup>

Het concept van beter leren schrijven met behulp van *fan fiction* is op zijn minst interessant te noemen. Door op deze manier met opbouwende kritiek om te gaan en door te oefenen lijkt het wel alsof de fans hun leerproces in eigen handen nemen. Ze zijn gemotiveerd en zijn erg bezig zichzelf met behulp van reviews en bèta's te verbeteren. Maar wat beweegt deze fans om zo geconcentreerd met schrijven bezig te zijn? Ella zegt hierop:

“If someone takes their time to give you some tips, it's good to appreciate it, even if they didn't praise your story too much. After all, even though we write for ourselves, we also write for them. We WANT them to like our stories. Our goal should be to please our readers as much as we can. Therefore we have to improve ourselves and listen to their critique. After all,

---

<sup>13</sup> Ella, interview 2, vraag 5.

what is more rewarding than having your own fans because they love the story YOU wrote? I once wrote a *fanfic* and received more than 500 reviews!!! And people started following me around, reading my other stories because they loved what I wrote. Truly, a readers appreciation is the most magical thing!”

Wanneer je een *fan fiction* leest, staat vaak aan het einde van het verhaal een verzoek van de schrijver om reviews. Schrijvers vragen daar om opbouwende kritiek, of de lezers het verhaal leuk vonden of niet en soms vragen schrijvers ook suggesties voor het verloop van het verhaal. Deze verzoeken bevestigen Ella's opmerking dat schrijvers het erg belangrijk vinden of het verhaal in de smaak van de lezers valt. De vraag is echter dan hoe de lezer de *fan fiction* beoordeelt. Waar kijken lezers naar wanneer ze *fan fiction* beoordelen? Rebecca W. Black zegt hierover:

“Appreciation for a text seems to be contingent on other elements such as a particular pop cultural aesthetic readers' affiliation with the characters, the author's ability to create engaging story lines, as well as the author's ability and willingness to network and interact with other fans.”<sup>14</sup>

Black licht dit citaat toe door de nadruk te leggen op het vermogen van de schrijver om een goede verhaallijn neer te zetten. Daarnaast, zegt ze, zijn lezers verrassend kritisch wanneer het gaat om grammatica, spelling en stijlfouten. Wanneer een verhaal technisch niet goed in elkaar zit, zullen de lezers al snel verwijzen naar de hulp van een bèta of een zeer negatief review geven.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Black, Rebecca W. *Adolescents and Online Fan Fiction*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2008. 110.

<sup>15</sup> Idem., blz.119.

## Hoofdstuk 4: De lezers

Dit hoofdstuk zal gaan over de antwoorden van de *fan fiction* lezers. Het gaat hier om Missy (19 jaar oud), Carrie (21 jaar oud), OopriO (18 jaar oud) en Babe Prior (23 oud). Ik zal voor het gemak in dit hoofdstuk spreken over de *readers* wanneer ik het over de *fan fiction* lezers heb. Ik maak deze keuze omdat ik anders bang ben dat de lezer van deze scriptie in de war raakt wanneer ik het over ‘de lezer’ heb.

Iets wat tijdens de interviews van de *readers* vaak naar voren kwam, is dat zij *fan fiction* zagen als een vervanging van het boek of de krant. Alle vier de respondenten geven aan elke dag *fan fiction* te lezen en doordat *fan fiction* online staat, is het altijd voor ze te bereiken. Wanneer ze de deur uitgaan nemen ze gewoon hun lap top mee en gaan ze onderweg of in de pauze zitten lezen. OopriO zegt hierover:

“It is my little happy bubble, when I delve into my *fan fiction*. I've been on vacation, taking my laptop, reading even in my hotel.”<sup>16</sup>

Niet alleen blijkt uit dit citaat dat *fan fiction* de krant en de televisie vervangen heeft, maar ook blijkt er een grote mate van dedicatie uit het citaat. OopriO is hier niet de enige in. Bij de vraag wat ze zou doen als *fan fiction* niet langer online zou staan zei Babe Prior het volgende:

“OMG,” (betekent O My God) “ I'll only NOT be able to when I'm dead. This won't stop. Believe that! This fills a hole somehow, one I never knew was there. I live for those update emails, new chapters, or new stories from my fave authors. It's a win-win situation. I DO know when I don't have my fan-fic I am aware of it! Miss it bad.”<sup>17</sup>

Wij kunnen uit deze citaten opmaken dat *fan fictions* voor de *readers* de boeken vervangen hebben en dat *readers* erg gehecht zijn aan *fan fiction*. De vraag die ik mij hierbij stel is waar deze affectie vandaan komt? En hoe kan het dat *fan fiction* boeken gaat vervangen? Missy zegt hierop:

---

<sup>16</sup> OopriO, interview 1, vraag 3.

<sup>17</sup> Babe Prior, interview 1, vraag 2.

“I am a Twilight fan. I read all four books over and over again for four straight months. I just couldn't let go of those characters. [...]! With *fan fiction* I love to see how other people see the Twilight Characters and it is such a great escape for me. I feel like some *fan fictions* I've read have filled the hole left in the original Twilight Saga. Sometimes the *fan fictions* are even better than the books!”<sup>18</sup>

Hieruit kunnen wij constateren dat *readers* in eerste plaats vooral *Twilight* fans zijn. De respondenten geven ook alle vier aan *fan fiction* te lezen, omdat ze een grote fan zijn van *Twilight*.<sup>19</sup> Daarnaast lezen ze *fan fictions* omdat ze meer willen dan de romanserie ze gaf. Ze konden de karakters niet loslaten en wilden dat de gaten die de romanserie had opgevuld zien. *Fan fiction* vult deze gaten voor ze. Katherine E. Morrissey benadrukt in haar essay ‘Fanning The Flames of Romance: An Exploration of Fan Fiction and the Romance Novel’ dat *fan fiction* een toevoeging kan zijn aan het originele boek. Zij zegt hier:

“Fan fiction stories take advantage of existing pre-created fantasy worlds, deepening the experience and allowing readers greater immersion (and greater time) with the universe and its characters.”<sup>20</sup>

*Fan fictions* zijn dus bij de *readers* onder andere zo geliefd omdat ze een toevoeging zijn aan datgene waar de *readers* fan van zijn. Dankzij *fan fiction* stopt het boek niet als het uit is, maar gaat het door zolang de *reader* dat maar wilt. Er kunnen gaten worden ingevuld, karakters kunnen verder worden uitwerkt en de verhaallijn kan worden voortgezet.

In dit opzicht biedt *fan fiction* ook meer dan een boek. Daarnaast, merkt Babe Prior op, zijn *fan fictions* in tegenstelling tot boeken gratis. Ook kan je maar een beperkt aantal boeken met je meenemen, maar als je de laptop meeneemt heb je duizenden *fan fictions* bij je. Om deze redenen worden boeken door *readers* vervangen door *fan fictions*.

---

<sup>18</sup> Missy, interview 1, vraag 1.

<sup>19</sup> Missy, OrpiO, Babe Prior en Carrie, interview 1, vraag 7.

<sup>20</sup> Morrissey, Katherine E. “Fanning The Flames of Romance: An Exploration of Fan Fiction and the Romance Novel.” *Aladin Research Commons* 25 april 2008. 20 juni 2010  
< [http://dSPACE.wrlc.org/bitstream/1961/6198/1/17\\_etd\\_kem82.pdf](http://dSPACE.wrlc.org/bitstream/1961/6198/1/17_etd_kem82.pdf) > 24

## Conclusie

In deze scriptie heb ik gesproken over de ervaringen van *fan fiction* -bèta's, -schrijvers en -lezers. Het is belangrijk om te weten dat ik niet alle ervaringen heb kunnen noteren. Vanwege de beperkte omvang van deze scriptie was dat niet mogelijk. Wel heb ik bij elke groep de belangrijkste ervaringen besproken.

Zo kwam bij de bèta-groep naar voor dat zij *fan fiction* vooral als een sociale ervaring zagen en bleek bij de schrijversgroep dat zij *fan fiction* vooral zagen als iets om van te leren. De laatste groep, de *fan fiction*-lezers, gaf aan dat zij *fan fiction* zagen als een vervanging van of een aanvulling op de originele boekenserie.

Er waren veel overeenkomsten. Alle drie de groepen gaven aan dat zij zowel de sociale ervaringen en de educatieve ervaringen beleefden. Elke groep gaf het belang van reviews aan en ook sprak elke groep over hun sociale contacten op Fanfiction.net. Toch waren er ook duidelijk verschillen. Zo lag bij de bèta-groep de nadruk meer op de sociale ervaring dan op de educatieve ervaring en was het bij de schrijversgroep andersom. Het idee dat *fan fiction* het boek kan vervangen was uniek voor de lezers. Ook was de dedicatie die de *fan fiction*-lezers toonden, groter dan die van de andere twee groepen.

Toch moet ik het daarbij laten met betreft de verschillen. Het is dan ook moeilijk om de drie groepen te scheiden. Tijdens de interviews is gebleken dat de groepen meer functioneren als een grote groep in plaats van drie verscheidene. Lezers zijn soms ook schrijvers, bèta's zijn op een uitzondering na altijd schrijvers en iedereen leest. Voor een groep die zoveel verschillende achtergronden kent (bijvoorbeeld cultuur, etnisch) lijkt het soms wel erg op een homogene groep. Het leek soms alsof iedereen het met elkaar eens was.

Maar daar ligt ook het mooie van *fan fiction*. Iedereen van de *Twilight-fan fiction* sectie deelt dezelfde passie; namelijk *Twilight*. Daarnaast hebben wij uit deze scriptie geleerd dat *fan fiction* veel te bieden heeft. Je kan er van leren, je kan er vrienden maken en ook is het onbeperkt. Deze mensen zijn fan van *Twilight* en op deze manier is het verhaal voor hun nooit af.

Omdat deze scriptie met betrekking tot omvang niet groot is, kon mijn onderzoek dat ook niet zijn. Veel aspecten zijn onbelicht gebleven. Welke rol speelt etniciteit bij *fan fiction*? En welke rol speelt het geslacht? Verder was ook de groep te klein om echt representatief te zijn. Ik hoop dan ook dat dit onderzoek een aanleiding mag zijn tot een groter onderzoek. Naar mijn mening is namelijk aangetoond dat *fan fiction* ons op meerdere vlakken veel te bieden heeft (educatief, sociaal) en daarom dan ook een groter onderzoek waard is.

## Literatuurlijst

Black, Rebecca W. *Adolescents and Online Fan Fiction*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2008.

Fanfiction.net, <<http://www.Fanfiction.net>>.

Morrissey, Katherine E. "Fanning The Flames of Romance: An Exploration of Fan Fiction and the Romance Novel." *Aladin Research Commons* 25 april 2008. 20 juni 2010  
< [http://dspace.wrlc.org/bitstream/1961/6198/1/17\\_etd\\_kem82.pdf](http://dspace.wrlc.org/bitstream/1961/6198/1/17_etd_kem82.pdf)> .

Pugh, Sheenagh. *The Democratic Genre: Fan Fiction in a Literary Context*. Glasgow: Seren, 2005

Schaffner, Becca. "In Defense of FanFiction" *The Horn Book Magazine*.

## **Bijlage: de interviews**

*Ayana interview 1:*

- 1. Please give me your name (doesn't have to be your real name, but at the very least something that will tell me who is answering this interview), your age and tell me what kind of fanfiction you read (Twilight and maybe other canons?)**

My name is Ayana Sicheri, I am currently 15 years of age, soon to be 16 in July the seventh Year and I love to read twilight fanfictions. The names and the places are all so familiar and comfortable to me, so I just stick with that although I may do Harry Potter or something else of that nature soon.

- 2. Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fanfiction. How did you come to know of it's existence? What were your first impressions? Why did you choose to continue with reading/writing fanfiction? If you don't remember exactly, then just tell me what you do know or otherwise tell me what your reasons are for continuing reading/writing fanfiction at this very moment.**

I was accidently welcomed to fanfiction, during my twilight obsession (which I am still currently in) I was typing twilight into Google, I found twilight fanfiction and clicked on it. I immediately loved it. For the last couple of months I had story ideas already in my head and I was like, 'this is perfect'. I continued just because I fell in love with it.

- 3. At what moment in the day do you mostly read or write fanfiction? And how do you start? How often do you write/read fanfiction?**

Depending on what day it is or what time of the year it is I will write at different times. Actually, I write my stories 24/7 usually but during the weeks of school from 3-9 is when I'll update, but on holidays, weekends, and summer, I will either write in the morning when I wake up or late at night because I will be busy with friends, family, etc.

- 4. If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it? If yes, then why? If no, then why not?**

Yes, I would 100% miss it, people don't know how much fanfiction is a part of my daily life. I conjure stories up in my mind all the time, I'm always looking for a good fanfiction to read, I'm trying to always post stories. I would miss it terribly.

- 5. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? If yes, what does it add to your way of living or your emotional state?**

I think it does bring something special to my life. Without fanfiction I think I would be very different. I think I've learned a lot from the stories even, how other people think, life lessons I have not gone through. Writing makes me happy and I love thinking "What if?" I love making a whole new story different than the original one yet the same and not having to go to jail for copyright crap.

- 6. Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If yes, what kind of arguments would you use? If not, why not?**

Yes, I do recommend it to my friends but unfortunately not many enjoy writing or reading. =( But I would tell them how you can meet several new people from them reviewing your stories or joining a forum. And also I love that special feeling I got the first time I posted a story, how I typed it into google and thought "Wow, something I actually made is on here." And I love how I'll post at night and go to bed to wake up and find some reviews to tell me how they love my stories. I love how some person, some where in the world, some one I don;t even know could be touched by my stories and can;t wait for me to update and is watching for it to come.

**7. Do you read or write fanfiction because you are a fan of the canon or because you like fanfiction itself. Would you also be able to write or read fanfiction about another canon?**

I think its mainly the canon. I absolutely love twilight, it was always in my mind and I was even making stories before I knew fanfiction existed. Although I have yet to post that story, it was were my writings for twilight came from. I probably could write another canon but it would have to be a canon I absolutely LOVE not just something thats okay, I have to LOVE it to do it. Otherwise my inspiration is zapped from me.

*Babe-Prior interview 1:*

1. My name is Beverly (on fan/fic as Babe Pryor), age 23, mainly Twilight fan/fic. There are thousands of stories, and I enjoy the different twists and turns of the characters in each of the stories. I feel like some I've read have filled the hole left in the original Twilight Saga, by them making it PG rated. I go for the M rated fan/fic's. I checked out a few other's but still am going through the Twi/fan/fics. I have begun 3 different stories of my own, needing a block of available time to really get more into that.

2. I was introduced to fan/fic via Twitter! 1st story I read blew me away, Age of Consent. BEFORE they edited out all the good stuff. After that I couldn't get enough. It is my little happy bubble, when I delve into my fan/fic..I've been on vacation, taking my laptop, reading even in my hotel.

3. I read in the early am, while drinking coffee, I don't read the local newspaper anymore. I dj on blip, and tweet on twitter as "Lovebreath". On blip I have over 2500 listeners, I'm heavily into music, which works out good for fan/fic as several authors incorporate music. That was enlightening at the least. I'm going to do that in my stories as well. I also have over 1500 on twitter. Fan/fic is my new thing. It's added so much to my life, taken me in a direction I never knew I'd go.

4. OMG, I'll only NOT be able to when I'm dead. This won't stop. believe that! This fills a hole somehow, one I never knew was there. I live for those update emails, new chapters, or new stories from my fave authors. Its a win-win situation. I DO know when I don't have my fan/fic I am aware of it! Miss it bad.

5. Fan/fic fulfills a part of me I didn't realize was empty..the curiosity when I read a blurb about the story..the tantalizing feeling when I see an update from a story thats at a crucial point..sometimes I get ideas of my own when I think of another way I'd have that story go at that point..it awakened my creativity, I think..as you grow older, perhaps you get somewhat jaded over life and life experiences, but when you write fan/fic you don't have to stop and restrain yourself as you do in real life, you can let the characters feel the full passion of their moments, of their lives, and get into all sorts of trouble..you can invent new types of supernatural beings if you wish, if you think it, it CAN be...I'm so far just practicing this letting go, letting the characters go full throttle..it's a heady experience..just when I think, wow, I've seen it all, someone blows my mind with what THEY'VE come up with..and

again, I am spurred on..it's like a loop of infinity..I just wish hadn't gotten so censor conscious..some authors are going elsewhere, bumming me out somewhat..it's like we're in Mr. Peabody's 'way back' machine..back to burning books..burning an idea..how ludicrous! I fill my days now with fan/fic..rarely reading newspapers or watching TV..I take my laptop everywhere..or I don't Usually go (I do sometimes, I'm not THAT bad, LOL).. I wake up during the night, fire up my laptop, get on till I am sleepy again..I check it at work..it's become high up on my daily activities..emotionally it's woken me up..I'm not sleepwalking anymore..I've been undergoing self improvement again..at my age, before I didn't even care..now suddenly, my friends seek me out daily, men are noticing me again, BIG time..I'm not lonely anymore..and the authors seem to love my reviews, I have learned to 'let 'er fly' writing them, getting carried away in the spirit of the story, 1 author even used an idea I came up with, in 'Explosive Encounters', I let them know I'd make sweet, shopping happy little Alice into 1 of the worst 'bad guys', and they did it! Plus, they cited me for it..that was a very exciting moment! Also, Betty Smith author of "The Gentleman From Washington State" and I seem to be kindred spirits, I love meeting persons with minds that are alive..so many sleepwalk in this fast paced world..I'd surmise that fan/fic has been a positive influence in my life. It makes me happy.

6. I DO reccomend fan/fic to people, like Molly, she's in 2 bands, travels constantly, so she's on her laptop alot, she's picked it up, but so many people are closed minded, and aren't literature readers..they watch movies..I don't try to fight it, they are the way they are. Perhaps if a hit movie was ever made from fan/fic, then some more would jump in at that point..

7. Yes,I was intrigued with perhaps the Jane Austen fan/fic..I love that as well, I will probably drift that way unless I get hit with a thunderbolt, an irresistable idea..then I will go there..but, I have thousands of Twi/fan/fic's to read first..LOL that's just my preference at this time! As for any others, I am just a hot idea away from going anywhere..I have a great interest in literature, starting when I was a young girl, with a set of Nancy Drew for Christmas..all of them..

#### *Babe Prior interview 2:*

fan fiction is taking a set of established charaters from a beloved story, and using them in your own story, or perhaps using the same theme, making it darker or lighter, whatever you imagine you can do.now I just read and review, but I have 3 stories of my own I'm working through..f an fiction wouldn't be anything without the writers or readers or reviewers or beta's..I've made friends here..you can guess ahead to what may be next, or even influence what comes next..sometimes you are asked an opinion on a point in the story, and sometimes you are surprised when the pick your idea to use in a story, that happened to me in a current story Explosive Encounters, and I'm loving it! They (2 girl authors)cited me in the chapter, saying "we're not worthy.." And I love Betty Smith who's writing "The Gentleman From Washington State"..I love how they use music and literature in the stories, and have links and pictures to enhance the experience..there's stories that are 1 person POV and then they come out with the other main charater POV story, I'm reading one (er, two) of those now..The

one small thing I have a problem with on fan/fic is the possibility of someone squashing someone's ideas..censorships..I hate that. I avoid it at all costs. I detest negativity...I'm reading Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen now, plus all my stories on fan/fic on alert.

*Carrie interview 1:*

1. My Pen Name is LetRobstenLuv4ever but my real name is Carrie. I am 21 years old, married with 2 children. Oh and I only read the Twilight stories. I am totally hooked on Edward and Bella, I absolutely love them.
2. I was first introduced to FanFiction through a friend that I talk too on YouTube. She told me that she had stories on FanFiction and then of course I was like what is that?. lol. Anyway she talked me through how to sign up and how to search for stories. At first I was a little confused on how to use it but now its second nature to me. I started reading because, well I have a \*\* marriage and I was lonely, very depressed. So to keep from going crazy I thought of reading and then I just do it everyday now.
3. I start reading in the early morning. First I check my favorites to see if there is any new updates, once I read all the updates for the stories I am currently reading I check to see if there is anything else I would like to read.
4. If I couldn't read FanFiction for awhile I would be somewhat crazy. lol. I do have another website that I read stories from so I would go to that one. I would miss FanFiction like crazy because it seems to have more of the Rated "M" stories that I like to read.
5. FanFiction brings me joy in my life. Like I said before, I don't have a good marriage and I have become really depressed. I read the stories and it makes me laugh and some of the romantic stuff and sexual stuff gives me ideas what I can do in my own life.
6. Yes I would definitely recommend Fanfiction to a friend and tell them it is a great way to spend time and give yourself different views of life from different people even though its fiction.
7. I only read Fanfiction and I only read the Twilight stories. I do not believe I would read any other canons.

*Carrie interview 2:*

1. I would describe FanFiction as a place where you can read thousands of stories and just lose yourself to the world. I would tell them of all the stories that I have read that I believe are even better than Twilight and that is saying something, because Twilight is what got me to start reading in the first place. If it wasn't for Twilight I would still never read anything, so I am really thankful for that.
2. I do not participate in forums. I am more of a loner and I am very strong on my beliefs. So I absolutely hate it if someone tries to argue with me which happened to me on another website and I receive numerous hate mail and grotesque messages just because they didn't agree with what I read.
3. I do not aspire to be a writer or beta. I am here only for the enjoyment of the story. I love them dearly and they really fill the void in my life.
4. I think the story is important because it is what draws us to read in the first place. The story allows us to kind of enter into a fantasy world for a little while. It is very exciting. As for the writer, well they are important too because without them there would not be a story.
5. I think I would rather read FanFiction than a book. When you pick up a book you look at only the cover and how many long pages there are, but when you read fanfiction there is no pictures and you use your imagination. I am not saying I don't love long stories because I actually prefer the long stories. Its just something about fanfiction, I think its because we can actually communicate with the author and give advice.
6. The new people I would tell them to always leave a review. It takes authors hours to write their story and that is the only way we can show appreciation for their hard work. If there is no review the author feels that their work is no good. I would also say that if you don't like the story then don't read it.

7. I prefer only the Twilight stories because like I said I love those characters and I read only the NC-17 stories because I am an adult and I like to read like one. I love the details of the love and romantic side to the stories.

8. I do miss when the author does not respond to a review that I leave. That really gets me sometimes but that is it.

*Case interview 1:*

1. Please give me your name (doesn't have to be your real name, but at the very least something that will tell me who is answering this interview), your age and tell me what kind of fanfiction you read (Twilight and maybe other canons?)

answer: My name is Case and I'm sixteen years old. I read fanfictions about Supernatural, The Vampire Diaries, Twilight, True Blood, and The Covenant.

2. Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fanfiction. How did you come to know of it's existence? What were your first impressions? Why did you choose to continue with reading/writing fanfiction? If you don't remember exactly, then just tell me what you do know or otherwise tell me what your reasons are for continuing reading/writing fanfiction at this very moment.

answer: I knew about fanfiction when I googled fanfictions about Twilight. My first impression was that it looked like a fun place and I could see myself having a lot of fun here. I continued to write/read because i knew books were my calling and everything about it makes me smile. I enjoy reading other stories as much as I love writing them. People seem to enjoy my writing so that's what kept me going.

3. At what moment in the day do you mostly read or write fanfiction? And how do you start? How often do you write/read fanfiction?

answer: Usually I am reading a fanfiction before I start writing. I am on fanfiction everyday so I am always reading something new or writing a story.

4. If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it? If yes, then why? If no, then why not?

answer: Yes, I would. Fanfiction is like my second home. It would drive me crazy if I didn't write or read anything. I love way too much.

5. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? If yes, what does it add to your way of living or your emotional state?

answer: It brings me lots of joy. Something about reading always puts a smile on my face. Its just an awarding experience to read a good fanfiction and write on in return.

6. Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If yes, what kind of arguments would you use? If not, why not?

answer: Yes, I would recommend fanfiction to friends. I would use plenty of arguments on how great it is and how fun it is to read and write stories. Plenty of my friends have started fanfiction because I told them about it and now they love it too.

7. Do you read or write fanfiction because you are a fan of the canon or because you like fanfiction itself. Would you also be able to write or read fanfiction about another canon?

answer: It is a little bit of both. I love reading canon fictions, but having an OC put in there adds more action and drama to a story. Yes, canons are just as interesting as any other story. As long as it is good to read I would read a canon.

*Case interview 2:*

1. What aspects include being a beta? And which of those do you like most and which do you like least? And why?

answer: Betas are helpful to writers who may need help with a weak point in their writing. They give out helpful constructive criticism and vow to correct the problem if the author accepts the help. I like the fact that it can help other writers improve on their work. One thing I like least? Nothing really.

2. Do you participate in the forums? And why yes or no?

answer: Yes, I do. It is a fun experience and you get to meet people from other countries. It is a wonderful.

3. I want you to imagine that you've met someone who has never heard of fanfiction and a beta . How would you describe fanfiction? And how would you describe your role in it?

answer: I'd say it is something everyone should do. It helps people who like writing and who ever thought what if when they were reading their favorite book, movie , t.v show etc. My role is someone who could help guide them in the right direction.

4. When did you start being a beta? And why do you think you make a good one?

answer: I started last year actually and I think I make a good one. I get stories back within 1-2 days and I give positive advice and not just words that could hurt the writer. I am excellent with my grammar and spelling also.

5. What's the best? Being a reader, a writer or a beta? Please motivate your answer.

answer: That's a hard one. Um...I am between a writer and reader. As I reader I can read what other people have brought to the table and how creative their ideas might be. As I writer, I love the feeling seeing my fan numbers increase, my stories being favorited, and reviewed. I love it.

6. What's more important...the fanfics or the people on ? Please motivate your answer.

answer: I have to say that they both depend on each other. It's good to see plenty of fics, but you need the people, too.

7. Many of you mentioned that you learned things from . Can you specify what you think you can learn on ?

answer: I think I've learned to expand my writing style- be more descriptive.

8. Do you aspire to be an official writer some day?

answer: The answer to this is yes. I have three books already written and my parents will help me get them published when I'm ready to get them.

*Corinne interview 1:*

1. Corinne Tate (a pen name I chose for personal reasons.) I'm 25, and I read and write Twilight fanfiction.
2. I had an idea to write a happy ending for Leah and it was written before I even logged on for the first time. I learned of this site through my daughter who is 14 and reads Naruto FF. I've only been on here for a couple months and this site is extremely confusing and difficult to navigate in my opinion. I'm still trying to find out what some of the communities are about, how it ties in with twitter and different blogs and some of the

connections people make that get some stories thousands of reviews while others get none. My first impression is that there seems to be no oversight and it seems no one is in charge. I write fanfiction because I find I love to write, and the feedback (when I get it) makes it worth while. I want to be a writer of my own work some day and this is great practice. I can write fan fiction, and because it's copyrighted by someone else I can let it go without worrying about someone stealing my work. I continue because I am still in the process of writing two stories, and I've got several ideas I may want to explore later. When I get reviews it makes me feel like I have fans; it's very affirming. It's also helpful to keep me going when I would like to set my story aside. I know that in a week I need to post a chapter or my readers will be disappointed.

3. I'm a stay at home mom so I have time while the kids are at school. I also write in the evenings when they go to bed. When it comes to new stories I usually try to have the first few chapters written on my computer before I upload even one chapter. I try to finish at least three chapters a week, and my chapters are about six pages long. I find I'm on here every day, either looking for reviews or writing. I also have a tendency to read stories written by those who leave reviews. When I'm stuck on writing, I'll sometimes read stories. I usually look for M rated stories since it usually weeds out the youngest writers who don't know how to edit.

4. If I couldn't read/write FF I would miss it! But like I said I would still write since I really do love it. I would be upset if I had to leave my stories unfinished.

5. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? I think FF makes me feel like I'm a real writer. Getting positive reviews makes me feel like my words have value It gives me hope that one day I may publish my own novels.

6. I would if I had friends who liked to read. It seems that reading is a dying art; most people just want to be entertained, and reading asks them to think. It's also good for budding writers. I keep trying to convince my daughter to write a story. It lets you use someone else's ideas as a springboard for your own creativity. It's easier to get someone to read a fan story especially if they like the original work. We may be writing knock-offs, but it's more about the readers, and I can't say it enough; the reviews make it worth while!

7. I like to write Twilight stories because I did enjoy reading the books. But Stehp left so many loose ends there is tons that can be written without ever messing with her original. There are characters that were barely touched, back stories that can be told, and different points of view that can be seen. I have read and written both cannon and alternative fiction. For me it's about the writing not the subject. I've got two stories where I barely messed with cannon, and one where one little change makes for a completely different story. Twilight was great for what it is; a romance for teens. I love to see how the fans have taken it and made it their own. Sometimes it's less about the books and more about the actors who played in the movies. Those ones kind of bug me. But like I said; I look for and aspire to good writing. So much of FF requires you to know the work it's based on, so it might be difficult to read about something I wasn't familiar with. I enjoy reading stories that can stand on their own; as long as they're well written. I've seen some amazing writers, and I've seen some who can't put a sentence together.

*Corinne interview 2:*

**1. You write fanfics now. Do you aspire to be an official writer some day?**

I would love to be an actual published author some day!

**2. I want you to imagine that you've met someone who has never heard of fanfiction. How would you describe fanfiction?**

If you've ever read a book or watched a movie or TV show, and felt like you wanted to see a different outcome, see more of the characters, or change things, with fanfiction you CAN! It makes you the writer and you can make the story what you want; use the characters, the plot, the setting or in some cases only the actors in the parts. It's a great place to jump off.

**And how would you describe your role in it?**

My role is very minimal. I hope I'm writing stores that are worth reading, and I love when people enjoy them.

**3. Do you participate in the forums? And why yes or no?**

I used to participate in forums; it did get me a few readers when I first posted stories. But they're hard to keep up with, and this site doesn't seem

to get rid of old or inactive threads. I've posted dozens of times on dead threads, and it's frustrating to try to find what you're looking for among all the debris of outdated stuff.

**4. What's the best? Being a reader or a writer? Please motivate your answer.**

I love to write, and I find that I'd rather do that than read. I'm afraid that some of the things I read will filter into my writing and I'll accidentally steal a piece of brilliance from someone else. I do like to read GOOD writers. I have a handful that I have read everything they've written and they're amazing; I stand in awe!

**5. What's more important...the fanfics or the people on ? Please motivate your answer.**

I think it's about the writing, but without the people there's no real point. I am writing a story on <http://www.Fictionpress.com> and it's over 25 chapters and only has 7 reviews! The site is very unresponsive to it's writers and I really don't like posting there - may as well just keep it to myself. A story no one reads; isn't that a journal?

**6. Many of you mentioned that is a good place for young writers to learn from. What exactly do you think that one can learn from ?**

A young writer (or an older newbie like me) can learn by doing. I have learned what people want to read, I've learned to be a better writer; how to fix mistakes I make often. How to meet a deadline, and how to accept criticism. If you're lucky you can meet people to give you advice and critique your stories. The best way to get better is just to keep practicing!

**7. If you could give new people on an advice, what kind of advice would you give them?**

Write what YOU love. Don't give in to pressure to write the story someone wants to see; write your own story even if it upsets your "fans." Accept criticism with grace, and don't quit!

*Daniëlle interview 1:*

1. I go by Danielle Nichole, aka Danii, it's not my full name but it is my first and middle(: I am turning 16 very soon, and can't wait haha, and I only read Twilight on fanfiction. Why? Well honestly because Twilight is my obsession I can't get enough of it. In the future I want to read different cannons, but as of now I have only read Twilight, well wait...I have read a crossover of a Twilight and Harry Potter, called Vendetta at Twilight. Though I don't like Harry Potter it really caught my attention.
2. I first came about fanfiction when I first came across the Twilight Series about two years ago(: in four days I read all four Twilight books and I was thirsting for MORE of something, anything Twilight...so I searched Twilight on google and came across fanfiction. My first thoughts when going was "Woo, there are A LOT of stories on here, and that isn't even counting non Twilight stories. I clicked on the first story I saw and it happened to be, 'Fearless' by 'mygoldeneyedangle' it really brought me to tears, from there I searched for more, and more.

I have always had a passion for writing, and I have written many things before coming across fanfiction, and well it was the perfect idea to post one on fanfiction, so that's exactly what I did. It really is a great place to read and write there are so many options and it's free, and you can really let your mind run wild, there are no limits. It's a great place for young writers and older, to let their imagination run free and to do their passion, writing. There are so many nice people on there also. You also get so much great feedback from people when they review, and if all else fails on a bad or sad day

for me, I check my yahoo and I see a review or an alert of some sort for one of my stories, and it really puts a smile on my face.

3. I don't really have a specific time that I write and/or read, I just do...ya know? Seeing as I am always writing throughout the day, I will type it all up on the computer, and when I finish that long due chapter I will send it to my BETA and then when I get the OK I post. As for reading, well when I check my yahoo and see that one of the people I have alerted on there has posted a new chapter, then I will read and review it, other than that with how hectic my days have been, that's all.(:
4. Oh gosh, if I had to go a single day without reading and/or writing on fanfiction, I really think I would lose my head haha. No, but seriously I would be extremely upset and angry for the time up until I can get on and read and/or write. Fanfiction is like my get away place, when I am there I don't have to worry about the time or anything as the such, I can just drift away into my own little 'world' along with everyone else on there, and let my mind wonder. I think fanfiction is like an addictive substance for me, but seeing as im not addicted and never have tried any substance I can't really say that(: but it is very addictive, like music. I live breathe and eat fanfiction I guess you could say.
5. Fanfiction brings so much to my life. As I said above its like my get away place. I don't have to worry about anything when im on there. I just go...do...it's really hard to explain haha. When I am upset or anything I go there and within two minutes I have a huge smile plastered on my face. It is really quiet awesome haha. Its like one big happy family over there(:
6. Oh I would definitely recommend fanfiction, in fact I have. To all my friends and family that I know love to write or read, or just need to get away I tell them they need to go there, NOW. Haha. They all laugh but some go, and now they are almost as hooked as me!
7. I read fanfiction and write for it for many many reasons that would take a long time to name and come to mind with. I am actually writing a fanfiction based on the Morganville Vampire series, and I plan on posting up very soon really, hopefully(: The only reason I stay with Twilight is because it's the only ones I have actually caught my attention, I have tried a Harry Potter one, though as I say I dislike Harry Potter, so maybe that wasn't fair judgment...hmm..so I will have to look something else up(:

#### *Dia interview 1:*

1. I don't want to give you my real name, but for that sake of this interview please call me Ellie. I am under 18 (that's why I'm not giving away things like my name, email, etc.). I read and write Twilight and NCIS fanfictions.

2. I frist discovered fanfiction just a year and a half ago. My best friend introduced me to it, but at first I didn't like it. I thought the layout was a bit boring, but after a while I realised that the actual stories were what mattered. Within several weeks I was hooked!

3. I mainly read on fanfiction during the evening, but sometimes in the morning as well. I first check my profile to see if any of my favourite stories have been updated, then my traffic to see any hits and reviews on my stories, and finally I browse archives of my fandoms and other people's profiles. I read most days, but only write when I have time as I lead a very busy life.

4. There have been a few times when I have not been able to get onto fanfiction to read, and I find I do miss it a lot. I don't think of myself as addicted, it's just somewhere that I go to get away when I need to stop thinking about any problems I have.

5. As I said above, fanfiction is very important and special in my life, because it is a world that I can go to and talk to people with similar interests to me and not have to worry about things that I don't want to. Also, it is very good for procrastinating!

6. I would recommend fanfiction to people, because it is a good way to see other people's takes on what happens when it is not specified by the author/writer. Using my second fandom, NCIS, as an example, often several months pass between each series and when someone is interested as to what

might have happened then, I would recommend a certain person's fanfiction so they can see a possibility.

7. I read and write fanfiction mostly because I enjoy the canon, but occasionally because I like the fiction element. I mainly read stories that stay in canon so that I do not get confused with the actual story and the original book, TV show, etc. I refuse to write fanfictions for a new fandom until I know as much about it as I can so that I can stay as in canon as possible myself.

#### *Dia interview 2:*

1. The thing that I find most fascinating about Twilight is that it's just so different from everything else - there isn't anything even remotely like it. It's the sort of thing that you either love or hate. It's a dark and kind of depressing love story with vampires and werewolves that aren't really werewolves - what isn't there to like?
2. I choose mostly the evenings to write fanfictions partly because I have to be at school during the day so I can't then but also because I find that after a long day, at school or otherwise, I need to do something to calm myself and wind down so that I'm ready to go to sleep and I use writing to do that.
3. I think that I do approach fanfiction differently from people who just read. I sometimes find myself almost rewriting other people's stories that I read in my head. I wonder how I would write it, give constructive criticism from one writer to another, but most often I wish that I had that idea!"
4. I don't want to be an author when I am older. Writing is a hobby that I have and I use it to relax, but I want it to stay as that. Apart from what I publish here, my writing is private and I would hate other people to have access to that personal part of my life.
5. I find writing fanfiction very valuable after I have had a bad day or something like that, and I just need to take my mind off everything else and lose myself in my writing. I find it an incredibly useful tool for that, because I let my anger out by writing sad stories instead of hurting myself or someone else.
6. I don't comment much on forums, and I rarely take interest in communities, although there are several forums that I follow quite closely what is going on in, even if I stay on the sidelines and don't voice my opinions. I do this for the simple reason that sometimes I get bored of just reading and writing, and I want to do something different for a change.
7. The forums that I follow don't really add to how I value fanfiction, because to me they are just another feature that exist and a way to talk to people that like the same things I do, instead of something particularly special.

#### *Hannah interview 1:*

- 1. Please give me your name (doesn't have to be your real name, but at the very least something that will tell me who is answering this interview), your age and tell me what kind of fanfiction you read (Twilight and maybe other canons?)**

My name is Hannah and I am thirteen years old. I read a lot of Twilight fanfiction and some of The Hunger Games fanfiction (By other canons did you mean other books? I wasn't sure).

- 2. Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fanfiction. How did you come to know of its existence? What were your first impressions? Why did you choose to continue with reading/writing fanfiction? If you don't remember exactly, then just tell me what you do know or otherwise tell me what your reasons are for continuing reading/writing fanfiction at this very moment.**

The first time I heard but fanfiction was when I was talking to my friend and she mentioned an awesome Twilight fanfiction she was reading. I asked her what fanfiction was and after she explained I had to go check it out. My first impression was that there was so much! (I was looking at the Twilight fanfiction archive, after all). I chose to keep reading because there was so much variety to read! And considering I was a fairly new Twi-fan and madly in love with the series I was hungry for more.

**3. At what moment in the day do you mostly read or write fanfiction? And how do you start? How often do you write/read fanfiction?**

Usually I go on fanfiction in the evening, I used to read a lot more – I would randomly search through the archives – but now I mostly read when I see a fic I'm following is updated. I like writing at night because that is usually when I'm most inspired and have the most time.

**4. If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it? If yes, then why? If no, then why not?**

Yes, I would definitely miss it. Fanfiction takes up quite a bit of my free time. The forums are a particular favourite of mine but I'm not sure whether you want that or not so I'll stick to the writing/reading. The writing I love for my creative flow. Writing fanfiction is kind of easy in the sense that you always have something to work off and, if you have the right book, there will be lots of things you could write about – this really helps me when I am stuck with an original piece of writing.

**5. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? If yes, what does it add to your way of living or your emotional state?**

Fanfiction brings something special into my life by helping me with my writing. Reading so many different people's techniques and styles always helps me and fanfiction is a great place for aspiring authors.

**6. Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If yes, what kind of arguments would you use? If not, why not?**

I already do recommend it to lots of my friends. I tell them how fun it is and that they could find some really great reading material here – awesome if you've ran out of money for some new books. I do, however, think fanfiction is better if you're looking at the fanfiction for a really popular book like the Harry Potter series and the Twilight saga.

**7. Do you read or write fanfiction because you are a fan of the canon or because you like fanfiction itself. Would you also be able to write or read fanfiction about another canon?**

(Still a bit unsure what you mean by canon but I'm gonna go ahead and guess you mean the book?) I read and write fanfiction because I am a fan of the canon. I would be able to write and read fanfiction about another canon but only if I had read it.

*Hannah interview 2:*

**1. What aspects include being a beta? And which of those do you like most and which do you like least? And why?**

Being a beta means that a writer will send you their latest chapter before they post it on FF. As a beta, you should read it over; check for any spelling errors, grammatical errors, any little mistakes that may have slipped past the author. Beta's should also be there to help the writer if he/she needs some guidance with future chapters, how to further their plotline and to point out any plot holes. The part of being a beta I like most is the editing, just because it makes a change from writing and gives me more experience in the field of editing. The aspect I least like would have to be when a writer I am beta-ing for has writer's block and needs inspiration. I can never seem to come up with something good to spark their imagination in that case.

**2. Do you participate in the forums? And why yes or no?**

Yes, I do participate in the forums. I moderate for a Twilight forum where we discuss the books, movies, actors, gossip; play games; have a general chat. I am also the admin for a roleplaying forum. These are both my reasons for participating in forums, in one I get to discuss one of my favourite series and have fun doing so and in the other I get to roleplay. Roleplaying, in my case, is where you create your own character and write them - as if writing a story - except that you do it with other people and their characters; you can never be too sure what will happen! I find roleplay-ing an excellent way to get inspired and it definitely helps improve my writing. Therefore, I find the forums a great way to 'meet' new people and to become a better writer!

**3. I want you to imagine that you've met someone who has never heard of fanfiction and a beta . How would you describe fanfiction? And how would you describe your role in it?**

I would describe fanfiction as a place where you can read works on stories of your choice, written by fans of the story/tv show/manga/etc, such as sequels, different takes on the book and general spin-offs in characters other than the main ones (or just different portrayals of the main characters). Fanfiction is a place where you can review other people's fiction and help them to become a better writer. You can also write anything you want to do with something that you are a fan of, a great experience as you can't do this anywhere else without being in danger of copyrighting. A beta is someone who edits, corrects and generally helps a writer to get their work to the best it can be before it is posted in the FF archives - not a must, but definitely useful.

**4. When did you start being a beta? And why do you think you make a good one?**

I started beta-ing about two months after I joined fanfiction - and had the requirements needed. I think I do make a good beta, as I work thoroughly and efficiently, always useful qualities in a beta.

**5. What's the best? Being a reader, a writer or a beta? Please motivate your answer.**

Even though I am all three of the above, I would definitely say that being a writer is the best. There is nothing like the sight of a new review on one of your stories, especially if it one praising something you worked hard on. You also get the satisfaction of having people following your story, putting it on alert and adding it to their favourites. Being a writer is certainly the most rewarding. Then, I would say, is being a beta. It's hard work but it improves your skills and improves someone else's, you can know that you've helped someone become a better writer. Then we are left with reader, not that it isn't good - being a reader is a key part of FF, without readers, the writers and betas wouldn't be necessary. However, being a reader comes in a different category from the other two, if you are reading a good, well-written story then, of course, you are going to enjoy it and get some sort of happiness in return. I know I certainly love reading a good FF and probably would never get inspired for my own fic's without reading other's.

**6. What's more important...the fanfics or the people on ff.net? Please motivate your answer.**

Honestly, I would say that they are both equal. Without the people, there would be no fanfics, and without the fanfics there would be no people. So I think it's safe to say that both of these must exist for ff.net to be a functioning site.

**7. Many of you mentioned that you learned things from ff.net. Can you specify what you think you can learn on ff.net?**

I have definitely learned more writing techniques by being a part of ff.net. I have also learned how forums work - a useful thing, I must say. I have learned lots of things I didn't know about people in different countries, by using the forums and talking to people all over the world. That is a few of the things that I can think of this moment, but I'm sure I've learned more!

**8. Do you aspire to be an official writer some day?**

Yes, I do. Fanfiction has been a great help in spurring on my ambitions, because most writers on FF do share the same dream of one day being a published author and quite a few young people are working on novels right now.

It was great to support others who were writing and it was great to receive support and to have someone encouraging you to write because they think you're good enough. Fanfiction was also a massive help to the dreaded writer's block; whenever I got stuck on my original work I could go and write some fanfic, which usually helped me overcome my block and get back on track. It's only my dream that someday people can be writing fanfiction's on one of my books instead of the other way about!!

*Ella interview 1:*

1. Please give me your name (doesn't have to be your real name, but at the very least something that will tell me who is answering this interview), your age and tell me what kind of fanfiction you read (Twilight and maybe other canons?)

**Hello. Thank you for interviewing me! My name is Ella. I'm very sorry but I can't give you my age (I hope that's okay) and I read fanfictions about Twilight, Harry Potter, House of Night, Maximum Ride, Gone and The Mortal Instruments series mostly. Sometimes I read anime/manga fanfics, such as Fruits Basket and Pandora Hearts. Basically anything that I am interested in I read fanfics about. It always changes – it totally depends what I'm into at the moment, if I've read a new book, and what I'm writing. I'll read more of what I'm writing – it's why I mostly read Twilight fics!**

2. Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fanfiction. How did you come to know of it's existence? What were your first impressions? Why did you choose to continue with reading/writing fanfiction? If you don't remember exactly, then just tell me what you do know or otherwise tell me what your reasons are for continuing reading/writing fanfiction at this very moment.

**I was bored. That's the truth – I was bored, and I looked up Harry Potter on the internet. Somehow, I got onto fanfictions. I was sort of amazed. I much prefer art and acting to writing but I couldn't live without writing, either, so I was fascinated by the way that lots of writers were coming together to write about my favourite series, Harry Potter! I kept reading and reading, and when I read Twilight, I started to read Twilight fics. Finally, I joined, and I was nervous but determined to write and become part of fanfiction. I love fanfiction, it's great, it gives you other people's opinions on the actual published stories and your own ideas.**

3. At what moment in the day do you mostly read or write fanfiction? And how do you start? How often do you write/read fanfiction?

**Wow! It's not a scheduled thing. I do it quite late, but it's really just like whenever I feel like it. I am forever daydreaming, so really I'm just writing in my head – does that make sense? So I'm usually itching to get writing, or else I'll forget my ideas.**

4. If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it? If yes, then why? If no, then why not?

**I'd miss it so much! I love getting feedback, I love being able to give your opinion. And everyone is so nice and friendly on fanfiction. It feels like a huge family, and everyone gives you their constructive advice, whether negative or positive, and everyone is willing to help.**

5. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? If yes, what does it add to your way of living or your emotional state?

**If I don't feel great, I write, act or listen to music, and it helps so much. Plus, writing helps my acting – helps me to get inside a person's head, helps me to feel how they are feeling. If I'm in a bad mood, I**

**just pick and angsty character and write a oneshot. If you look at my oneshots, they kind of reflect off of how I feel. It helps me emotionally to let it out, but just in a different way than, say, yelling...that wouldn't be the best approach!**

6. Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If yes, what kind of arguments would you use? If not, why not?

**I definitely would! It helps your imagination, helps you to make your writing skills better, and if you want to be an author, it gives you a really down-to-earth approach to it! Also, you don't have to read. I usually do books or anime/mangas, but there are movies and TV shows that you could do a fic on. And you can't limit yourself! If you dislike the way something ended, then you can have your say.**

7. Do you read or write fanfiction because you are a fan of the canon or because you like fanfiction itself. Would you also be able to write or read fanfiction about another canon?

**A bit of both, to be honest. I love fanfiction, but I mostly read it because I adore the canon. If by another canon you mean a canon I have read or watched, but haven't wrote about or don't usually read...yes, I think I could. I usually read series on fanfiction though, as in fanfics on series. If you mean a book or movie or TV show or manga I haven't read or watched, no, I don't think so. I'd get very confused!**

*Ella interview 2:*

1. You write fanfics now. Do you aspire to be an official writer some day?

My future is sort of hazy, but I'm not sure that writing is my passion. I am most definitely passionate about it, but I'm so much more passionate about certain other things. I wouldn't be able to live without writing, though. My head is always full of new ideas, new ideas I have to write down, so even if I decide not wanting to be an official writing, I'll always be writing.

2. I want you to imagine that you've met someone who has never heard of fanfiction. How would you describe fanfiction? And how would you describe your role in it?

Fanfiction is about exploring a book/movie/TV show, etcetera, that you love. It's about exploring its characters, exploring what the book is about. It's about wanting to change things that happened in the book, wanting to add bits in, wanting explore a new pairing. If you have grown close to a book/Movie/Anime/Manga, etcetera, and you begin to think up different settings for the characters and 'what ifs', then fanfiction could be the answer. It also allows you to develop writing skills and to get constructive critic and also to give constructive critic. My role is to write, to read, to help people and give them constructive advice, to take constructive advice from people, to make my writing skills better and to make friends!

3. Do you participate in the forums? And why yes or no?

I only recently found out about forums, and I adore them. You get to chat to people that have similar interests with, discuss your interests at length, discuss characters, debate. It's also a way to make friends on FF. If you're a new-comer, I suggest to join one, because if you have any questions you have people to refer to and also it really gets you involved!

4. What's the best? Being a reader or a writer? Please motivate your answer.

Wow! Well, I adore both, but I'm truly a writer at heart. It depends on every individual. At times, you just want to stop writing and take time to read, and I started out as a reader. But even when I read and I give CC, I still try and use advice I give to other people and apply it to myself!

5. What's the best? Being a reader or a writer? Please motivate your answer. Many of you mentioned that ff.net is a good place for young writers to learn from. What exactly do you think that one can learn from ff.net?

You can learn how to make characters act and react. You can also learn about your writing from honest reviews – they can tell you if you need to brush up on anything, they can tell you if you need to work on your OCs and stop them from being Mary Sues...One can learn that you have to work hard and you must accept bad reviews, move on, and try to use the advice in them, instead of getting angry or upset. One can also learn how to develop their own style of writing and more about the fandom they are writing for.

6. If you could give new people on ff.net an advice, what kind of advice would you give them?

Mostly, to enjoy yourself – go into a forum, get to know people, discuss your favourite book, what you thought of the movie if there is one, etcetera. Be humble, and accept constructive advice – when you get some, be happy, as many people tend not to review. If someone takes their time to give you some tips, it's good to appreciate it, even if they didn't praise your story too much. If you receive CC it means they are trying to help you. Also, be helpful in your reviews.

And if you're worried about your first story, to get a beta. They'll be helpful and help you with grammar, spelling, etcetera, so it'll really give you more confidence!

Missy interview 1:

1. Please give me your name (doesn't have to be your real name, but at the very least something that will tell me who is answering this interview), your age and tell me what kind of fanfiction you read (Twilight and maybe other canons?)

~Missy (hesalliwant on FF and Twitter)

2. Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fanfiction. How did you come to know of it's existence? What were your first impressions? Why did you choose to continue with reading/writing fanfiction? If you don't remember exactly, then just tell me what you do know or otherwise tell me what your reasons are for continuing reading/writing fanfiction at this very moment.

~I am a Twilight fan. I read all four books over and over again for four straight months. I just couldn't let go of those characters. I was on the New Moon Movie site reading & commenting on the threads. I saw many references to "unicorns", "WA", "HOFY". I wondered what everyone was talking about. One post said if you were over 18 to email and she would send a link to "WA". So I did. And in August of 2009 I read Wide Awake by AngstGoddess003. I was shocked, elated and completely addicted. I remember thinking at first how strange to have human Edward and Bella. To have Edward so "bad". To have Bella so weak. Or to have them in relationships with other people. At first it was weird. But I got over that pretty quick because the stories were just so good. When I finished Wide Awake, I went back to the email and asked about "HOFY". She sent me the link to Holding Out For You by Obsessing Over Edward and a couple of others. So I created a FFnet account and started reading. I looked at other stories the authors had written, their favorite stories, their favorite authors and those stories and stories recommended on the authors notes. Then I started to check out some of the blog sites: Perv Pack Smut Shack, The Lazy Yet Discerning Fictster and if there were awards going on I checked the sites for the contests to get stories. I just couldn't get enough! I loved to see how other people saw the Twilight Characters and it was such a great escape for me.

3. At what moment in the day do you mostly read or write fanfiction? And how do you start? How often do you write/read fanfiction?

~I read whenever I can. I am a mom of 4 so my "free time" is very scarce. Sometimes I read when my kids are playing quietly. Sometimes I wait until they go to bed at night. But I do have a few favorites that I drop everything for to read. I depends on the story and what is happening in my day.

4. If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it? If yes, then why? If no, then why not?

~OMG! Don't ever say such a thing! I love my stories. I love getting immersed in the characters, plots, settings and the authors. I follow many of them on Twitter and I would miss all of it so much! It's another world for me. Because of my kids, I don't get out much and I have some very connected relationships all on the computer!

5. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? If yes, what does it add to your way of living or your emotional state?

~My husband and I argue about this ALL the time! It brings me friends! As I said previously, I really enjoy getting lost in a good story. I love seeing characters in canon and non-canon roles. It has opened me up to a few things that I was sure I didn't or wouldn't like. It let me see some things differently. And sometimes it calms me because I get a chance to get away from the things that are stressing me. It's just fun for me.

6. Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If yes, what kind of arguments would you use? If not, why not?

~I would and I have and I do to whomever will listen to me. As soon as someone tells me how much they love Twilight I immediately send them to my FFnet page to start reading. I warn them that they are not going to be reading Stephenie's characters. But I assure them that they will love these stories too.

7. Do you read or write fanfiction because you are a fan of the canon or because you like fanfiction itself. Would you also be able to write or read fanfiction about another canon?

~I'm not really sure if I'm understanding this. I only read Twilight fanfiction. I have not read any Twilight crossover stories. Or any other FF characters (Harry Potter, Gossip Girl, etc.) I have however, read all "genres" of Twilight FF. I have read all canon pairings (Edward/Bella, Jasper/Alice), non-canon pairings (Carlisle/Elizabeth, Jasper/Bella), all human, vampire and human, very little slash (Jasper/Edward). One of my favorite trilogies is a "What 'Breaking Dawn' could have/should have been" set. I have thought about my own plot for Twilight Characters and one for a tv reality show, but I have not written anything as of yet. I don't know if I ever will.

#### *Missy interview 2:*

1. I want you to imagine that you've met someone who has never heard of fanfiction. How would you describe fanfiction? And how would you describe your role in it?

~ I know many people who have never heard of fanfiction and I refer them all quite excitedly! Basically, since I've only read Twilight FanFic, when a friend tells me that they have finished Twilight or miss the characters, etc, I send them the link to my FanFic profile. I tell them that these stories are either alternate plots to the existing stories, or completely different stories with our favorite characters. I let them know that for the most part, the stuff I read is rated M so that they are not shocked by the the language or content. But when asked, I tell them which are my all time favorites and I find out if they would like to read romance, drama, angst, horror, etc then I give them a short list of things to start with. I also make them promise to let me know what they think of the stories so that I someone to talk with about them! That's why I started following so many authors and fans on Twitter. So that I could ask questions and get new recommendations. I let my friends know that I am just a reader, not a writer. At least, not yet.

2. Do you participate in forums? And why yes or no?

~ I don't really participate on message boards and web forums mostly because I don't really know how to follow them. I've tried. But usually when I go to various threads or forums I find it very confusing. As I said above, I do follow many FF authors and readers and I do discuss a little bit there. I always always always leave reviews. I try to make my reviews let the author know how I felt when I read the chapter and what questions or (sometimes) hopes I have about the characters futures. I don't flame authors. I just think that is stupid. I can tell them if I didn't understand or agree with a certain line or if a character or scene confused me or made me angry. But I also tell them that I am anxious to see how things play out, because I don't know the whole picture. But basically, I am too tech stupid to participate on forums.

3. Do you aspire to be a writer / beta some day?

~ I have a few ideas in my head about story lines, but I don't feel confident enough to put them down on paper (or on my hard drive). I worry too much about, "Well what if this story has been done before?" or "What if I sound like a 13 year old in my writing in stead of a 25 year old?" or "What if I just plain suck?" Also, as a mom of two (who is hanging on by a thread these days), I don't have the time to devote to creating something like that. I don't have a quiet place to gather my thoughts.

I would love to beta or preread for someone. But since I haven't written anything and don't have a degree in English, it's not likely that will ever happen. I have however been asked by two authors to read and review their stories. They saw a review I left for someone (which was a sincere concrit for a bad bad fic) and they thought I could help them. I started to read their stories and left a couple of reviews, but sadly I have not been able to complete the task yet.

I am not going to say "never" to writing or beta-ing, but it's not likely to happen anytime soon.

4. What's more important...the fanfics or the people on [ff.net](http://ff.net)? Please motivate your answer.

~ Hmmm, well, I don't have a chance to chat with people on [ff.net](http://ff.net) and I'm not good at navigating other web forums. So on the surface I would have to say the stories themselves. But a good story will lead me to learn more about the people behind them. That is why I bother with Twitter at all. I enjoy talking with the authors and other fans about the stories. If the people were jerks I wouldn't follow them on Twitter, but I might still read their stories if they were well written. However, if a story sucked but the person behind it was really nice I don't know if I'd follow them. What would I say? "Hey, you seem like fun but your writing is crap!" So I guess the stories themselves are more important.

5. Would you rather read a book or a fanfic?

~ Right now, I would rather read a book because I can take it with me anywhere. I have one computer (my laptop broke and cannot be repaired and we are too broke to replace it) and I don't have a web enabled phone or ereader yet. So the only place I can access my favorite fics is at my main computer and I just don't have time. I am so far behind with my fic reading it makes me want to cry. If I had an iPhone or iPad or laptop I would read my fics in bed at night or outside when the kids are playing or anywhere that I go where I can get service. I do wish I could get my favorite fics on paper. I have thought about printing them out from home, but it would just be too much.

6. If you could give new people on [ff.net](http://ff.net) an advice, what kind of advice would you give them?

~ I would offer readers to be respectful. It's okay to tell an author that you don't like their story or don't like their version of a character, but be respectful when you do it. And to review. Just a few words to say, "hey I'm here and reading your work" is really important. If you are new as an author I would tell you that Author's Notes can be helpful, but don't answer plot questions there and don't ask for reviews. It just seems tacky. I will review every chapter of a story, but I just hate when I see, "please leave me some love and hit that review link" at the end. I also hate when an author whose story is nominated for a Fic award says, "go vote for me!" I can appreciate the "thanks for nominating me and here's the link to the contest", but it just seems kind of desperate to ask for reviews and votes. Now, I do appreciate when an author can be funny or snarky in the A/N's. If you can make me laugh I'm yours! And I love that authors thank their beta's and pre-readers and leave recommendations. I always check those out.

7. What kind of fanfics do you prefer? And why?

~ Ummm, as far as genre, I have only read Twilight fanfic. I mostly like drama, romantic stories. I have enjoyed a few horror and really gotten pulled in to some angst stories. But I love to be able to laugh out loud when I'm reading and feel all warm and fuzzy when I'm done. I think a good story will be consistent to it's sub

genre (horror, drama, romance, etc) but also be able to make you laugh, cry, scream, cheer, etc at some point in the story.

8. Is there an aspect that you miss on [ff.net](http://ff.net)? And if yes, what is it?

~ I have been on [ff.net](http://ff.net) for just under a year now. So I don't know how things have changed. I can tell you I think it is the most user friendly out there. I would like to see a live chat room or message board for discussions. But I know that [ff.net](http://ff.net) is pretty strict about content and some of my favorite stories have been pulled or altered because of TOS. I just don't like some of the other sites with forums. So it would be great if [ff.net](http://ff.net) could lighten up just a little and have a message room available so that I wouldn't have to go to other sites.

*OorpioO interview 1:*

1. Please give me your name (doesn't have to be your real name, but at the very least something that will tell me who is answering this interview), your age and tell me what kind of fanfiction you read (Twilight and maybe other canons?)  
**Priscilla Chavarria and Im 17 I normally read twilight fics I don't really read other fics because the twilight stories are the ones im interested in**
2. Tell me about the first time you got acquainted with fanfiction. How did you come to know of it's existence? **I googled something and I found the website**
3. What were your first impressions? **I was so happy I could read more about Edward and Bella and Jasper.**
4. Why did you choose to continue with reading/writing fanfiction? **Because I never get tired of reading about my favorite characters** If you don't remember exactly, then just tell me what you do know or otherwise tell me what your reasons are for continuing reading/writing fanfiction at this very moment.
5. At what moment in the day do you mostly read or write fanfiction? **At night** And how do you start? **I just read the stories im on alert** How often do you write/read fanfiction?**evey night if I can**
6. If you wouldn't be able to read or write fanfiction for a while, would you miss it? If yes, then why? If no, then why not? **Yes!! Because it has become a part of my day and its sorta like and escape**
7. Does fanfiction bring something special into your life? If yes, what does it add to your way of living or your emotional state? **Yes! It makes me happy**
8. Would you recommend fanfiction to your friends or other people? If yes, what kind of arguments would you use? If not, why not? **Yes! I totally would! Because the stories are awesome! Sometimes better then the book and the plot lines are super original**
9. Do you read or write fanfiction because you are a fan of the canon or because you like fanfiction itself. Would you also be able to write or read fanfiction about another canon? **Because I love fanfiction I actually don't really like canon for example my fave stories about twilight are JasperxBella**