

Author Interview

Please give us a brief bio, your website, my space page and blog links.

Brannan Black grew up dreaming about epic adventures with strong women doing heroic deeds. She's been a belly dancer, horse breeder, mom, Reiki master and crazy. Really, certifiable crazy. That's what folks say when the people in your head won't leave you alone. When their worlds and lives seem as real as this one. Now she writes their stories, making them happy, and people call her an author instead of nuts. She lives quietly, more or less, on a small ranch with her husband, multiple cats, dogs and horses.

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The Writer:

1) What is the best thing about being a writer? The worst?

The best part is being able to share the stories that bounce around in my head with others. I love creating new worlds and inviting others to join me there.

The worst? Deadlines! But without them, I would fiddle and tweak my stories to death.

2) What is your method of breaking through writer's block?

This is a tough one. Having a deadline helps because then I sit down and just start typing. Very often that is all it takes. I also use new age music specifically designed to enhance creativity. Sometimes another type of song helps me set the tone. Naps are sometimes useful as it always seems as soon as my head hits the pillow, ideas sprout.

3) Do you bring your own life experiences to your writing? Your own personality? If so how?

In some ways, my own experiences and personality show in every book but you have to dig deep. I've created a few characters that were loosely based on people I know without me even realizing it. I write paranormal and futuristic romance so the trappings are different than my rather quiet life. One or two have even been my own fantasy self, sort of an alter ego. I've also brought my understanding of the world to my books as well as my studies in Reiki, sound healing and light work. You really have to dig deep in some books to find some of that but it's part of who I am.

4) What fuels you as an author to continue to write?

My muse just won't quit! New ideas, new characters and new worlds are always popping up in my head. And some stories just aren't done yet. I love to hear from fans. I keep those emails to look back on when I'm feeling down or stuck. Nothing like an ego boost to keep the creative juices flowing. And then there are those deadlines, I have one publisher that has me on a release schedule, one book every other month. That's been keeping me focused.

In truth? Not writing would be harder than continuing to write. I love it, it's my passion.

5) Can you tell us a bit about what book(s) you have coming out next and what you're working on now?

I'm currently really focused on my Wolfman series and world. This world came out of a dream and just keeps growing. It's already spawned a side series, Wolfman Tales that will follow the life of some of the secondary and side characters. The first of those, Blind Passion came out the end of March. This month, I've got Wolfman 3 launching the end of the month. In June watch for either a second Wolfman Tales or Wolfman 4.

I also have another whole project that's been slowly perking on the back burner based off The Wild One: Eireann's Tale. It's a rather long epic that is only half finished. Some day it will get published.

The Person:

1) Which season do you prefer? Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter?

That's kind of hard as each season has parts I love. Over all, summer I guess because I can enjoy writing out on my patio. Hard to do in the snow.

2) What is your favorite Holiday?

I've never really thought about it. Thanksgiving maybe because there isn't the hassle of finding the perfect gift. I love holidays where the extended family gets together. Some years that happens at Christmas and some years Thanksgiving. And some years it just happens for no good reason. I like those get togethers the best.

3) Do you like Comedy, Drama, Romance, Foreign Language, Indie or Mystery movies?

snickers none of the above. I like Sci Fi, action/ adventure type movies. I love the Harry Potter movies, Lord of the Rings (OMG they did an awesome job, love Viggo Mortensen), Avatar, The Borne trilogy, to name a few off the top of my head. If there are chases, explosions and lots of action, I'll probably enjoy it.

4) When you get a chance to read, what books do you love to read?

Mostly the same kind I write, paranormal romance of some kind. I love vampires and shifters. Most of my books have one or more of those. I also enjoy other kinds of paranormals, it just needs to be a good tale.

I also read some contemporary but there has to be some twist or special hook to draw my interest. M/M romance caught my attention a while back and most of my contemporary books are in that genre. I've gotten fond of some mystery/suspence stories in this group.

5) What bores you as a reader?

Hmm, that's hard to verbalize. Stories that revolve around stupid human tricks (if they'd just talk once in a while or acted their age it would work out). Too much rambling without getting to the point annoys me.

6) What is your favorite food and what is your guilty pleasure food?

Those would be the same, anything chocolate. At the moment, my comfort foods are pasta with Italian sausage and red sauce, Vietnamese spring rolls and tacos. Those change every few years.

7) If you could go anywhere on a vacation where would you go?

I've never really had a must see list and I'm not a hang out at the beach person. If I want to hang out in the woods I just go outside. Until the kids left home I actually didn't like traveling much. Now that it's just me and my hubby, it's a lot more fun. A couple years ago, we went to Thailand and Cambodia. I love far eastern art and architecture. Ankor Wat had caught my imagination decades ago and it was every bit as amazing as I thought it would be. This spring, we're going doing a cruise around the Baltic with extra time in Denmark and Norway to feed my obsession with Vikings. I'd love to see some Mayan ruins someday.

8) What is your favorite feature on a person?

Hair, I notice people's hair first. When I met my husband he had the most gorgeous naturally wavy, curly hair that was brown with red and gold highlights. Of course, he's been loosing it steadily. I love long hair but it must be clean and cared for. After that, a guy's ass. I like a nice tight buns.

9) Do you have a secret talent?

no, not so secret. I belly danced semi professionally for a while. Which means I danced at festivals and such as well as taught. I also do stained glass windows. I did one for my inlaws for Christmas and a couple for old houses my husband is redoing. So I guess that's not much of a secret either.

10) What is your favorite time of day?

Night, I am a night owl.

11) What do you think is romantic? What does the word Romance mean to you?

Hmm, I had to give this one a lot of thought. I think tender moments that come out of the blue are romantic. Like I'm standing in the kitchen and my DH sneaks up to give me a kiss or hug. Taking time to touch is romantic.

Defining romance is so much harder. On the surface, it is about establishing a connection with a special someone that normally leads to sex. But it can also be about maintaining that connection.

12) What type of music gets you dancing?

I mostly listen to alt metal but almost anything with a good bass line and a strong beat will get my hips twitching. I still have an affinity to Middle Eastern music. Not so good with techno.

13) Who would you go out on a date with if you could?

Date to me implies romance and frankly, I don't see famous people that way. A date with my hubby would be nice. He works too much, has the hyperactivity without the attention problems ;p

14) You're having a dinner party, what five people would you invite?

Assuming it could be anyone:

Shemar Moore for eye candy, Nickelback (that counts as one doesn't it?) to liven things up, and three of my favorite authors. If I can narrow it down to three. Or maybe hold a contest, yeah that'd work.

Random Questions:

1) Aliens have landed on the planet. What are the three things you would tell them that are great about this planet?

Chocolate, horses and the arts, all of them.

2) If you could create your own drink what would go in it and what would you call it?

oh boy. I'm not much for mixed drinks. I like my tequila straight up, my wine uncooled (if that's even a word) and my tea or coffee black.

3) You have been locked in a mall and told you can get anything you want and when they open in the morning you won't have to pay a single cent. What stores would you hit? Better question how would you haul away all your loot?

I'd get some clothes all though not a lot, I'm a jeans and t-shirt gal. Shoes? Books if there's a bookstore. Cool Asian stuff like fountains, Buddhas, etc. Art, yeah, some nice prints or paintings. I'd check out the jewelry but again, I don't wear a lot and nothing gaudy. If they have a furniture or home furnishings type store, I could get some new stuff there. As for hauling it, that's what trucks and horse trailers are for and husbands (grin)

4) If your life were turned into a cartoon, what cartoon character would you want playing you?

Really? oh, the mom from the Incredibles!

5) If you were a pirate what would your booty consist of? What would your pirate name be?

What ever they have? Money's always nice and easy. Ravenclaw

6) Okay I have to include a crazy question so here goes: He-Man, GI-Joe, The Thundercats, The Transformers and Jem are all in a battle to decide who is the best 80s cartoon, who do you think will win?

I told you it was a crazy question. No one said I was sane. :-p

I have no idea who Jem is but I would go with the Transformers, they annoy me less.

7) You've been given the honor of naming a planet, what would you name it?

Is it inhabitable? I think that makes a difference. If it's in this solar system I'd have to stick with a roman

god, say Minerva. Out of this system and inhabitable, I would go with Midguard

8) If you were in a rock band what would the name of your band be? What would your rocker name be?
Darkness Before Dawn, Raven

Wolfman 2: Revelations

Brannan Black

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We were hauling the last of the stuff I needed to the truck. Without warning, Mace shoved me down by the truck, covering me with his body. A distant gunshot echoed in the still air. At the same time I heard a howled groan. Slade lay nearly face to face with me. Blood dripped onto the broken pavement. He'd been shot!

"Fuck!" I wormed a bit trying to keep a piece of broken pavement from castrating me. A puff of concrete exploded behind us.

I felt Mace twist and from the corner of my eye saw him give a hand signal to Vegas. Struck me as odd. Military. A glass storefront shattered as the shooter took a shot at Vegas dashing for the alley. If he hadn't been so fast, she'd have got him. Or maybe if she'd been closer. It wasn't Glory, she'd have nailed both guys regardless. It could be Deb or Angie. There weren't any other groups of refugees in the area. They had to be from my compound.

I drew a deep breath. "They might be looking for me. Let me the fuck up and I'll find out."

"Wait. Stay down." Mace kept me pinned tight.

"Seriously? We just lay here until they get bored?" Did I have to sound so snide? I really was trying to be more submissive. It wasn't going well.

Mace growled softly, a hair's breadth from my ear. "No, brainiac, we keep them distracted until Fox can grab them."

The shooters wouldn't be expecting this group of well-organized wolfmen. Rabids, they attacked straight on. Mace's pack had lookout posts in a few tall buildings and worked foot patrols. Which is how they spotted me in the first place. And used the same damned distract and bag tactic.

"Fuck, Mace. You can't just kidnap them."

He arched a brow. "They're in my territory, they shot Slade, and, in case you missed it, they're trying to kill us. They deserve a lot worse."

Slade shifted to sitting against the truck tire. He pulled his shirt out to examine the damage to his shoulder. The bleeding had already slowed to a trickle. "Hate to complain, but the bullet's still in there. Hurts like hell." He felt around the wound.

"Then quit poking it, dumbass," Mace snorted.

Slade snickered.

Mace rolled to a sitting position and gave a nod to Jeff, crouched behind a derelict car. He dashed toward the alley, drawing fire and being just slow enough to get sprayed with pulverized brick.

A shot sprayed glass over us. Fuck! They'd shot my truck! Those bitches!

"Damn it, what's taking them so long?" Mace snarled.

God damn stupid. Didn't they know they should move after a couple shots? Damn rabids could trace a shot by sound just as well as Mace's pack. The next one hit low, sending pieces flying under the truck to pepper my face.

Mace yanked me behind a tire. Mace and Slade froze. They got these looks like they were listening to something I couldn't hear. Mace grabbed my shoulder. "Got 'em, now let's get your stuff loaded and go home."

What exactly did that mean? Got the shooters? Fuck, I hoped they weren't dead.

Slade pulled out a whistle and blew it. Only I couldn't hear a thing. Mace winced. "Warn a guy first, Slade. My ears are gonna ring all day!"

No fucking way. They used dog whistles to communicate?

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