



dreamer_marie wrote in [mdmfans](#),
[2007-02-17](#) 13:40:00

Mina de Malfois and The Thoughts on Yaoi - Part 2

Yesterday night, I sat down to chat with Mina again for the second part of the interview, *Mina de Malfois and the Thoughts on Yaoi*. If you have questions you would like me to ask her in the third and last part of the interview, please let me know in the comments!

All right. One of the questions I'm rather curious about is: how did you get the idea for *Mina de Malfois*?

Looking back, it had such a simple beginning: some friends and I had been joking about BNFs, and I wrote Snailmail Affair just to entertain a tiny group of people. Almost as soon as it was posted, though, I thought, 'Damn, I should have included that thing where BNFs are always trying to act like charities and do fundraising.' And then someone would mention some other BNF-ish thing, and meanwhile the characters and their relationships were starting to flesh out for me--I could imagine their interactions and motivations so clearly--so it just grew from there.

And it was an instant success...

How long did it take between writing Snailmail Affair and posting on LJ?

The public post went up...I'd have to check to be accurate, but I'll take a wild guess and say a couple of weeks later. It didn't take long, anyway. Like so much in fandom, it threatened to become an enormous (but satisfying) time-waster, and I thought I might as well waste everyone *else's* time while I was at it. Also, for some reason the fics were in first-person--which I usually don't write--so it seemed logical that Mina would be posting them in her own lj. Then all these people started showing up, and to this day I'm not sure why or where they came from. It obviously got linked or reviewed by someone other than my own flist, though, because there were people reading whom I'd never heard of, and had no 'mutual friends' in common with. It was a bit intimidating; I wasn't sure what amused my friends and friendsfriends would necessarily entertain anyone else. But the readers have been so charitable and encouraging about the whole thing; really, they're a lovely example of how supportive fandom can be, and how willing to laugh at itself. I guess it helps that they know the author-behind-Mina must be a fannish geek as well, so the fics are *friendly* humour rather than hostile.

Yeah, I remember someone reccing it on my f-list and I gave it a try. And begged to be added, of course...

That was just before the MsScribe fandom implosion, and somehow you came up in the conversation on Bad Penny. Charlotte Lennox and you were the hottest OTP in fandom at the time.

So, to set the record straight: are you Charlotte Lennox?

I am not Charlotte Lennox. It pains me to admit it, though, because I heard that rumour too, and I was highly flattered that people thought I was her!

I might know who she was, but I'd be thrown out of the Order of Sockpuppets if I divulged that information.

Damn, now I'll never know...

Speaking of MsScribe, there were two Harry Potter BNFs involved in the whole story. When I first read about Mina, I thought the tandem Mina/Arc reminded me a bit of those two (a BNF and her archivist) - only saner. Did you had them in mind at all, or is this a case of reader interpretation?

The BNF in question (I know who you mean; I must have amazing psychic powers) was very much in my mind--she'd been joked about on my friendslist, and Mina is, to some extent, a 'rewrite' of her if she'd had, let's say, better advisors and a slightly greater capacity to control her own sense of BNFdom.

The link between her archivist and Arc is more tenuous--of course I saw it as soon as it was pointed out to me, and ever since then I've tried to write Arc as a kinder, wiser, gentler archivist than the real one. But originally she was an archivist because I wanted her to be an older-woman-in-fandom who'd have some sort of influence over Mina, and who'd be in a position to mentor her. (One observant reader made me aware of what the implications of Arc/Mina shipping would be, if the characters were translated into the real world...and, well, let's not even go there. But *that*, I assure you, was not my intent! I do not ship any real live BNFs with anyone.)

Your psychic powers are truly amazing, indeed... Who knows what you get up to on the Astral Plane!

To get back to the MsScribe affair, did you know about it beforehand?

I knew some of the saga of her sockpuppeting, and I knew it was being collected and organized for posting, but I didn't know most of the specifics--or the sheer extent of it.

Yes, my exploits on the Astral Plane are legendary, haha.

Aha! So you are Rabbit's new mystery boy-friend...I knew it!

Talking about Rabbit's boyfriend, we now know a bit more about Josh/Jen (and I'm eagerly looking forward for the Mina/Jen confrontation), it's rather fuzzy who knows she's a girl and who thinks she's a boy (I'm going to assume Rabbit thinks she's a boy, because...well, she's probably not the most sane person out there, is she?). However, Jen seems rather sane in real life. Can you tell us a bit more about her, without spoiling us, of course?

I can, and I hope this won't be a spoiler: once, when I was in Paris, I fell in love with an

impossible statue. It was like when you have a crush on a fictional character, or when you're impossibly moved by the appearance of someone you see in a photograph or a movie--in fact, it was like the worst of both experiences, because the person was both fictional yet *visible* there in the statue. And when I started writing Josh/Jen into the story (there are obvious fandom precedents), that statue sprang back into my mind.

Because of Josh/Jen's fandom precedents (including the Amy Player saga, among others), I think we can safely say that the character has criminal, or at least con-artist, leanings. Although I think Josh's ultimate goal would be fame, probably via Hollywood or the stage...

Is that why Xenalvr is so interested in her? Because she does seem the cynical type... On the other hand, I can't see Saint Scholastica being thrilled with such a shady character among their students...

I agree, Josh/Jen is certainly not what the St. Scholastica campus has in mind as the ideal student--and I think the character is more devious, and a bit less ethical, than most of the surrounding characters. I think Josh/Jen might cross lines that Mina and co. would know shouldn't be crossed.

Xenalvr, though, having a slightly checkered past of her own--and a mysterious present--probably has a broader sense of what's permissible; I think she's sympathetic to Josh/Jen, even if she isn't fully informed about all of Josh/Jen's activities.

Well, that should be interesting...

This "season" of Mina is very much focused on Jen. It looks like you've put PrinceC, BalletChic and Warr1or a bit on the back-burner. Are they going to get a big come-back, or will that be for later?

Oh, don't worry: they'll show up again. BalletChic, in particular, will be at the centre of the next story (Artistic Temperament), and the others will re-emerge in time.

Many thanks to Mina for her time!