



(photo: Irina Kovaliova)

THERE'S SOMETHING SO WONDERFULLY QUIRKY ABOUT TWO CHARACTERS THAT ARE IN LOVE BUT ALSO HEADSTRONG.

*Interview with Stana Katic
by László Harsányi*

When I heard that **Stana Katic**, the star of *Castle* would come to a film festival in the neighbourhood (Zlin is only 400 km away) I was sure that I had to try to grab the opportunity to meet her. The fact that her new movie „**For Lovers Only**” had the pre-premiere screening during the festival was the icing on the cake.

LH: Which was your favourite episode in this season and which was the most demanding as an actress?

Stana Katic: Favourite episodes of the season were probably 3x13, 3x24 and 3x11. 3x11 was the Nikki Heat episode, did you see all of them? Yes? Ok, so the Nikki Heat episode was a lot of fun, just to play Beckett kind of disassembling. 3x13, which was written by Will Beal where we find out more about Beckett's mother's murder, we catch Lockwood... There were some really incredible actors, I loved working on that and the 3x24 which was the finale, I liked working on it and that was Will Beal's episode, as well.

LH: Unfortunately he left the show, it's a pity.

SK: Yes, I know, I know.

LH: In this season fans have problems to understand the motifs behind Beckett's actions and reactions. *Castle* had Martha and Alexis as a sounding board for his thoughts and feelings but Beckett has nobody now, even Lanie was only a professional. Will it change in the next season? Last summer you asked for a gay friend...

SK: Or somebody (*laughs*)! I think it is important for a character like Beckett to have somebody she can speak with. I even said could she have a brother? Someone at home, like a crazy artist brother, you know. They said they intend to write somebody in; but you never know until you actually get into it. And even once you introduce that character you have to use the character, you have to develop the character and their relationship. So that requires a bit of investment and we will see what the writers will come up with. I hope so. Because I believe in the character; but I believe that we have to go home with her sometimes and we have to understand who she is at home. I can justify things or spaces or moments or what-not in my own head; but there's stuff we learned about *Castle* as audience members that I don't even know about him as a character. I don't know that the reason his relationships fell apart was because of the women not because of him. My character still believes that it's because of him! And I remember I even said to Andrew Marlowe: “Ugh, do we know why he got two divorces?” And he said, “yes, we do”. I said: “When did we find that out?” And he said, well, in this and this episode, and I said “Where?”. And he: “well that happened in the loft.” Of course!! If it happened in the loft, that's why I don't remember it.

LH: He was not with you.

SK: That's right, and that's why I don't even remember it! He was at home. Beckett never heard about that backstory. I think that there is an opportunity to grow

from this last season. It's out of my control. I just speak the words. But I hope the writers actually take that opportunity and continue to develop what seems to have been a successful 3rd season. And I'm sure they will. And I think that one of the important elements that we have to have is somebody that Beckett has as her sounding board, to develop her home life.



(photo: ABC)

LH: Alexis and Beckett. Molly Quinn told in one of her last interviews that she thinks this relationship is going to be rocky in the next season, that Alexis won't really be happy if Castle and Beckett's relationship is going to be firmer. What's your opinion about it? Not a forecast of what's going to happen, just your POV. Up till now their relationship was perfect.

SK: I think that everyone keeps trying to make Beckett into a mentor character for Alexis and I think there's some value in that but she's more the mentor as like an older sister character. Taken into consideration what the ages of the characters are, she couldn't be her mother, and Alexis already has a mother. And I love stories where the parents are respected, they're not idiots. There are a lot of stories where parents are idiots; and I think it would be nice to have them as a resource for wisdom, just like the older people in my life. And it's important for Alexis to have her mother, to have her father and have her grandmother as resources for wisdom. But I like the idea that Beckett is a character that has that kind of "fun older sister" quality to her. I don't know if they have to be an opposition, I haven't read that so that information is new.

LH: There is an opinion that up till now Alexis was the unquestionable No. 1 in Castle's life. In case Beckett becomes a stronger, more permanent one in his life, well, anyhow Alexis is only a teenager. Alexis loves her, but Castle spends his time at the

precinct when he is working, now he would spend his time with Beckett when he is not working, so Alexis would have to share the same time/space with her that was previously of her own.

SK: Well I would hope that Beckett will spy that, see that and have enough intelligence to say 'Castle you should spend some time with your daughter', you know to encourage that.

LH: Will Castle get it? Castle very often has absolutely no clue about what women think.

SK: I don't know. I don't know where their relationship is really going this season, yet. I have heard stuff, but I don't know if they are gonna be living together, I don't know if they are gonna be in that deeper relationship right away. I'd like it, not living together necessarily, but just start dating at least, and that can be complicated, she can be opinionated, he can be opinionated. There's something so wonderfully quirky about two characters that are in love but also headstrong. I'd love to see that kind of relationship grow. Beckett's not gonna ever be a mother character to Alexis because she has a wonderful mother, and a wonderful grandmother and a wonderful father. But I think Beckett can be somebody to look for help or information in the future. We will see, I don't know what they are going to do with that.



(photo: ABC/Randy Holmes)

LH: You were the first who told that there is no harm for the show in letting Castle and Beckett be together. What could be the reason that the "Moonlighting Curse", a fiction from more than ten years ago has such an impact even now in Hollywood?

SK: I think it's just fear, that's it. All they say is that no one's going to watch. Really, no one is going to watch two characters who are in love get together?

LH: And the problem is that the longer they pull it the harder to find an equally challenging next step. If they pull out seven-eight season until two mature, adult, independent people decide "OK, let's have a coffee together"...

SK: It's boring and ridiculous, I agree. Although, I still believe there are a couple of steps before the two characters can believably get together. I do believe that Beckett has to figure out what happened to Castle's past, because I don't think she knows. He left with her ex-wife last year! And that, in many ways, said: "I'm not interested in you in a romantic way". So she's like, OK (*with her hand she shows a whoosh*). And there's also the fact that Beckett has a boyfriend, which has to be dealt with! I mean, she's not a slut - I hope. Even though now everybody is so annoyed with him...

would bring in the male audience now, too.

LH: How does your typical shooting day go? From your tweets I see you are working at 2-3 am very often.

SK: We start at 6 o'clock in the morning on Monday and then we usually finish on Saturday at about 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning. So every day we work around 14 to 17 hours. I'm there most of the time.

LH: For *Lovers Only*, if I may. What are the first reactions?

SK: I've heard that they found it very intimate. People loved that it was in black and white. I think though that the biggest note I kept getting was that it's very intimate.



(photo: *For Lovers Only* / Stana Katic's FB page)

LH: Oh yes, Josh...

SK: Is he a point of contention? (*laughs*) He's played by Victor Webster, he is really lovely, I'm sorry.

LH: I've seen his tweets, I feel sorry for him, he is the most hated man.

SK: Oh, yes, I know, poor guy!

LH: Castle is a steady winner in almost all female rating groups, most your fans here are also ladies. How much is Castle a "female show"?

SK: I think it caters to women. I think that the stories that we tell are first of all tying a love story and a romantic comedy in a way which caters to women. There's a strong female character, so women can relate to her. I hope. I don't know, but I think they can. She seems approachable, you know. We've got that covered and I'm grateful for the female fans but I think that in the last last year we started gaining more male fans. I think that comes from higher stakes episodes and just the growth of the characters. I think that

LH: European filmmakers always complain that American movies invade the European cinemas, now Americans made a European movie, if I may say that.

SK: Yes, this is very European.

LH: One question about the last two minutes, which is in colour. Is it a dream, is it a fantasy, is it the future?

SK: I don't know why they put it in. I love those moments but I don't know what it is.

LH: I have asked four people after the screening and for all of them the movie ended with the "for lovers only" in the cab and only for my question they realized that this was not the end. Was it a surprise even for you?

SK: The scripted ending is the cab. Then that other part we filmed; but I didn't know where they were going to use that. But it's the quality of the whole film. It's so playful and so sweet. I love that you loved it, thank you!

LH: *You have mentioned that you would be interested doing a Bollywood movie. Were you serious?*

SK: You know they look like such fun. I saw "Slumdog Millionaire" and it was such a wonderful film. Danny Boyle directed it. I think he is an interesting creative. Indian culture in general is very interesting, so if nothing else maybe I get to go and travel to India, just to have fun and dance (*laughs*).



(photo: Bazille)

LH: *The photoshoots you make, most of them are very experimental, adventurous, not the usual glam photos of a beautiful actress. Do you have the ideas and then you look for photographers who you think can bring the most out of it or you are asked with concepts?*

SK: Photoshoots are creative, kind of expressive. It's a collaboration for me with the photographer. Sometimes it's an idea, like eg. the geisha photoshoot we did. At the time, I was working with probably one the premiere geisha wig-makers, costumers from Japan and I wanted to learn more about her culture and about the world where she came from.

I work on a show for nine months of the year and I've never been used to working on one character for that long. So sometimes I need to go and explore another character for a little bit just so that I can keep creatively stimulated. The photoshoots are something like that, an opportunity to go and explore another world for a little bit.

That's kind of where the last photoshoot came from with Brian Bowen Smith, who's a phenomenal photographer. He started off working under Herb Ritts's and now is just this insanely talented solo photographer. We really connected creatively and said "let's do another shoot together". The concept world was put

together. It's like making a movie almost, you really don't know if it's going to work or not. You just hope. And hopefully everybody that comes to it comes with the right spirit. And everyone that participated on that photo shoot, from the hairstylist Boogie to the make-up artist Sarah Vaughn, the costumer Gena Tusso and Brian's team and so on, the list went on with all these people that came together and it was perfect...

Everyone came with the right kind of mindframe, everybody came to it as a creative collaborator. Everyone went above and beyond what they were expected to do and what they were there to do, because they were there for a creative experience. So that's what there is when we are going to photo shoots, for me it's the moment to go into a different character, go and explore a different world, and to work with some of the most wonderful creatives out there. It's just fun.

LH: *You are very active on Twitter and FB, have a very direct contact with your fans yet you have managed to keep your privacy. What's your key to this, being open and private at the same time? Great studios have just now asked some of their stars to use the social networks less often, to maintain their „mystique“.*

SK: My fans respect my private life and I appreciate that. I don't know if they would be interested in what I ate for breakfast, what time I went to go and pick up the groceries. I think they are interested in the projects I'm doing and my work.



(photo: Harsányi László)

LH: *The very last question: you have posted a photo of very cute ducklings. What did they do in the Castle set?*

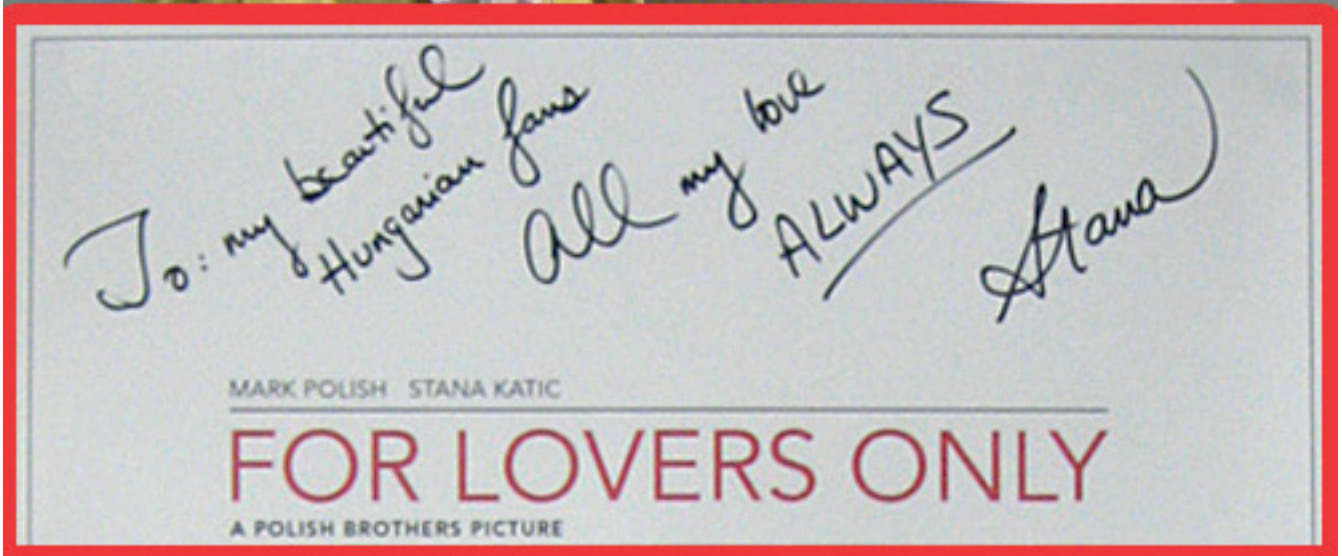
SK: Our set designer, Alfred has a farm and he brought these ducklings to set one day. He had them as pets in his office, and everybody visited them during breaks. Now they are grown up and they are in his farm, but

they were in his office for a little while, they are adorable.

LH: I have waited for the moment when they would appear in Castle.

SK: I know, is everybody waiting for them? That's so funny! For a while I think everybody thought I have them in my room or something. So it was close, but no.

LH: Thank you very much for the interview.



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