

# Hemorrhage

## *Fabella*

Honorary Award 2007: obsessive24's choice

The review below may contain spoilers for Supernatural up to mid season 2.

**Nicky:** I've selected Hemorrhage for my 2007 honorary award because I felt that it exemplifies my ideals in vidding: how to relay a complex idea in a emotionally powerful way. The opening title is both simple and unsettling. I felt that the noose image set up the whole premise of the vid beautifully: Dean has a death wish, and Sam is powerless to stop it. This notion has its roots in canon, particularly in light of season 3. However, this vid addressed the issue thoroughly at a much earlier stage in the series, and in an incredibly transparent, touching way.

**Brad:** I was cursing Fabella while watching the vid because these things that most of us mortals struggle with - transparent narrative POV and the balance of meaning, flow, and musicality - she makes them look so effortless and intuitive. I wonder if it *is* as easy as it looks for her. Wait... I don't want to know.

**Nicky:** Let's not ask.

The story is told in Sam's voice, an anguished plea to Dean's pain, darkness and eventual lack of trying. What I find particularly interesting about this narrative is that it's heavily focused on Dean - essentially a Dean character study - but it's told all from Sam's point of view, which ultimately reflects on Sam's character in a real, emotional way.

**Brad:** You could argue that it's a dual character study, with equal insight into both. But, as you said, that doesn't really hit home until the end.

**Nicky:** The images are dense and layered with meaning: Dean repeatedly saving Sam and John from 0:21 - 0:33, Dean looking at Lucas at 0:39, and the particularly telling shot of his tearful eye at 0:57 as it becomes more and more apparent that he's starting to stop trying.

**Brad:** I was particularly struck with that image because of the lyric tie to "what did you expect to find/was it something you left behind".

**Nicky:** The first chorus hits a particularly dark note with many visions of blood - both Dean's and the blood of others that he has spilled. This to me was important in developing the backbone of the story, because it was important to understand *why* Dean has this death wish in the first place. When watching this vid I always feel like I got a bargain because it seems like I got two fully fleshed-out character studies in one.

**Brad:** Ha! I totally didn't read that before I wrote the earlier comment.

**Nicky:** 1:12 marks a wonderful bridge, both in terms of narrative and emotional intensity. Suddenly the vid switches to a nostalgic sepia and happier times on the road, offsetting the violence that came before and also immediately after.

**Brad:** It also breeds a bit of paranoia, as you feel like tragedy and violence is going to strike at any moment for the rest of the vid; which, of course, aids the overall statement and helps put you into the minds of both characters.

**Nicky:** I loved the lyric match to "oh hold me now I feel contagious". For a moment the focus switches to Sam and it's a heartbreaking look into how Dean (as well as the world in general) impacts upon him.

**Brad:** The lyric ties throughout are just gut-wrenching. Fabella has a real gift for that.

**Nicky:** I particularly liked the clip at 1:48 - how the beat is expressed not on the tackle, as you would expect, but on the unseen impact to the ground. It's an unusual and surprisingly effective editing choice.

**Brad:** ... and a real gift for that. I wonder if we watch enough of her vids if we can absorb some of that.

**Nicky:** I would like to think that I've watched my fair share of Fabella vids in the last few years. Hasn't happened to me yet. Very depressing.

My favourite parallel in this vid is the sequence from 1:58 - 2:02. First we see adult Dean locking out adult Sam, and then almost in the same breath we see young Dean locking the door to keep both himself and young Sam safe. The implications are clear and saddening in context. The clips here seem to build to an inevitable conclusion - with faced with death, the smile on Dean's face at 2:14 only suggests relief.

The segment from 2:15 is again incredibly transparent and powerful. Sam tries all he could to stop Dean from following his death wish. Fabella relays this notion cleverly, using a mixture of contextual violence and imagery of a vocal Sam trying to convince Dean, who is obviously not listening. But it is clear that, no matter what Sam does, Dean just keeps raising that gun to his own head. The prolonged clips for the "you never even try" segment at 2:27 - 2:35 really brings the emotion home.

**Brad:** As a non-Supernatural viewer, I've seen a lot of vids that have tried to get across the point of Dean "giving up," but I've never seen one communicate the message as effectively as Fabella does here.

**Nicky:** The use of external footage of nuclear explosions is intense and unexpected, briefly showing up at the start of the vid and then coming back in spectacular force toward the end. The mixture of clips here is potent, a helpless Sam recalling happier times. But Dean slowly pulls his hands away from the Ouija board at 3:00, and it feels as though he is pulling away from the land of the living altogether. The spectacular blur-out at 3:09 is the perfect expression of the vid's core idea, and the vid ends with Sam looking on, utterly defeated.

**Brad:** There are little touches in the clip choices that are easy to miss on a first view, too, like the poignancy of the Exit sign at 0:50. Extremely smart clip choices.

**Nicky:** This is an incredibly intelligent vid in the things it says and the techniques employed to say it. It is also a deeply emotional vid that taps into the heart of the characters. It's a joy to watch.



THE FOURTH WALL

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