

Shattered - Rage Version

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Achievement in Innovation: Shortlist 2007

The review below may contain spoilers for Supernatural up to the end of season 2.

Nicky: I personally am hopeless at any sort of AU, let alone believable ones, so I was simply blown away by the reality and coherence of Shattered.

Brad: Like you, I imagine, I've seen a lot of them, and the skill displayed in this one is a very rare thing. It's almost as though the vidder was able to shoot her own footage.

Nicky: The use of framing felt particularly important here, both in terms of presenting to the audience a believable AU, and also to direct their eye to certain visuals elements.

Brad: I was really impressed by how well the vidder used emotional close-ups in conjunction with the lyrics to tell us in a very direct way what's happening. It's a unique form of visual storytelling.

Nicky: The song followed the narrative down to a T. It was a great choice in that the song wasn't vague or ambiguous like many songs (particularly songs suitable for vidding); it was particularly concrete in describing what was going on, and that made the AU incredibly easy to follow.

Brad: And that's something that, as a viewer, you just kind of take for granted. But if the song was a hair less than perfect for the concept, it would have really damaged the narrative.

Nicky: The use of other footage of the actress who played Jessica is both necessary and inspired. (Just as a side note - I think the shot of Sam sitting at the doorstep at 0:38 is from external source as well - Gilmore Girls, if I'm not mistaken. It was both amusing and impressive considering how much source the vidder must have had to trawl through in order to make up such a believable AU.)

Brad: As someone who has never seen Supernatural (or any of the secondary source, for that matter), I completely missed that! I guess the fact that I assumed it was all from the same show says as much about the skill of the vid as anything.

Nicky: I loved that there was a palpable break at 0:51, making it clear that the narrative is about to move into the "second Act". That's the other thing I particularly enjoyed about this vid - that the narrative did not end there in a flood of angst face, but instead went on purposefully in an unexpectedly dark direction.

Brad: At that point (around 0:51) I could almost hear the vidder saying "You thought that was good? You haven't seen anything yet..." God, I wish I could make something like this.

Nicky: I particularly liked the guitar bridge where Sam's jealousy reaches fever pitch, and the segment culminates in the wonderful stretched-out shot of him striding off at 1:45. The ending segment is perfectly pitched; at this point I've forgotten altogether that this is an AU vid.

I've seen quite a few AUs that used convincing techniques to blend several sources, but the thing that really impressed me about Shattered was the way it made me forget to focus on that altogether. Instead, the narrative was so engaging that I was wholly focusing on where the story was going next, rather than the way the story was being told from a technical angle. That's a very strong plus in my book.

Brad: I got lost in it as well. I think that's because of a combination of the vidding skill, storytelling skill, and instinctive musicality. It just won't let you look away.

Nicky: This is one of the best AUs I've had the pleasure of watching.



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