

# All of This Past

## *Butterfly*

Achievement in Vidding: Shortlist 2007

The review below may contain spoilers for new Doctor Who up to the end of season 3.

**Brad:** I know a bit about the Doctor's universe, but I've never seen even a single episode; and still the emotion of this video is just overwhelming to me. I feel the doctor's weariness, everything that's happened... It feels like living his entire existence in three minutes.

**Nicky:** This is something that is inherent in the show but not always obvious. While the Doctor *is* lonely beyond belief (especially in the season 3 context), this is also glossed over in the show by his often quirky or frivolous behaviour. What *Butterfly* does is to get rid of the extraneous elements and get to the heart of the matter - a life of utter loneliness and tragedy.

**Brad:** I think it all comes down to the way the vidder approaches the subject with transparency and consistency, making it so accessible that you can't *not* feel that emotional weight.

**Nicky:** I felt that was largely due to *Butterfly* making some very good choices in terms of where to focus the narrative. The Doctor's universe is *huge* - even when we're solely looking at Ten, his travels span a great deal of space and time and a huge number of characters. *Butterfly* placed most of her focus on Rose and The Master, arguably two of the most important people in Ten's run, and the narrative was built from there.

I also thought the use of Martha in the vid was particularly touching. It's no secret that the Doctor didn't treat Martha in quite the way that she deserved to be treated; this vid shows that he knows it and is apologetic, even if he cannot fully rectify it.

**Brad:** I very rarely see dialogue openings done well, but it's done extremely well here both as sort of a thesis statement and to set the mood. And it slides perfectly into the song, so that I never really stop hearing the doctor's voice.

It also has some of the most emotionally evocative clip choices of any vid I've seen in the past year, period. Source coloring, subtle motion, and facial expressions are all used to tremendous effect in shots like the hood over the face at 0:21; the *beautiful* and musical mask at 0:40; the pained reaction to the Tardis at 0:48 (love the fading light from inside as well); the closing eyes at 1:24; the doctor's face at 2:11; the smiling Rose and Master overlays at 2:40. The shot of the blowing leaves at the end is another great example in terms of both mood and symbolism.

**Nicky:** My personal favourite bits include the sudden and beautiful explosion at 0:31; the Doctor pulling out the dimension-jumping device at 0:46 without showing what he's doing with it, relying purely on the viewer's knowledge of context; the use of additive dissolves at

1:32 and 1:34 from the book to real life; the clever and subversive use of high-contrast warm tones as a way to suggest "loss and loneliness" around 2:23 - 2:35; and the lovely use of Rose and The Master's smiles at 2:40.

**Brad:** The journey would, I believe, lose a good bit of resonance without the "life is beautiful" - "but this moment is mine" section beginning at 0:55. "All of this forgotten, but not by me" to those stunning connections from the journal... it just kicks you in the gut. "God will come looking for me in time" is a heart-wrenching plea.

**Nicky:** For me, the true voice of the vid comes through at 1:59, with the beautiful saturating-in of the hands. These are the ordinary people he'd saved; this is the point of his keeping on going. I felt it was this part that really gave a purpose to the rest of the vid.

**Brad:** There are some very beautiful moments of pulsing musicality and connected movement (like the spinning motion at 1:41) all through, but it's just the cherry on top.

In another way, I get the sense that this vid expresses something *on behalf* of fandom: All of this will not be forgotten.



THE FOURTH WALL

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