

# Your Love is a Lie

*Kitty*

Achievement in Innovation: Shortlist 2008

The review below may contain spoilers for Supernatural.

**Nicky:** A well done AU vid is like nothing else. You are left marveling at the vidder's ability to create something out of nothing, and make it look completely convincing at the same time. Your Love is a Lie is just such a vid.

**Brad:** It's so perfect and so convincing that I couldn't help laughing while watching it the first time. It's like watching a fanfic. Did they shoot an episode just for Kitty? Or is this a pilot for a new HBO series? It looks so incredibly convincing that it's hard to tell.

**Nicky:** I loved the presentation style of the vid. The uniform blue-toned desaturation makes it look and feel different from your usual Supernatural vid, and a consistent filter is applied throughout to give an interesting-looking frame to the visuals. Add to that the excellent titles work, great musicality and some fantastic video compositing, and it all comes together for a brilliantly entertaining viewing experience.

**Brad:** I think the consistency in coloring and texture work helps combine the different sources and also gives Kitty a built-in advantage when it comes to composite work. Once she applies the coloring and texture from the rest of the vid to the added source, it makes it easier to convince us that it's part of the same world.

But, beyond that, she's just extremely smart in how she goes about telling the story.

**Nicky:** One thing I particularly liked was how the vid started on an AU basis by postulating that Sam and Dean are together. While it's likely that a lot of Supernatural fans already take this as given, it's quite another matter to communicate the notion effectively within the first 6 seconds of the vid using visuals alone.

**Brad:** And that's including time to work in the titles! I'm certainly not an easy sell when it comes to Sam and Dean being in a relationship, so Kitty has to spell it out for me. In six seconds! Counting the titles!

**Nicky:** That is just what Kitty does, however, by selecting a few choice clips such as the hotel door sign at 0:04, and the still at 0:06. Once the AU premise is out of the way, the real AU narrative starts with Dean receiving a cleverly manipulated text from "Patrick." Dean leaves, and Kitty's astute choice of clips leaves Sam looking like a spurned wife, waiting for unfaithful Dean to come home.

**Brad:** Again, not just convincing, but *effortlessly* convincing and in rapid-fire fashion. In 10 seconds, she easily establishes that (1) they're involved, (2) they're happy with each other,

(3) Dean is secretly seeing a guy named Patrick, and (4) Sam is starting to suspect and is agonized over it. IN 10 SECONDS. ... Counting the titles.

**Nicky:** The narrative doesn't give up from there. I love the segment of Sam trying to call Dean. Dean elusively hangs up and Sam tosses his phone away in despair, followed by a great still shot of Sam with his head in his hands at 0:24.

**Brad:** Kitty does a fantastic job all through of using facial expressions and emotion out of context to sell the story. I'm incredibly envious of her mastery of that technique.

**Nicky:** The use of text is unexpected and interesting at 0:27, bringing "Patrick" into the picture.

**Brad:** I think that text is important because I doubt most people would have picked up on the name from the quick shot of the text message at the beginning.

**Nicky:** Further in respect of narrative, I love the use of the shaky cam effect that comes in the second half of the vid. It marks a definitive transitioning point in the vid and closes off the story as expressively as it started.

**Brad:** The shaky cam also follows the music and emotional flow extremely well, which helps you stay visually involved.

**Nicky:** In the tradition of AU vid narratives, this vid mainly utilises clips that follow the literal interpretation of lyrics for maximum impact. However, one particular point that I really enjoyed was the subversive little match of Dean's lip movement on 0:29 to "blow a kiss". It is so hilariously tongue-in-cheek that I can't stop playing it over and over.

**Brad:** I feel the same way about Sam's reaction just after. Again, masterful use of facial expressions here.

**Nicky:** I particularly liked the layer composition and masks in this vid, such as 0:36, where "Patrick" is revealed for the first time in a well-composed layer of a thoughtful Sam in the foreground; 0:47, using the same shot of Dean under various masking and blurs to transition into the main AU chorus; 0:53 with different Patrick and Sam kisses composited on the same Dean picture; and my favourite, 0:58 with Dean in the foreground as Sam-in-bed fades over Patrick-in-bed in the background.

**Brad:** 0:58 and 0:53 are both really effective, though I actually like 0:53 better because it's so smooth and in the foreground you get Sam's opinion on what's going on.

**Nicky:** All of this has such a wonderfully innovative feel of being half vid and half graphic art.

**Brad:** And half fanfic! Wait, that's three halves... which seems somehow appropriate.

**Nicky:** I really felt that the details in Your Love is a Lie - both in terms of narrative and execution - takes it to a whole new level when it comes to AU vids.