

# I Want You (She's So Heavy)

*kiki\_miserychic*

Achievement in Innovation: Winner 2008

The review below may contain spoilers for *Supernatural*, *Zombie Duck* and *Planet Terror*.

**Nicky:** The Achievement in Innovation category looks at a number of different aspects which mark vidding out as an innovative art form. It involves technical aspects such as effects and storytelling, and equally it involves examining what kind of comments vids are capable of making, and the context in which they are making them. For 2008, we felt that *kiki\_miserychic*'s *I Want You (She's So Heavy)* exemplified the most innovation that vidding had to offer in all these aspects.

**Brad:** I once referred to the experience of watching this vidder's work as "diving headfirst down the rabbit hole," and this vid is probably the deepest rabbit hole I've come across. She has a knack for turning fandom concepts on their head - or some equally awkward angle - and showing them to us from a new perspective. In this case, she opens up fandom's head and snacks on its brains.

**Nicky:** What I love most about this vid is how many layers one is capable of reading out of (or into) it. Mind-bending *Zombie/Supernatural AU* with *Wincest* and strippers? Certainly. A commentary on how fandom - perhaps *Supernatural* fandom in particular - views and treats women? Maybe. A non fandom-specific commentary on vidding in general and attitudes toward effects use and external footage? A second-tier commentary on fannish lenses and the extent to which *Supernatural* fandom is capable of seeing and/or critiquing its own show? The lines get murkier and blurrier and yet this vid is capable of supporting every reading. It holds up a mirror to the viewer and lets them see what they bring to the table, but at the same time it's a funhouse mirror where no reading is quite the same coming out the same way it went in.

**Brad:** It took me a long long time to see past the mind-bending-zombie/*Supernatural-AU-with-Wincest-and-undead-strippers* layer. But even when that was all I saw, I was hopelessly addicted to the vid because of how it's constructed, the presentation, how it uses secondary source and effects, and the clever moments of storytelling and musicality all through. I think that says a lot about it.

**Nicky:** There's been a lot of discussion about the representations and treatment of women in *Supernatural*. Equally, if not more, there are a lot of fanworks that focus on *Wincest*, some training a lens on the emotional and psychological ramifications while others focus squarely on the hotness of naked Sam and Dean. I felt that this vid in a way is giving the fandom exactly what it wants: a story rooted in action and horror filmmaking, enough overt objectification of women to *really* get worked up about, and a whole lot of manipulated Sam/Dean sex to boot. It's both a fangirl's ultimate dream and, in some respects, her worst nightmare, because it shows that all her criticisms about this show and this fandom are true

and supportable. Is she glad or horrified? One suspects it's both, underlying each other and feeding off each other in an endless circle.

Personally, I found it very difficult to express any of my thoughts on this vid without realising that I end up saying a lot more about *myself* than I in fact do about this vid. It makes me uncomfortable, and at the same time extremely grateful that there is a vid out there that has the capability of doing exactly that.

**Brad:** It makes me uncomfortable to admit that for a long time I saw only the surface layer and what that says about me as a viewer. It's frightening that it's even possible to create such an organic vid with so many layers, and that the vidder can hold a mirror up to each of us like that. It's alive!

I don't even know if it's relevant to express how I personally feel about the deeper readings of the vid. What matters is how *you* - the person reading this - feels about them, and what *you* see. It's yours, each of you. That's why this is such a groundbreaking, innovative vid.

**Nicky:** I agree. It's extremely postmodern in outlook and that's one of the key factors in why this vid works so well on multiple levels.

I've gone this long without talking about actual tech in this vid. Suffice to say that this was one of the most audacious vids that I've seen in 2008, not simply in terms of what it's saying but also in the way it has been carried out. From the VCR-era tape warp effects to the inherent sense of musicality, from the composite masking to the infamous zombie stripper "Missing Reel", this vid takes on a personality all of its own and provides a grotesquely watchable canvas on which battle lines are drawn. In honour of I Want You (She's So Heavy), I will leave my meaning of "battle lines" undefined.

**Brad:** Yet I'm quite comfortable saying that the "missing reel" moment and the segment just after is one of several parts that anyone who watches the vid will never forget. Watching it is an experience that's frightening (in a "is this vidder going to damage me somehow mentally" way), disturbingly sexy, and can't-look-away interesting. And I think that's a way in which we're all united.

THE FOURTH WALL

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