

Ease My Pain

Loki

Achievement in Use of Music: Shortlist 2009

Achievement in Mood: Shortlist 2009

The review below may contain spoilers for Supernatural up to season 4.

Nicky: What a gorgeous study in mood! Ease My Pain sets Sam's season 4 arc against lovely blue-toned visuals and a sultry heartbeat, and presents Supernatural as an ethereal journey, often presented literally via a repeating road motif.

Brad: It's so surreal and so evocative that it almost feels like you're entering the vidder's mind. It's a mood that has been *crafted* leaning heavily on the vidder's skill with tech and motion and musicality, and yet it looks so cohesive. It feels as much to me like a work of visual art as any vid I saw this year.

Nicky: The editing method is dreamy and pulsating, with speed changes, cross dissolves and motion blurs all serving to create a truly absorbing atmosphere.

Brad: The coloring work is especially beautiful and really serves the atmosphere in a way that's tough to describe. It feels more like a dream about the show than the show itself. That's further heightened by the way Loki often returns to the same scene over and over. It's positively hypnotic.

Nicky: Coupled with the inspired use of black space, I felt that the editing is particularly served during the bridge from 2:54 - 3:20 as Sam struggles with his visions from demon blood withdrawal. The mood and cutting in this segment is truly haunting, especially as intercut between Sam's memories of a doting Dean and his false vision of an unforgiving Dean.

Brad: And that tear at 3:19 just kills me with how perfect it is. I also adore that extended pull back into focus starting at 3:22.

The visual style and vid concept work so incredibly well with the vidder's sense of musicality, which I think is what makes the vid so effective overall.

Nicky: My favourite part of the vid is the ending segment from 4:00, an inspired narrative choice beginning from the impending rise of Lucifer leading into a "what if?" segment. All the key events leading up to Sam's mistake are played out in reverse, where Sam never learned to use his powers, never consumed demon blood, where even Azazel was just a bad dream, culminating in the moment that Mary enters baby Sam's nursery, carrying young Dean. But instead of entering the nursery, she walks away from it, turning out the light as she goes.

Brad: It's a technique I've seen before, but I've never seen it used in this way or this effectively in service of an AU narrative. All of that aside, it's just a gorgeous bit of musicality.

Nicky: This sequence taps into the depth of both Sam and Dean's desires, leaving an understandable sense of regret to the viewer even as the vid draws to an end.



THE FOURTH WALL
