

Forgive Us Our Trespasses

Melissa

Achievement in Innovation: Shortlist 2009

The review below may contain spoilers for *Supernatural*.

Nicky: What an effective vid!

Brad: And so distinctive. I really don't think I've seen anything quite like it.

Nicky: I'd like to think I've seen my fair share of Wincest vids over the years, but I can easily say that this is one of the most evocative, downright sexy vids that really draws out the subtext that *Supernatural* fandom is so dependent upon.

Brad: In that sense, it almost feels like the vid is the voice of the *Supernatural* vidding fandom. It certainly seems to express the fandom's personality in a distinctive way.

Nicky: The thing that really works to bring out the incestuous tones in the vid, I think, is Melissa's effective method of cutting into the frame to highlight the sensuous nature of the moment. From the very starting clip where only Sam's smiling mouth is in frame, only to cut to his face with a fabulously subtext-laden expression at 0:03, I love that measure of control that the vidder has exerted on each moment, dictating to the audience only what she wants them to see in the canon.

Brad: I love that you can see the vidder's influence on the source all through this part - it's almost like it's saying "here's the show through our eyes."

Nicky: The focus on touch in the 0:18 - 0:26 is incredibly evocative. With every hand that the brothers place on each other's body, intercut with images of flames, of road maps, it's all so... *delicious*.

Brad: The breathing sounds of the opening also work so incredibly well in building the tension and sensuous feel. It feels extremely intimate, almost uncomfortably so. I also really like the smart clip choices here, like the "Secrets" book at 0:15. Those shots are complemented so well by the vidder's out-of-context suggestions on moments like 0:18.

Nicky: This building of tension only progresses as the vid goes on, with lyrical vocals and then choice snippets of source vocals topping off the sultry study like a cherry on top. When Dean loads his pistol at 1:30 and licks his lips, I don't think there's a doubt in anyone's mind that that pistol is not meant to be taken literally.

At the same time, I feel the thing that pins the vid together is not only in the overtly sexy tone, but equally in the deep and abiding sense that it's not quite right. I love the claustrophobic mood and the use of some particularly striking imagery along the way.

Brad: This comes through as strongly as the sexual feel. Shots like the sunlight winking over the church at 0:42 and the exchange of looks just after really grab me. Er, in the bad way. The connection between the birds and the brothers at 1:08 is equally striking and unsettling.

Nicky: I really like the added brightness and contrast to source, which is brought into particular focus in the dreamlike segment from 1:09 - 1:11. The use of negative dissolve and textures from 1:20 - 1:22 felt especially inspired, adding a richness to the vid that supplements its main focus.

Brad: And again, I love shots like the "leaving salvation" sign.

Nicky: Melissa really plays out this notion of unstoppable attraction paired with confusion and guilt, and a little external footage goes a long way in the outright acknowledgement of "I have sinned" toward the end of the vid. After watching this vid on repeat for the purposes of writing this review, I now feel in dire need of a cold shower!



THE FOURTH WALL
