

# Blue Caravan

## *such heights*

Achievement in Use of Music - Shortlist 2011  
Achievement in Mood - Shortlist 2011  
Achievement in Vidding - Shortlist 2011

The review below may contain spoilers for new Doctor Who through the end of series 5.

**HWG:** There's something really special about a nice, clean vid. Blue Caravan delivers such a strong narrative in such a simple form, it cuts straight to the core of what it means to be Amy Pond.

But of course before she was Amy, she was Amelia. A soulful little girl who lived side by side with a crack in time, dreaming such big dreams. The vid opens at this very moment, showing Amelia asleep. I love me some good text work in a vid and here what really struck me is how the vidder interpreted "the universe pouring into your head" as images of all the companions that have traveled with the various incarnations of the Doctor. So when the Eleventh incarnation comes forward at 0:20, it's like he's literally stepping out of her dream. And immediately the story kicks in.

**Nicky:** What particularly struck me was the wonderful composition of this long opening clip/overlay. From the crack on which she rests her head, to the images of past companions projected over her face, and finally the intense stare of each incarnation of the Doctor, there is a simple elegance to both the narrative set-up and the way it was presented visually.

**HWG:** The vid is divided into sections. Each verse brilliantly corresponds to a new stepping stone in Amy's journey as she travels with the Doctor in Series 5. I love how for the majority of the time the "blue caravan" lyric refers to the TARDIS. It's such an obvious yet satisfying correlation and it brings a touch of poetry to this iconic blue box that's changed the lives of so many.

**Nicky:** After seeing this vid, it's hard to imagine anything else as a "blue caravan".

**HWG:** Now let's discuss the genius lyric play. Take the first verse where "my true love is a man" refers to the Doctor, the man Amy has grown up obsessing over since the very first time they met, when she was still Amelia. At 0:30 - 0:40 we see her wonderstruck and full of possibility. Literally in her nightgown, of course she wants to travel with the Doctor "for ten thousand nights". In the canon this is even more wound up with the fact that she's basically been promised this ride since she was a little girl, but the Doctor came back for her too late and it never happened. A lingering disappointment that weighs down upon poor Amy as the disappearing TARDIS suggests at 0:53 - 1:00.

**Nicky:** This may be an unpopular opinion in respect of this specific source, but any kind of emotional infidelity in fiction is a particular bugbear of mine, so I have to admit initially I took great exception to the Doctor being described as Amy's "true love". That said, of course you're right that he came first, so maybe I shouldn't be so harsh on Amy. What this verse gets across tremendously well, as you noted, is this sense of *wonder*. After so many years pining, she finally makes it inside the TARDIS at 0:30, and its associated worlds of possibility. But having made that earlier point, I have to say that the vid really hit its stride for me from verse 2 onward. Because Rory! Yay!

**HWG:** Hey, she made Rory dress up as the Doctor! Homegirl had some intense feels, it's canon. The second verse starts off with a wonderful play on the word "tear". The song means tear, as in to cry. But the vidder throws down a clip of the crack in time, or if you will, a *tear* in time. And even further, it's the tear that causes tears for Amy as immediately following we're introduced to Rory, the other "true love" in Amy's life who is then tragically sucked out of existence that by that pesky tear-inducing tear (1:39 - 1:41).

**Nicky:** Stop, you're making me dizzy! Poignant punning aside, I just adore the emotional intensity of her feelings for Rory. I feel vindicated in the vidder's sensitive treatment of this relationship, in particular the wonderful idea at 1:26 that the engagement ring is a key that fits in a lock. I also love the clip at 1:36, because Rory! Yay!

**HWG:** I found the 1:43 - 1:49 section incredibly moving since again, it cuts right to the heart of this young couple. They don't have the most typical of relationships, in fact it took half of Series 5 for Amy to properly compartmentalize the love she feels for Rory and the Doctor. That's why I absolutely adore the honesty in this section. Because even if Amy was emotionally confused at the beginning of the journey, Rory never was and moments like "go where you have to" (which the vidder beautifully portrays as Amy and the Doctor having a lovely romantic-ish moment under the stars) ring so true. The trust between them is so strong, that's why there's an extra punch to the section at 2:02 - 2:05 where Rory is responsible for tragically shooting Amy.

**Nicky:** I get chills every time I watch this section, especially as it leads into the illustration of Centurion!Rory dragging the Pandorica through the flames. The lyric interpretation is straightforward and incredibly touching. And that look on Amy's face at 1:53 just says it all, really.

**HWG:** So I could talk about these lyrics forever, but I want to get into the technicalities for a bit, like the color palette. I love how the vidder paid special attention to the blues throughout the vid. It's true that this is an intentionally important color for Amy within the source as it's meant to represent her initial connection to the Mad Man with a Box that she met as a little girl, but moments like the blueish overlay in the intro and her blue Converse at 1:08 really show the vidder paying close attention to detail. Which reminds me, one non-actual blue thing I enjoyed seeing is River Song. Being a child of the TARDIS qualifies her to be the blue caravan at 2:55 in a rather fun way!

**Nicky:** The shoes struck a particular chord with me as well. And the lighting! Love the little blue flares along the way such as 0:43 or 1:04. I also loved the awesomely creepy alien head movements from 2:23, leading into that fantastic segment of danger and loss.

**HWG:** My favorite part of the vid is 2:33 - 2:53 where the narrative collides with the climax of the song in such a brilliant way, it's almost disturbing how well it fits. It's so satisfying seeing the parallels between Rory and the Doctor that it's easy to overlook them finally being presented as equals. They're both gone.

**Nicky:** For so much of this vid, she is characterised by her relationship to the two of them. To have them both go away at that point, and then to have her admit that the Doctor is a "beautiful fiction", and *then* for her alone to exercise that power of memory, to be able to bring him back... that's incredibly satisfying from both a relationship and a character angle. The use of text from 3:14 to 3:22 worked extremely well for me, holding off and building up the emotional payoff.

**HWG:** For me the emotional payoff is that really she brought them both back! Because this is an epic love story where a woman loves a man and another man, and that's just how it is. In the end, *that's* Amy Pond and we've just witnessed her own realization. (I cry every time I watch it, true story.)