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# V For Vendetta



## Synopsis

A new trade paperback edition of the graphic novel that inspired the hit movie! A powerful story about loss of freedom and individuality, V FOR VENDETTA takes place in a totalitarian England following a devastating war that changed the face of the planet. In a world without political freedom, personal freedom and precious little faith in anything comes a mysterious man in a white porcelain mask who fights political oppressors through terrorism and seemingly absurd acts. It's a gripping tale of the blurred lines between ideological good and evil. This new trade paperback edition features the improved production values and coloring from the 2005 hardcover.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

V for Vendetta is, like its author's later Watchmen, a landmark in comic-book writing. Alan Moore has led the field in intelligent, politically astute (if slightly paranoid), complex adult comic-book writing since the early 1980s. He began V back in 1981 and it constituted one of his first attempts (along with the criminally neglected but equally superb Miracleman) at writing an ongoing series. It is 1998 (which was the future back then!) and a Fascist government has taken over the U.K. The only blot on its particular landscape is a lone terrorist who is systematically killing all the government personnel associated with a now destroyed secret concentration camp. Codename V is out for vengeance ... and an awful lot more. V feels slightly dated like all past premonitions do. The original series was black and white and that added to the grittiness of the feel while the coloring here in the graphic novel sometimes blurs David Lloyd's fine drawing. But these are small concerns. Skillfully plotted, V is an essential read for all those who love comics and the freedom, as a medium, they

allow a writer as skilled as Moore. --Mark Thwaite --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Grade 9 Up

—The date is November 5th, 1997. War has ravaged England, entire races have been eradicated, the entire British populace is under constant surveillance, and the absolute power is absolutely corrupt. On this historic day, a man with a strong resemblance to Guy Fawkes (in action and dress) blows up Parliament. The bomber, a masked character named V, saves a girl named Eve from a violent crime and takes her under his wing. Moore's dystopian, fascist version of England, ruled by one central leader and his sects (named after parts of the body, such as Finger, Nose, and Voice), is systematically dismantled by the enigmatic V. Readers must ultimately decide if V is a mad anarchist/terrorist or a freedom-fighting avenger for good. Originally published in 1989, V has been reissued as a hardcover book with never-seen-before sketches and two new vignettes. This story is slated to be released as a major motion picture in 2006, and demand should intensify as the movie trailers come out. Combining alternate history with moral questions about freedom and identity, this book would work well in a school setting; and while there is some slight nudity and violence, they fit well within the framework of the story.

—Jennifer Feigelman, Plattekill Public Library, Modena, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I recently read this for the first time. Wow. What a great story! A very cool, unique hero. Somewhat like Batman, somewhat like the Joker. A vigilante, a terrorist. A hero, a villain. Every story should have at least one "Moment of Awesome", and this story has lots of them. From the opening scene on, it's great stuff. The dialogue especially is exceptional. I really liked the artwork also. It was a bit dark in some places, so it has to be studied sometimes. But it was still wonderfully done. My only negative about this story is that for me, it was a bit difficult sometimes to understand who all the characters were. There were a lot of names thrown around, along with many inner monologues. This wasn't a bad thing exactly. It just took a while for all of it to click. Once it did, it was okay. I'm sure it will all make more sense to me on a reread. The story is compelling. Even though you can often predict where it is going, it is still very satisfying. The near future envisioned also holds up well. This is surprising, considering how long ago this story was written. It seems some themes don't grow old. I like how this book - at its core - is about ideas. Personal freedom, and the role of government. These are important things worth thinking about, and most comics don't go there. That's part of what makes "V for Vendetta" so special. It's not so much a typical action story -

although it does have action. It's really more of a thought piece. What makes a "terrorist", exactly? Would a government building bombing be morally acceptable, if done against an evil regime? What is anarchy, and is it ever appropriate? This book raises these uneasy questions, and offers no answers. The protagonist suggests his own answers, but still leaves the final moral judgment up to the reader. This is compelling reading, and raises the story above usual comic fare. The Guy Fawkes mask was a stroke of genius by the authors. Forever now, it will symbolize something great: Ideas of freedom, personal responsibility, and constrained government. It also represents the flip side of that: mob rule, anarchy, and anonymity. (And at worst, terrorism.) It's not easy to consider those things in full. I enjoyed this book a lot. I highly recommend it.

In *V for Vendetta* authors Alan Moore and David Lloyd capture the reader's attention from the start of the graphic novel and never let it go. The book fully lived up to my expectations as my five-star rating reflects. One thing I especially appreciated was the interplay of word and text in the graphic novel. Graphic novels have more to offer than a novel in that they contain both text and image. Moore and Lloyd use this to their full advantage. One thing that particularly struck me was how the text and image combined to affect my reading experience. Specifically, how using different "camera" perspectives enhances the storyline, as they often can provide more information to the reader about the plot, or even foreshadow. Not to give too much away, but two scenes that deftly highlight this dynamic are the Madam Justice scene and the Bishop Lilliman scene. In both scenes, the point of view of the panels had the aforementioned effects. I found what makes *V for Vendetta*, and graphic novels in general, compelling is that they're like no literary work I've read before. The last time I read a book with images was in elementary school. The originality, in addition to the detailed excellence of the graphic novel as a whole, is what makes *V for Vendetta* compelling, and why I would recommend it to all.

Let me start by asking why haven't I ever read this before? I've had half an eye on *V* as a graphic novel for a good decade or more. It's been in my kindle for about a year too, I just never seemed to pick it up. All I can say is, my loss. This graphic novel is fantastic in the way the comics of late 80s, early 90s, really get me going as they explored a darker side of mankind. Now, I've never seen the movie and I knew little about this storyline before I read it other than its set in an alternate timeline in a dystopian Britain. This is a post nuclear war world in the late 1990s some 13 years after the war. Britain was spared but in the

chaos after the war was taken over by a fascist group. All the non-whites, liberals, homosexuals, communists and other usual suspects were rounded up, sent to concentration camps and killed. Now this is a repressive, homogeneous world controlled by a strong central government. The book opens on Guy Fawkes Night with our main character and anti-hero saving a girl from being raped by government goons and also blowing up Westminster Abbey. The book revolves around the fascist government trying to capture V, our protagonist and anarchist, and the struggle between the two extreme philosophies as they're applied to society at large. The story line is dark and pulls no punches. V is a madman and genius and has a vision of the people living free; living as they will vs. living in a world completely controlled by a corrupt and rigid government. Within the context of the story, there is little room for any other way between these two extremes. The book ends with a very strong ending but with no clear resolution; there is no happily ever after. There is just the next stage. I like that it ended in a place without tying everything up in a neat bow and I like that there weren't further comics written in this series to extend it. I'm not sure that if I read this piece by piece, as separate comics, if I would have enjoyed it as much while I waited to find out the next and the next and the next parts until it is just ended. But, that's one of the things I like about the graphic novel format where an entire series of a significant chunk is anthologized to create a fuller novel. As put together, I think this is brilliant. 5 Stars

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