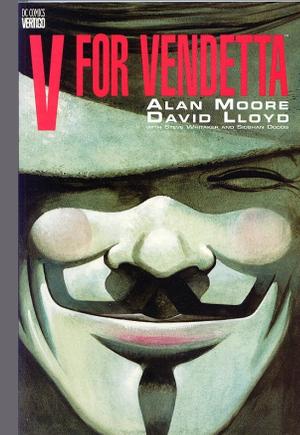


The Graphic Novel

- Written by Alan Moore and illustrated by David Lloyd
- First published between 1982 and 1985 (black and white)
- Drew on many science fiction/dystopian works such as Orwell's *1984*
- "Remember remember the fifth of November, the gunpowder treason and plot. I know of no reason why the gunpowder treason should ever be forgot." Guy Fawkes Gunpowder Plot of 1605



Intertextuality in V for Vendetta

- Gunpowder Plot as V's historical inspiration
- contributing to his choice of timing, language and appearance.
- Rokewood, Percy and Keyes are used in the film, which are also the names of three of the Gunpowder conspirators.
- V as the embodiment of an idea rather than an individual through V's dialogue and by depicting him without a past, identity or face.
- "V's use of the Guy Fawkes mask and persona functions as both practical and symbolic elements of the story. He wears the mask to hide his physical scars, and in obscuring his identity. - he becomes the idea itself"

Intertextuality cont...

- parallels to Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*
- direct comparisons between V and Edmond Dantès.
- In both stories, the hero escapes an unjust and traumatic imprisonment and spends decades preparing to take vengeance on his oppressors under a new persona.

Intertextuality cont...

- story and style mirrors elements from Gaston Leroux's *The Phantom of the Opera*
- both wear masks to hide their disfigurements, control others through the leverage of their imaginations, have tragic pasts, and are motivated by revenge.
- V and Evey's relationship also parallels many of the romantic elements of the *Phantom of the Opera*

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Intertextuality cont...

- The Norsefire regime takes totalitarian imagery from many sources, fictional and non-fictional. Nazi Party, Big Brother.
- Imagery from many classic totalitarian icons
- Third Reich and George Orwell's *1984*.
- In the film the leader primarily appears on large video screens and on portraits in people's homes, reminiscent of Big Brother.
- The slogan "Strength through Unity. Unity through Faith" is displayed prominently across London, similar to "War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength"

6



Anarchism Vs. Facism

- Greek *anarcos* = without rulers
- Political philosophy seeking abolition of 'the state'
- Seeks to diminish/abolish authority in the conduct of human relations (anarchists differ on this)
- "There is no single defining position that all anarchists hold, and those considered anarchists at best share a certain family resemblance." *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy*
- Pierre-Joseph Proudhon - first *self-proclaimed* anarchist, *What is Property?* published in 1840. Some claim Proudhon as the founder of modern anarchist theory
- Fascism - highly xenophobic, rules the nation through both fear and force, worships strong leadership
- Several different types of state organizations which engage in power struggles with each other yet obey the same leader (Adam J. Susan in Comic and Sutler in film)



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX7ehbE1vc0&feature=related>
- Watch this interview with Alan Moore and take notes.

