

V FOR V VENDETTA

COLLECTED BOOKS

KC CARLSON Editor

KAREN BERGER Editor, original series

DALE CRAIN Publication Design

DAVID LLOYD Cover painting

DAVID LLOYD
SIDBHAN DODDS
STEVE WHITAKER
Interior coloring

JENNY D'GONNOR STEVE CRADDOCK ELITTA FELL Lettering

TONY WEARE
Art for "Vincent."
Additional art for
"Valerie" and "The Vacation."

DC COMICS INC.

Jenette Kahn President & Editor-in-Chief

Dick Giordano V.P.—Editorial Director

Richard Bruning
Design Director

Terri Cunningham Managing Editor

Bob Rozakis Production Director

Paul Levitz Executive V.P. & Publisher

Joe Orlando V.P.—Creative Director

Bruce Bristow V.P.—Sales & Marketing

Matthew Ragone
Circulation Director

Tom Ballou Advertising Director

Patrick Caldon VP.—Controller

V FOR VENDETTA

COPYRIGHT © 1988, 1989 DC COMICS INC.

COVER AND COMPILATION COPYRIGHT © 1990 DC COMICS INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. BOOKS 1 AND 2, "VERTIOD" AND "VINCENT" FIRST PUBLISHED 1982-83 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY QUALITY COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED.

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINE FORM IN THE UNITED STATES AS V FOR VENDETTA #1-10

THE STORIES, CHARACTERS, AND INCIDENTS FEATURED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL. ALL CHARACTERS FEATURED IN THIS PUBLICATION, THE DISTINCTIVE LIKENESSES THEREOF, AND ALL RELATED INDICIA ARE TRADEMARKS OF DC COMISS INC.

8TM DC COMICS, INC.

DC COMICS INC. 666 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK, NY 10103

A WARNER BROS. INC. COMPANY
PRINTED IN CANADA, FIRST PRINTING



few nights ago, I walked into a pub on my way home and ordered a Guinness.

I didn't look at my watch, but I knew it was before 8 o'clock. It was Tuesday and I could hear the television in the back-ground still running the latest episode of "EastEnders"—a soap about the day-to-day life of cheeky, cheery working-class people in a decaying, mythical part of London.

I sat in a booth and picked up a copy of a free newspaper someone had left on the seat beside me. I'd read it before. There wasn't much news in it. I put down the paper and decided to sit at the bar.

It wasn't a busy night. I could hear the murmuring of the distant TV above the chatter of the people at the bar and the clack-clack of colliding snooker balls.

After "EastEnders" came "Porridge"—a re-run of a situation comedy series about a cheeky, cheery prisoner in a comfortably unoppressive, decaying, Victorian prison.

Almost imperceptibly, spirits leaked from the optics of upturned bottles behind the bar. Droplets of whisky and vodka formed and fell soundlessly as I watched.

I finished my drink. I looked up and the barman caught my eye. "Guinness?" he asked, already reaching for a fresh glass. I nod-ded.

The barman's wife arrived and began to help with the trickle of customers' orders.

At 8:30, following "Porridge," came "A Question Of Sport"—a simple panel quiz game featuring cheeky, cheery sports celebrities answering questions about other sports celebrities, many of whom were as cheeky and cheery as themselves.

Jocularity reigned.

"I'll tell the barman about the leaking optics," I thought.

"The Nine o'Clock News" followed "A Question Of Sport." Or, at least for 30 seconds it did, before the television was switched off and cheeky, cheery pop music took its place.

I looked over at the barman. "Just half this time," I said.

As he filled the glass, I solemnly asked him why he'd switched off the News. "Don't ask me—that was the wife," he replied, in a cheeky, cheery manner, as the subject of his playful targeting bustled in a corper of the bar.

The leaking optics had ceased to have any importance for me.

I finished my drink and left, almost certain the TV would be

Ininshea my arink and lett, almost certain the 17 would be silent for the rest of the evening. For after The Nine o'Clock News' would have come "The Boys From Brazil," a film with few cheeky, cheery characters in it, which is all about a bunch of Nazis creating 94 clones of Adolf Hitler.

There aren't many cheeky, cheery characters in V FOR VEN-DETTA either; and it's for people who don't switch off the News.

> David Lloyd 14 January 90

began V FOR VENDETTA in the summer of 1981, during a working holiday upon the Isle of Wight. My youngest daughter, Amber, was a few months old. I finished it in the late winter of 1988, after a gap in publishing of nearly five years from the discontinuation of England's Warrior magazine, its initial home. Amber is now seven. I don't know why I mentioned that. It's just one of those unremarkable facts that strike you suddenly, with

Along with Marvelman (now Miracleman), V FOR VENDETTA represents my first attempt at a continuing series, begun at the outset of my career. For this reason, amongst others, there are things that ring oddly in earlier episodes when judged in the light of the stirp's later development. I trust you'll bear with us during any initial clumsiness, and share our opinion that it was for the best to show the early episodes unrevised, warts and all, rather than go back and eradicate all trace of youthful creative inexperience.

unexpected force, so that you have to go and sit down.

There is also a certain amount of political inexperience upon my part evident in these early episodes. Back in 1981 the term "nuclear winter" had not passed into common currency, and although my guess about climatic upheaval came pretty close to the eventual truth of the situation, the fact remains that the story to hand suggests that a nuclear war, even a limited one, might be survivable. To the best of my current knowledge, this is not the case.

Naiveté can also be detected in my supposition that it would take something as melodramatic as a near-miss nuclear conflict to nudge England towards facsism. Although in fairness to myself and David, there were no better or more accurate predictions of our country's future available in comic form at that time. The simple fact that much of the historical background of the story proceeds from a predicted Conservative defeat in the 1982 General Election should tell you how reliable we were in our role as Cassandras.

It's 1988 now. Margaret Thatcher is entering her third term of office and talking confidently of an unbroken Conservative leader-ship well into the next century. My youngest daughter is seven and the tabloid press are circulating the idea of concentration camps for persons with AIDS. The new riot police wear black visors, as do their horses, and their vans have rotating video cameras mounted on top. The government has expressed a desire to eradicate homosexuality, even as an abstract concept, and one can only speculate as to which minority will be the next legislated against. I'm thinking of taking my family and getting out of this country soon, sometime over the next couple of years. It's cold and it's mean spirited and I don't like it here ammore.

Goodnight England. Goodnight Home Service and V for Victory.

Hello the Voice of Fate and V FOR VENDETTA

Alan Moore Northampton, March 1988



BEHIND THE PAINTED SMILE

here's one at every convention or comic mart or work-in or signing, always one nervous and naive young novice who, during a lull in the questions-and-

The following article first appeared in Warrior Magazine (#17) during the original run of V FOR VENDETTA in 1983. Because the article appeared while the series arise appeared while the series where the properses," and some of the aspects of the project changed before its cancission after its lengthy hiatus. The article is presented here as a unique behind the scenes look at the creation of this powerful series, illustrated with many of the David Undy sketches which accompanied the original article, as well as Lloyd's over paintings from the first Inc Cannius; may be 78 the 1981 of the 19

answers session will raise one fluttering hand aloft and enquire, tremulously, "Where do you get your ideas from?" And do you know what we do? We sneer. We lampoon and

ridicule the snivelling little oaf before his peers, we degrade and humiliate him utterly and rend him into bloodied slivers with our implacable and caustic wit. We imply that even to have voiced such a question places him irretrievably in the same intellectual category as the common pencil-sharpener. Then, when we've wrung every last sadistic laugh out of this pitiful little blot, we have the bailiffs take him outside and work him over. No. I know it isn't nice. But all the same, it's something that we have to do.

The reason why we have to do it is pretty straightforward. Firstly, in the dismal and confused sludge of opinion and half-truth that make up all artistic theory and criticism, it is the only question worth asking. Secondly, we don't know the answer and we're scared that



somebody will find out.

One thing that Dave Lloyd and I get asked quite a lot is "Where did the idea for V come from?"

Well, all right. It's a fair question. We've talked it over amongst ourselves, and we both feel that it deserves an answer, if only to make up for the cryptic and unpleasant way we've behaved in the past. The only problem is that we don't really remember. I recall that it was myself who came up with all the good ideas while Dave can produce eight sworn wit-

nesses who'll testify that it was

Luckily, we do still have a certain amount of documentation going back to the period
when Warrior was still in the
planning stages. Being as objective as I possibly can, I intend to
rearrange these fragments into
a fabulous and intricate mosaic
that will once and for all lay
bare the inner mysteries of the
human creative process without
prejudice or favour.

But it was still me who had all the good ideas.



V FOR VENDETTA started out partly in the Marvel UK Hulk Weekly and partly in an idea that I submitted to a D.C. Thomson's Scriptwriter Talent Competition when I was a tender 22 years old. My idea concerned a freakish terrorist in white-face makeup who traded under the name of "The Doll" and waged war upon a Totalitarian State sometime in the late 1980s, D.C. Thomson decided a transsexual terrorist wasn't quite what they were looking for and wisely opted for an entry submitted by a greengrocer from Hull entitled "Battler Bunn (He Bombs The Hun!)" or something very similar. Thus faced with rejection, I did what any serious artist would do. I gave up.

Shortly thereafter, the aforementioned Hulk Weekly began to appear on the stands as part of the Marvel Revolution being delivered by Dez Skinn in his new job as chief of British Marvel The contents included Steve Parkhouse, Paul Neary and John Stokes' reworking of "The Black Knight" into a framework of Celtic legend, Steve Moore and Steve Dillon's interpretation of "Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.," and a little gem of a thirties mystery strip called "Nightraven," being written by Steve Parkhouse and drawn by Dave Lloyd with John Bolton bringing up the rear. It was a good strip and it won Eagle Awards. Thus, according to the comic book equivalent of Murphy's Law, it went down the tubes with alarming rapidity.

"Nightraven" vanished from the comic, Dez Skinn vanished from Marvel, Hulk Weekly vanished from the shops, spring turned to winter, leaves fell from the calendar and all of those other things that they do in films to indicate the passage. of time. While all this was going on. I was hiding under the bed and sobbing, trying desperately to get over my crushing rejection at the hands of D.C.

Finally the 1980s rolled

Thomson. Things looked bleak. round and with them the first whispers of Warrior, Dez. now ensconced up in Studio System. had decided he wanted to be involved in comics again. So he gathered together some of the best artists and writers he had worked with in the past. These included Dave Lloyd, who was asked to create a new thirties mystery strip.

When Dave was given the mystery strip, he decided that while he had plenty of ideas upon how it should be handled visually, the mechanics of plot and characterization were, for the moment, beyond him, Since the two of us had worked happily upon a couple of back-up strips in Doctor Who Monthly, he suggested me as writer. At this point the telephone conversations that were to financially cripple both of us began, along with the voluminous (and, where Dave was concerned, indecipherable) correspondence that we needed in order to trade ideas and knock this thing into shape. In other

Given the original brief, my first ideas centered around a new way of approaching the thirties pulp adventure strip. I came up with a character called "Vendetta," who would be set in a realistic thirties world that drew upon my own knowledge of the Gangster era, bolstered by lots of good, solid research. I sent the idea off to Dave.

words, this is the point where it

gets confusing.

His response was that he was sick to the back teeth of doing good solid research and if he was called upon to draw



more '28 model Dusenberger he'd eat his arm. This presented a serious prob-

Mulling over the difficulty. I began to give some consideration as to what it actually was that made Pulp Magazine Adventures work. Obviously, a lot of it was rooted in the exotic and glamorous locations that the stories were set in... seedy waterfront bars, plush penthouses dripping with girls, stuff like that. All the magic of a vanished age. It struck me that it might be possible to get the

same effect by placing the story in the near future as opposed to the near past. If we handled it right, we could create the same sense of mingled exoticism and familiarity without Dave having to spend hours of his working time arguing with harassed-looking assistants at the reference library. Dave and Dez both liked the idea, and so

The next problem was the creation of the main character and the actual setting for the strip. Since Dave and I both wanted to do something that

we were off.

would be uniquely British rather than emulate the vast amount of American material on the market, the setting was obviously going to be England. Furthermore, since both Dave and myself share a similar brand of political pessimism, the future would be pretty grim, bleak and totalitarian, thus giving us a convenient antagonist to play our hero off against.

to play our nero on against.

Not unnaturally, I recalled
my original idea for "The Doll"
and submitted a rough outline
to Dave. It was a pretty conventional thing, really, and little

more than predictable comic book fare with a few nice touches. It had the sort of grim, hi-tech world that you could seek in books like Fahrenheit 451 or, more recently, in films like Blade Runner. It had robots, uniformed riot police of the kneepads and helmets variety and all that other good stuff. Reading it, I think we both felt that we were onto something, but that sadly this wasn't it.

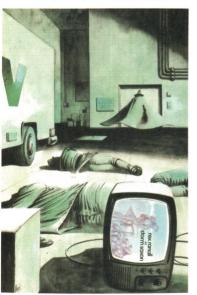
At around about the same time, Never, Ltd. were preparing the first issue of their shortlived comic magazine *Pssst*.



For my part, when I looked at it I found it potentially exciting. Dave was obviously on the verge of something splendid here, and I very much wanted to be part of it. That said, all we really had was a lot of unusable ideas flying back and forth through the aether and nothing very tangible as a result of it. One night, in desperation, I made a long list of concepts that I wanted to reflect in V. moving from one to another with a rapid free-association that would make any good psychiatrist reach for the emergency cord. The list was something as follows: Orwell, Huxley, Thomas

Disch. Judge Dredd. Harlan Ellison's "'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticktockman.* "Catman" and "Prowler in the City at the Edge of the World" by the same author. Vincent Price's Dr. Phibes and Theatre Of Blood, David Bowie. The Shadow. Nightraven. Batman. Fahrenheit 451. The writings of the New Worlds school of science fiction. Max Ernst's painting "Europe After The Rains." Thomas Pynchon. The atmosphere of British Second World War films, The Prisoner, Robin Hood. Dick Turpin... There was some element

in all of these that I could use, but try as I might I couldn't come up with a coherent whole from such disjointed parts. I'm



sure that it's a feeling that all artists and writers are familiar with... the sensation of there being something incredibly good just beyond your fingertips. It's frustrating and infuriating and you either fold up in despair or just carry on. Against my usual inclinations, I decided to just carry on.

Along with all this, we were also stuck for a name for the character. I'd abandoned the "Vendetta" idea without a thought along with the concept it related to, and was struggling with a morass of names including such forgettables as "The Ace of Shades" amongst others. While by no means my major preoccupation, it was another annoying buzz in the back of my head to add to all the rest. Meanwhile, lost for a character, I proceeded to at least try to work the world into some sort of shape, creating a believable landscape for the 1990's setting that we'd decided upon.

This proved a lot easier. Starting with the assumption that the Conservatives would obviously lose the 1983 elections. I began to work out a future based upon the Labour Party gaining power, removing all American missiles from British soil and thus preventing Britain from becoming a major target in the event of a nuclear war. With disturbingly little difficulty it was easy for me to plot the course from that point up until the Fascist takeover in the postholocaust Britain of the 1990's. It was sometime around

this point that Dez rang up and informed us that Graham Marsh (his partner at Studio System) and he had come up with the perfect title for the proposed strip, said title being "V for Vendetta." (Dez hadn't been privy to our thoughts about the thirties strip and had just arrived

at the name by pure blind coincidence.) We took this as a sign from the gods, and so "V for Vendetta" it was. Funnily enough, having an actual title to focus on gave us a fresh incentive to work out the rest of the strip, which we now applied ourselves to with a vengeance. I revised my original notes.

I revised my original notes, coming up with the idea that the central character could be some sort of escapee, psychologically altered by his stay in a Government Concentration Camp. For personal reasons, I had decided to set the camp at

Larkhill in Wiltshire, site of both an existing army camp and one of the most truly horrendous hitch-hiking holidays I've ever had in my entire life. I'll tell you about it some other time.

Dave, meanwhile, was coming up with character designs and story ideas to see if any of them tickled our creative fancy. One of his notions was that the lead character would perhaps operate clandestinely within the existing police force, subverting it from within. To this end, Dave designed a costume based upon a variation in the



way he saw police uniforms of the 1990s. It had a big "V on the front formed from the belts and straps attached to the uniform, and while it looked nice, I think both Dave and I were uneasy about falling into such a straightforward super-hero cliché with what we saw as having the potential for being something utterly fresh and different.

The big breakthrough was all Dave's, much as it sickens me to admit it. More remarkable still, it was all contained in one single letter that he'd dashed

off the top of his head and which, like most of Dave's hand-writing, needed the equivalent of a Rosetta Stone to actually interpret. I transcribe the relevant portions beneath:

vant portions beneath:

"Re. The script: While I was writing this, I had this idea about the hero, which is a bit redundant now we've got |can't read the next bit| but nonetheless... I was thinking, why don't we portray him as a resurrected Guy Fawkes, complete with one of those papier mâché masks, in a cape and conical haf? He'd look really



bizarre and it would give Guy Fawkes the image he's deserved all these years. We shouldn't burn the chap every Nov. 5th but celebrate his attempt to blow up Parliament!"

The moment I read these words, two things occurred to me. Firstly, Dave was obviously a lot less sane than I'd hitherto believed him to be, and secondly, this was the best idea If ever heard in my entrie life. All of the various fragments in my head suddenly fell into place, united behind the single image of a Guy Fawkes mask. Brain reeling, I read on.

Elsewhere in the same letter, Dave was giving me his ideas as to how he actually wanted to approach the strip in terms of layout and execution. These included the absolute banning of sound effects, and, as an afterthought, the utter eradication of thought balloons into the bargain. As a writer, this terrified me. I wasn't so much bothered about the sound effects, but without thought balloons, how was I going to get over all the nuances of character that I needed to make the book satisfying on a literary



level? All the same, there was something about the discipline of the idea that fascinated me, and while dropping off to sleep at night I'd find it nagging away somewhere in the recesses of my cerebral swamp.

A couple of days later, I wrote back to Dave telling him that the Guy Fawkes idea was definitely it, that not only would we do without thought balloons and sound effects but I was prepared to get rid of most of the caption boxes as well and just rely entirely on pictures

and dialogue.

In the history of any strip or book or whatever, this is the moment where you get your real reward... the moment when all of the half-ideas and clicicies gel into something that is much more than the sum of its parts and thus entirely unexpected and utterly beautiful.

Now that we had the centre of the strip determined, we began to build upon it rapidly... Dave sent designs for the V character which were perfect apart from the fact that Dave had got the shape of the hat wrong. I began to sketch in the secondary characters that I figured we would need to tell the sort of story that it was fast becoming evident that we wanted to tell. Some of the

sort of story that it was fast becoming evident that we wanted to tell. Some of the characters lacked a face, even though I could see all of their mannerisms in my mind's eye. Between us, Dave and myself hammered out these fine details, often borrowing a face from some actor who we both felt was appropriate to the part... in many respects it was like casting a film, I suppose. However, many of the other characters Dave drew from his

own vivid imagination, based upon my character notes. From all the above, you might have been given the



impression that the creation of V was a very dry and calculating affair, and, at least in the early stages, I suppose it was. It's only those exceptional and rare individuals who have brilliant ideas delivered to them by the muse, complete and giff wrapped. The rest of us have to work at it.

That said, however, there comes a point where, assuming that all of your logic and planning is of a sound variety, the work starts to take off and assumes a vitality of its own. Ideas start to occur almost magically as opposed to being the

end result of a long and grinding intellectual process. This started to happen with V right from the first episode.

There was the way in

which a lengthy Shakespeare quote that was arrived at by opening a copy of The Collected Works at random seemed to fit, exactly, line for line, with the sequence of actions that I had planned for V in his first skirmish with the forces of order. More important still, there was the way in which, aided by Dave's visuals, the

characters began to take on



more and more of a life of their own. I'd look at a character who I'd previously seen as a one-dimensional Nazi baddy and suddenly realise that eor she would have thoughts and opinions the same as everyone else. I'd be planning one thing for the characters to do and then realise that they had an entirely different direction in which they wanted to go.

Perhaps most important of all, we began to realise that the story we were telling was wandering further and further away from the straightforward "one man against the world" story that we'd started out with. There were elements emerging from the combination of my words and David's pictures that neither of us could remember putting there individually. There were resonances being struck that seemed to point to larger issues than the ones which we'd both come to accept as par for the course where comics were concerned.

Of course, as a comic strip begins to grow beyond its creators one experiences a certain feeling of nervousness at not knowing where the strip is going to go next. On the other hand, there is a massive sense of excitement and creativity in such an unrestricted venture. I suppose it must feel a bit like surfing on a tidal wave... it feels great while you're doing it but you're not really sure of either where you're going to end up or whether you'll still be one piece when you get there.

All of this vague metaphysical blather aside for the moment, a lot of people have expressed an interest in how we actually put an episode of V together. Well, purely in the interests of science, this is how it goes:

To start with, we both have a rough idea of the general direction of the plot and where it's going, allowing for any sudden changes of direction that the story might decide to make for itself. We know, for example, that there will be three books in all chronicling the full V story. The first sets up the character and his world. The second, "This Vicious Cabaret," explores the supporting characters in greater depth and centres for the most part upon the character of Evey Hammond. The third book, tentatively entitled "The Land of Do-As-You-Please," draws all of these disparate threads into what we hope will be a satisfying climax.

Given that structure, I try to decide what I think is needed in any given episode, bearing in mind its relationship to the episode that came before
it. I might, for example, decide
that we've had an awful lot of
talking lately and not much
action. I might decide that it'd
be nice to check on how Eric
Finch or Rosemary Almond are
getting on. Pretty soon I have a
ist of all the elements that I feel

V FOR VENDETTA



it's vital we include in this particular issue. All that remains to be done is to fit them into a coherent storyline that is somehow complete in itself while remaining a part of a larger whole and at the same time moving with the fluidity that Dave and I are anxious to inject into the strip.

On good days, everything goes right and I have the whole script executed from start to finish within four or five hours. On bad days I write the whole script in four or five hours, realise that it's useless, tear it up and start again. I repeat this process four or five times until I'm reduced to a blubbering wreck that just slumps in the armchair and whimpers about how it has no talent whatsoever and will never write again. Next day I'll get up, get the whole thing right the first time and spend the rest of the day walking round reading my favourite bits to my wife, children, or visiting tradesmen. (This is why you should never marry an artist or writer. They're bad news to have around the house, believe me.)

Once I'm satisfied with the script, it goes to Dave. He runs through it very thoroughly, checking it for plot or character inconsistencies and trying to fid-

ure out how it's going to work visually. While I stage-manage most of the visual sequences from my end. I try to leave enough room for Dave to expand or alter them as he sees fit, so he'll add a couple of frames here and there to make the action flow more smoothly or maybe excise certain frames altogether. He then rings me up and runs through the script outlining his suggested changes. Usually, these are fairly minor and can be sorted out at once. Occasionally they're more serious and we'll argue ferociously for hours until arriving at a sensible compromise. The only thing that is important to either of us is what ends up on the finished, printed page is as perfect as we can make it. Dave then buckles down

Dave then ouckles down to the artwork and within a couple of weeks I receive an eagerly awaited package of reduced and lettered photocopies of the finished work by agency of the G.P.O. I suppose that theoretically I can decide at this juncture if there's anything in Dave's artwork that needs changing. So far, how-



ever, there hasn't been. Dave combines a remorseless professionalism with a deep emotional involvement in the strip equal to my own, and if ever he should decide to leave the strip there is not the remotest possibility of my working with anyone else upon it. V is something that happens at the point where my warped personality meets David's warped personality, and it is something that neither of us could do either by ourselves or working with another artist or writer. Despite

admirers choose to view it, it isn't "Alan Moore's V" or "David Lloyd's V." It's a joint effort in every sense of the word. because after trying the alternatives, that is the only way that comics can ever work. There is absolutely no sense in a writer trying to bludgeon his artist to death with vast and over-written captions, any more than an artist should try to bury his writer within a huge and impressive gallery of pretty pictures. What's called for is teamwork, in the

the way that some of the series'

grand tradition of Hope and Crosby, Tate and Lyle, Pinky and Perky, or The Two Ronnies. Hopefully, that's what we've got. So anyway, that's where

we get our ideas from. I was going to go on from this point and tell you exactly who V really is, but I'm afraid that I've run out of room. The only real hint I can give is that V isn't Evev's father. Whistler's mother or Charley's aunt. Beyond that, I'm afraid you're on your own.

England Prevails.

Alan Moore October 1983



V FOR VENDETTA

Good Evening, London. It's nine o'clock and this is The Voice of Fate. . . It is the Fifth of the Eleventh, Nineteen-Ninety Seven.

The people of London are advised that the Brixton and Streatham areas are quarantine zones as of today. It is suggested that these areas be avoided for reasons of health and safety.

Police raided seventeen homes in the Birmingham area early this morning, uncovering what is believed to be a major terrorist ring. Twenty people, eight of them women, are turrently in detention awaiting trial. . . .

The weather will be fine until 12:07

A.M. when a shower will commence lasting until 1:30 A.M.

A frightening and powerful story of the loss of freedom and identity in a totalitarian world, V FOR VEN-DETTA is the chronicle of a world of despair and oppressive tyranny.

A work of startling clarity and intelligence, V FOR VENDETTA is everything comics weren't supposed to

England Prevails.

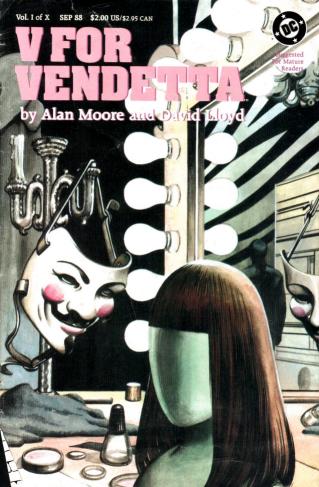


ALAN MOORE

Award-winning writer Alan Moore entered comces scripting in 1980, contributing its Britain's 2000 / A.D. and Doctor Who Weeley', This was collowed by Manesonina (published in the US as Miracleman) and the original British run of V for Verretza. Moore entered the American comics seems in 1838 with DC. Comics' Swamp Thing and the acclaimed Watchmen with these Gibbons In 1988, Moore set up his own publishing migriff. Who Gibbons In 1988, Moore set up his own publishing migriff, White Albeitship Moore's current work in cludes Biff Windows, with Bill Sentieveicz and, for Taloo, two controlling series's From Hell, with Eddie Campbell, and Cuty Griss, with Melinda Gibbons and Campbell, and Cuty Griss, with Melinda Campbell and Cuty Griss, with Melinda Millog, written with Oscar Zraste, will be published by Gollanzz in the fall of 1930. Moore currently residea, in Entit Man.

DAVID LLOYD

Aristi David Lloyd has been drawing comic stript sings 1971, hoppinning with Film and TV adaptations. Hell first public services was Night Raven and Lloyd also illustrated a series of stript featuring Dr. Who characters, all for Marvel IVI. Lloyd then do created V for Vendetta, with Alam Monor, for its primitial ruin Warrior. Sacre V for Vendetta, Lloyd has produced short strates. The Eclipse, ESPORT with James Hurstell, Sladie with PA Milks, and Crissis stories for Fleetwey, Among other pursuits. Lloyd is currently involved in teaching comic strip flustration at Irriginal's only school of cartoon art. The London Carton Centre. Lloyd currently resides in Brighton, England, and he is eagerly articipating his next visit to California.



I began V for Vendetta

in the summer of 1981, during a working holiday upon the Isle of Wight. My youngest daughter. Amber, was a few months old. I finished it in the late winter of 1988, after a gap in publishing of nearly five years from the discontinuation of England's Warrior Magazine. Its initial home. Amber is now seven. I don't know why I mentioned that. It's just one of those unremarkable facts that strike you suddenly, with unexpected force, so that you have to go and sit down.

Along with Marvelman (now Miracleman). V for Vendetta represents my first attempt at a continuing series, begun at the outset of my career. For this reason, amongst others, there are things that ring oddly in earlier episodes when judged in the light of the strips later development. I trust you'll bear with us during any initial clumsiness, and share our opinion that it was for the best to show the early episodes unrevised, warts and all, arather than go back and eradicate all trace of youthful creative inexperience.

There is also a certain amount of political inexperience upon my part evident in these early episodes. Back in 1981 the term "nuclear winter" had not passed into common currency, and although my guess about climatic upheaval came pretty close to the eventual truth of the situation, the fact remains that the story to hand suggests that a nuclear war. even a limited one, might be survivable. To the best of my current knowledge, this is not the case.

Naiveté can also be detected in my supposition that it would take something as melodramatic as a nearmiss nuclear conflict to nudge England towards fascism. Although in fairness to myself and David, there were no better or more accurate predictions of our country's future available in comic form at that time. The simple fact that much of the historical background of the story precedes from a predicted Conservative defeat in the 1982 General Election should tell you how reliable we were in our role as Cassandras.

It's 1988 now. Margaret Thatcher is entering her third term of office and talking confidently of an unbroken Conservative leadership well into the next century. My youngest daughter is seven and the tabloid press are circulating the idea of concentration camps for persons with AIDs. The new not police wear black visors, as do their horses, and their vans have rotating video camers mounted on top. The government has expressed a desire to eradicate homosexuality, even as an abstract concept, and one can only speculate as to which minority will be the next legislated against. Tm thinking of taking my family and getting out of this country soon, sometime over the next couple of years. It's cold and it's mean-spirited and I don't like it there anymore.

Goodnight England. Goodnight Home Service and ${\tt V}$ for Victory.

Hello the Voice of Fate and V for Vendetta.

Alan Moore

Northampton, March 1988

V FOR VENDETTA I Published monthly by DC Comics Inc. 666 Pitth Assesse. New York NX. 1010 S 1988 D Comics Inc. 486 Pitth Assesses. Assess and moderat mentioned on this magazine are entirely fixtoneal. 481 Characters featured in this issue and the distinctive Microsovic sthered are notemarks of DC Comics Inc. 4 VEO VENDETTA, Book 1. Chapters 1-4 first published 1982 in the United Kingdom by Quality Communications Limited DC Comics Inc. 4 Mayreer Communications Common.





V FOR VENDETTA GOOD EVENING, LONDON THE WEATHER WILL BE FINE GOOD EVENING, LONDON, ATTO NICE OF CALOT AND THIS IS THE VOICE OF FATE BROADCASTING ON 275 AND 283 IN THE MEDIUM WIFE. IT IS THE FIFTH OF THE ELEVENTH. UNTIL 12 OF AM. WHEN A SHOWER WILL COMMENCE LASTING UNTIL 130 AM NINETEEN - NINETY - SEVEN THE TEMPERATURE WILL THE PEOPLE OF LONDON ARE ADVISED THAT THE BRIXTON AND STREATHAM AREAS ARE QUARANTIME PRODUCTIVITY REPORTS FROM HEREFORDSHIRE INDICATE VARY BETWEEN 3 AND 14 DEGREES CENTIGRADE A POSSIBLE END TO STREM I MAN MIKEHS MIKE GLAMMAN/THE SUCKES AS OF TODAY. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THESE AREAS BE ANDIDED FOR REASONS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY. THROUGHOUT MEAT RATIONING STARTING FROM MID-FEBRUARY THE NIGHT IRRA FOR YOUR





































































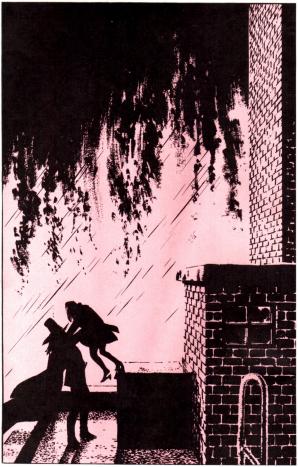












































































































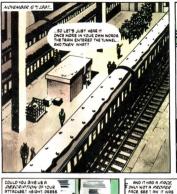






































































































"WHITE PEOPLE, TOO. ALL THE RADICALS AND THE MEN WHO, YOU KNOW, LIKED OTHER MEN. THE HOMOSEXUALS. I DON'T















HAT S ALL ITS TAKEN HIM.

DAYS, MR FINCH

NOW HE'S ABOLICT. ED OUR TOP BROADCASTER F PROTHERO IS LINABLE TO MAKE HIS "VOICE OF FATE" BROADCASTS AS SCHED-

> COLLDIN'T MR DASCOMBE ARRANCE A STAND IN FOR PROTHERO, LEADER?

OH YES BUT THE PROBLEM THAT MR. PASCOMBE IS THE PEOPLE ACTUALLY BE-LIEVE THAT THE VOICE OF LEWIS PROTHERO IS THAT OF THE FATE COMPLTER

BELIEF IN THE IN-TEGRITY OF FATE IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR NEW ORDER, ANY CHANGE

IN THE VOICE AND IT JUST WON'T BE THE SAME.

























HELLO? I SAY IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?













































RIGHT.









































V FOR VENDETTA By Alan Moore and David Lloyd

Color artists:

Steve Whitaker Siobhan Dodds David Lloyd

Lettering:

Jenny O'Connor Steve Craddock

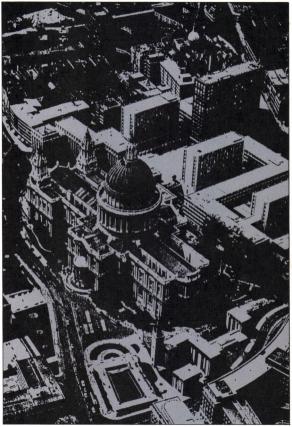










































ROMISE, BUT SHE SEES ALL SEES AND LINDERSTANDS WITH A WISDOM THAT IS GOD-LIKE IN ITS SCALE.



WITHIN, HOW STUPID I MUST SEEM TO HER HOW CHILD-LIKE AND LINCOMPREHENDING

HER SOUL IS CLEAN, LINTAINTED BY THE SNARES AND AMBIGUITIES OF EMOTION SHE DOES NOT HATE, SHE DOES NOT YEARN. SHE IS LINTOLICHED BY JOY OR SORROW.







THEY THINK SHE IS HARD AND COLD, THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW HER. THEY THINK SHE IS LIFELESS AND WITHOUT PASSION.



TOLICHEO THEM































































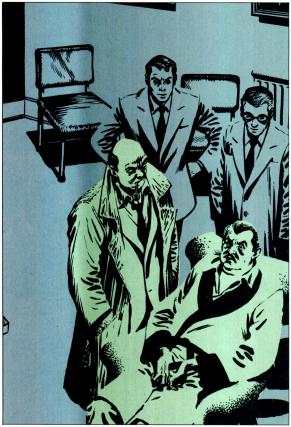


















































































































































































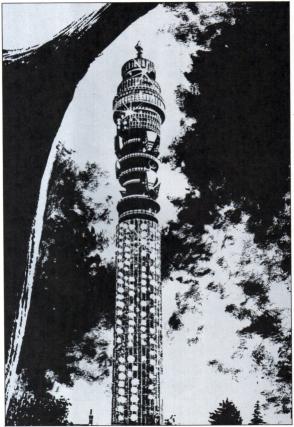
















OIO





















































































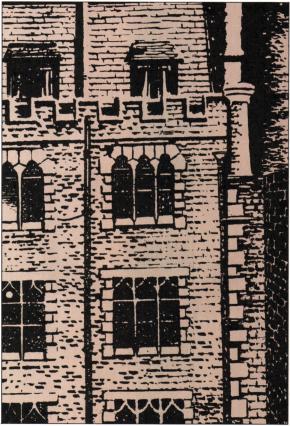












PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
IENETTE KAHN

V.P.-EXECUTIVE EDITOR
DICK GIORDANO

EDITOR KAREN BERGER

ASST. EDITOR
ART YOUNG

ART DIRECTOR RICHARD BRUNING

MGR.-EDITORIAL ADMIN.
TERRI CUNNINGHAM

MGR.-EDITORIAL COORD.

PAT BASTIENNE

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
BOB ROZAKIS

EXECUTIVE V.P.
PAUL LEVITZ

V.P.-CREATIVE DIRECTOR

V.P.-SALES & MARKETING BRUCE BRISTOW

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
MATT RAGONE

CONTROLLER PAT CALDON















V FOR VENDETTA

By Alan Moore and David Lloyd

Color artists: Steve Whitaker

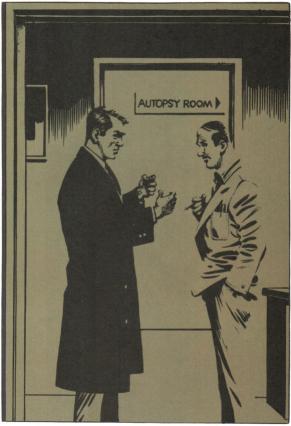
Siobhan Dodds David Lloyd

Lettering:

Jenny O'Connor Steve Craddock

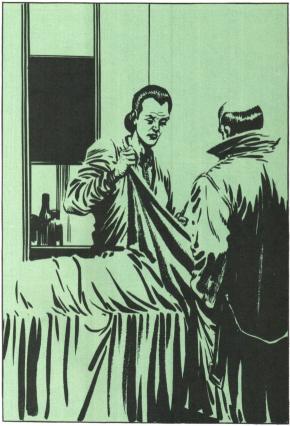






AUTOPSYROOM

























































































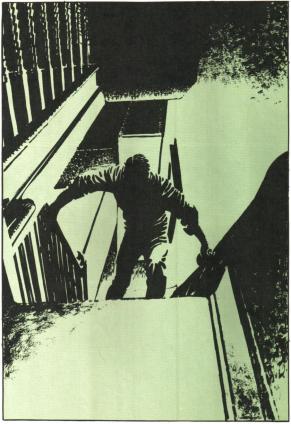




































WHEN I SAW YOU THAT



WHAT WHAT WE DID WHAT

I DID AT LARKHILL THAT

TERRIBLE KNOWLEDGE





































































HE IS.





























































































"WHAT IF HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING ELSE?





"BUT ... AND HERE'S A FUNNY THING ... HE DIDN'T WANT US TO KNOW ALL OF IT.

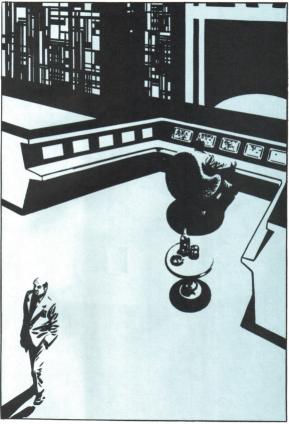


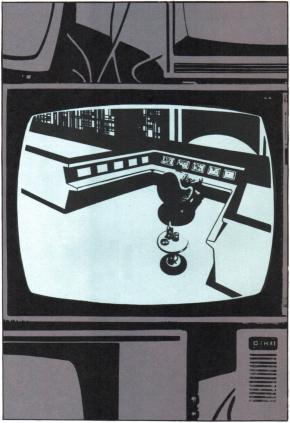


"HE'S PLAYING GAMES WITH US. HE'S PLAYING GAMES THAT ARE JUST AS BLABOR-ATE ASTHE DESIGN ON THE FLOOR OF ROOM FIVE, AS ELABORATE, AND AS MAD...











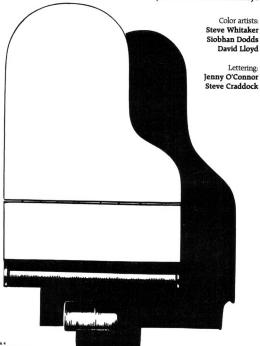








By Alan Moore and David Lloyd

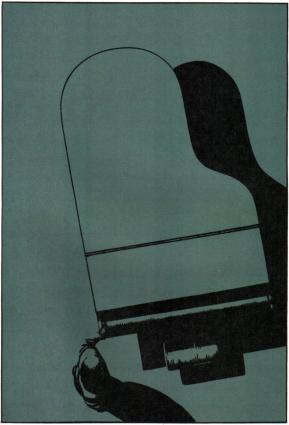


V FOR VENDETTA 4

V FOR VENDRETTA 4

Published monthly by DC Comics Inc.,
660 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. 7, 10103,
C 1985 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved.
The stories, characters and incidents
mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional.
All characters featured in this issue
and the distinctive likenesses thereof
are trademarks of DC Comics Inc.
Printed in Canada.

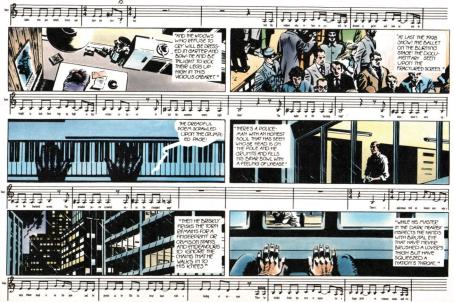
V FOR VENDETTA. Book 2.
Prelude. Chapters 1. 2 & 3 first published 1983 in the United Kingdom by Quality Communications Limited.
DC Comics Inc.
A Warner Communications Company.

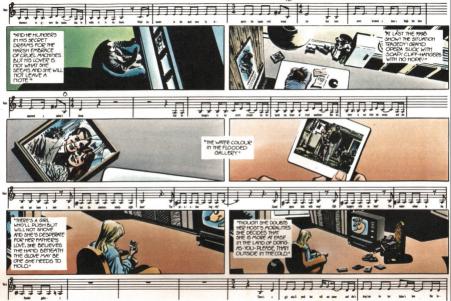




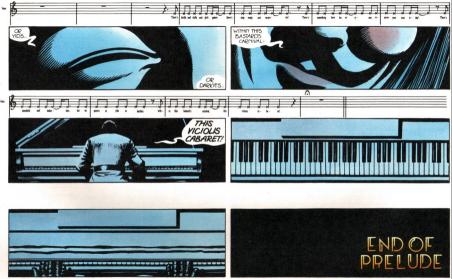
























































HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I THOUGHT...











































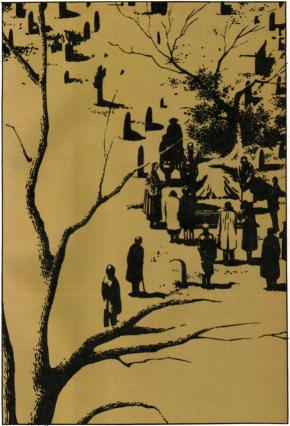
























































































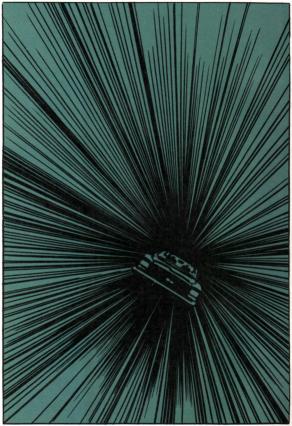
















































BULLET RIGHT IN 15 RYE...















































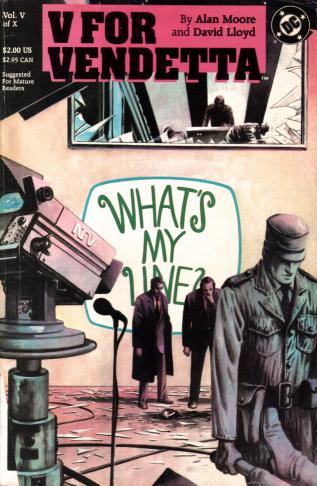












By Alan Moore and David Lloyd

Color artists:

Steve Whitaker Siobhan Dodds David Lloyd

Lettering:

Jenny O'Connor Elitta Fell

V FOR VENDETTA 5

Printed in Canada

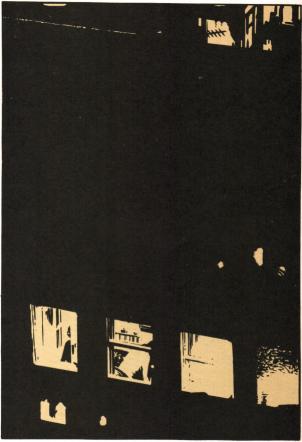
Published monthly by DC Comics Inc. 666 Fifth Avenue. New York, N.Y. 10103 © 1988 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved.
The stories, characters and incidents in this magazine are entirely fictional All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof

are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. V FOR VENDETTA. Book 2. Chapters 4. 5. 6 & 7 first published 1982 in the United Kingdom by Quality Communications Limited

DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company



BRENEP



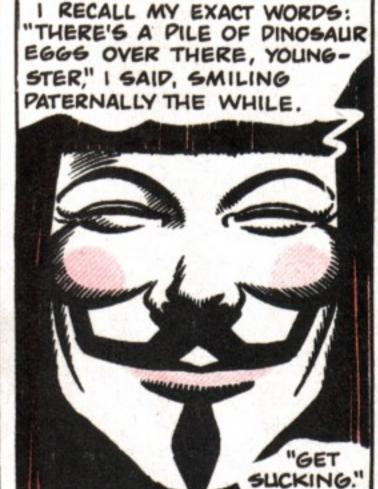


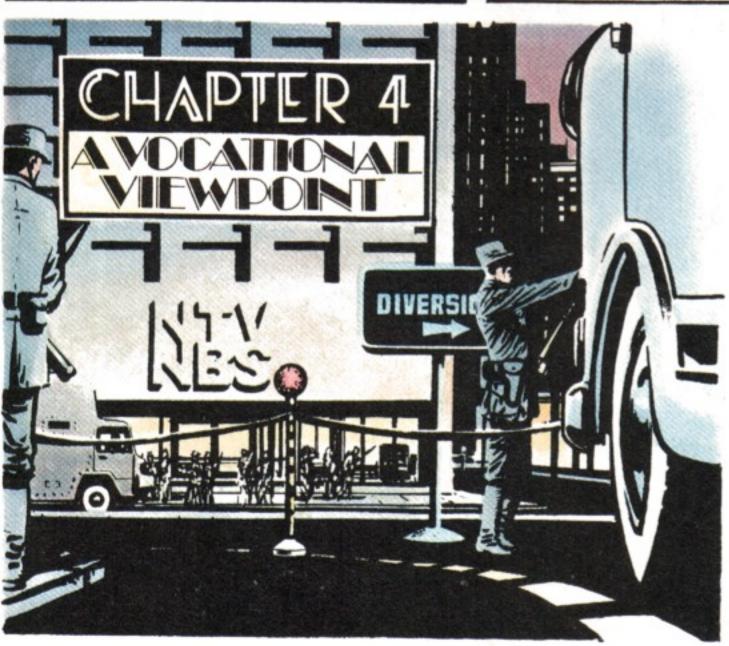






























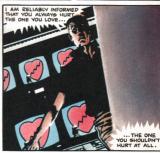




































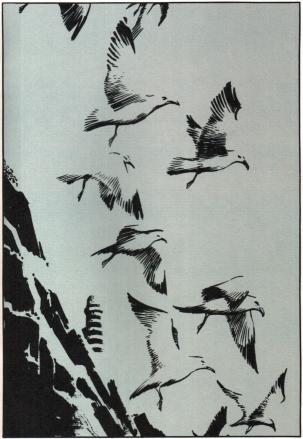
































































































THERE WERE HAIRS ALL



















































OH . EVENIN!



































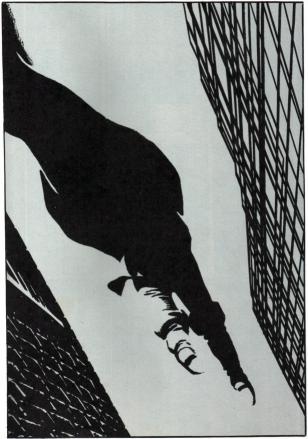










































































































DC COMICS INC.

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER JENETTE KAHN

V.P.-EXECUTIVE EDITOR
DICK GIORDANO

EDITOR KAREN BERGER

ASST. EDITOR ART YOUNG

ART DIRECTOR
RICHARD BRUNING

MGR.-EDITORIAL ADMIN.

TERRI CUNNINGHAM

MGR.-EDITORIAL COORD.
PAT BASTIENNE

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
BOB ROZAKIS

EXECUTIVE V.P.
PAUL LEVITZ

V.P.-CREATIVE DIRECTOR IOE ORLANDO

V.P.-SALES & MARKETING BRUCE BRISTOW

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR MATT RAGONE

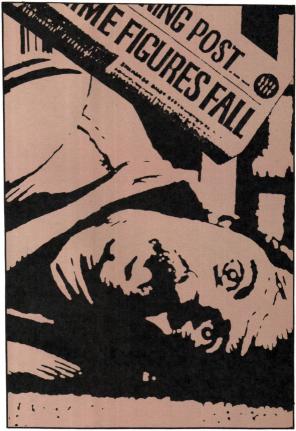
CONTROLLER PAT CALDON

























































THE AIR ARCULAID ME IS COMPLETELY BLACK I THINKE THAT PERHAPS I'M SACKSTAGE AT THE THEATRE, DURING THE INTERVAL.

> THERE ARE MUFFLED BLMPINGS NEARBY STACE-HANDS ARE REARDANCING THE

CENERY















































































































































...AND THEN THE MAN BEHIND ME PUTS THE BLINDFOLD BACK ON.



BLIND, STUMBLING, SOMEONE'S HAND ON MY WRISTS, TIGHT ENOUGH TO HURT...

















... BECAUSE I'M



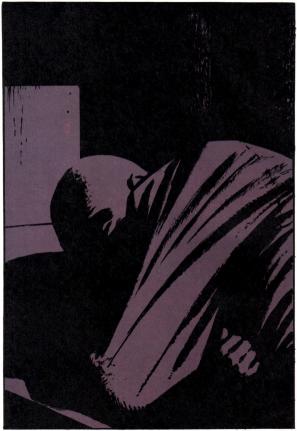
























LET ME SHAVE.





T KNOW WIS TO ARE.

TRUE & AR WAY I CAN

THIS BOT ONE OF IT

NO YOU ARE BUT I LOVE
ARE AVERAL. A LITTLE RUE I

ARE A WOMAN. I HID I

O THIS IS A LONG LETT.

IT II THE ONLY AUTOE

ER WRITE ARD ON GO

IT ON TOLLET PAPER

























































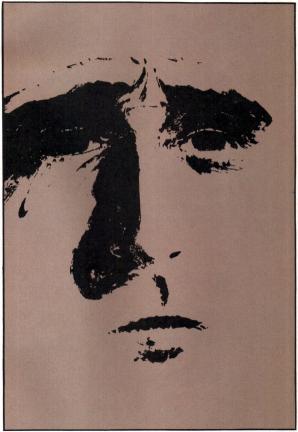


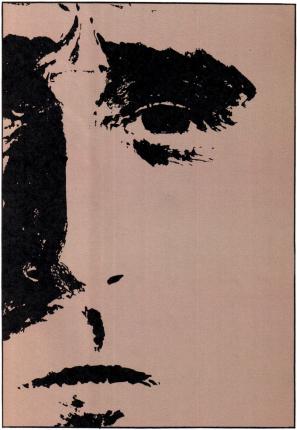














AND PUBLISHER
JENETTE KAHN

V.P.-EXECUTIVE EDITOR
DICK GIORDANO

EDITOR KAREN BERGER

ASST. EDITOR

ART YOUNG

ART DIRECTOR
RICHARD BRUNING

MGR.-EDITORIAL ADMIN.

TERRI CUNNINGHAM

MGR.-TALENT

RELATIONS
PAT BASTIENNE

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
BOB ROZAKIS

EXECUTIVE V.P.
PAUL LEVITZ

V.P.-CREATIVE DIRECTOR
JOE ORLANDO

V.P.-SALES & MARKETING BRUCE BRISTOW

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR MATT RAGONE

CONTROLLER PAT CALDON































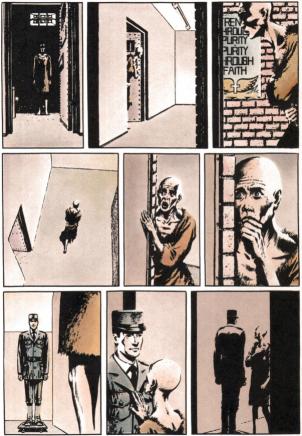






















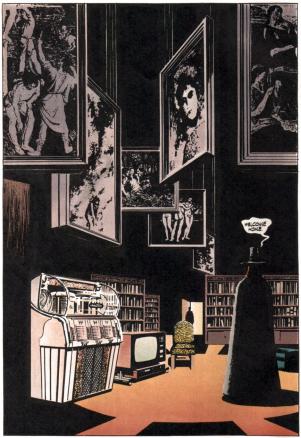


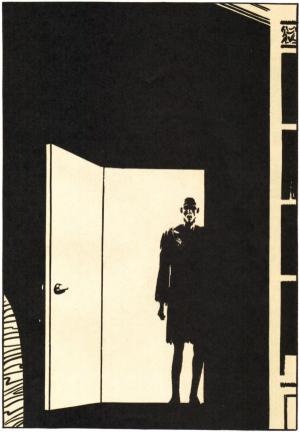




































PLIT ME IN A PRISON.





























































































































CABARET."



















































INTERLUDE















































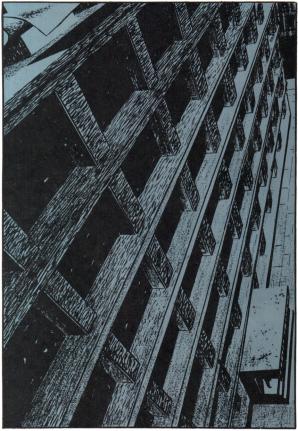


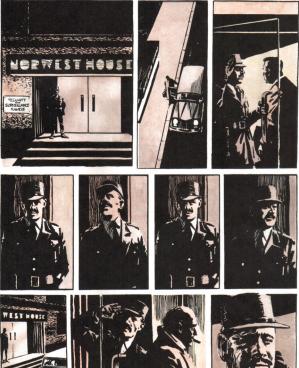




















DC COMICS INC

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

IENETTE KAHN

V.P.-EXECUTIVE EDITOR
DICK GIORDANO

EDITOR Karen berger

KAREN BERGER

ART YOUNG

ART DIRECTOR RICHARD BRUNING

MGR-EDITORIAL ADMIN.
TERRI CUNNINGHAM

MGR-TALENT RELATIONS PAT BASTIENNE

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

BOB ROZAKIS

EXECUTIVE V.:
PAUL LEVITZ

V.P.-CREATIVE DIRECTOR

V.P.-SALES

BRUCE BRISTOW CIRCULATION

MATT RAGONE

CONTROLLER PAT CALDON





























.1812



























"AM I LOVED ?









"PLEASE GIVE ME A SIGN."





































"ERE ANG ABOUT: YOU SAID 'E BOMBED THE GRO TOWER AS WELL? DOES THAT MEAN THEY CAN'T..."













"BLOODY CHEEK!
THINKS 'E CAN DO
WHATEVER 'E
LIKES!

ALTHOUGH,































































































































































































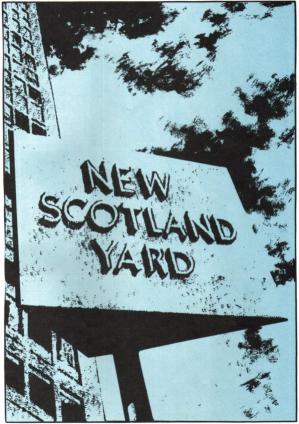


































MORNING, ALLY.

































































































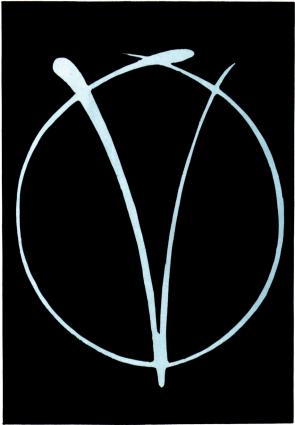


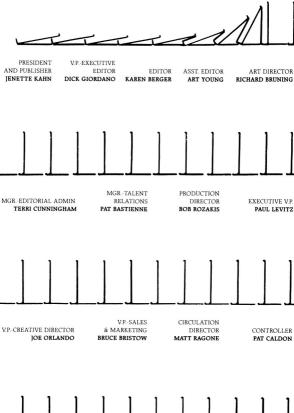


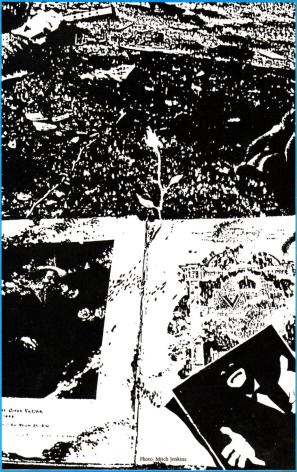












WAR 39 Vol. IX OF X S2.00 UPS 52.20 UAS S2.00 UPS 52.20 UAS S2.00 UPS 52.20 UPS S2.00 UPS 52.20 MAR 39

Suggested For Mature





Color artists: Steve Whitaker Siobhan Dodds David Lloyd

Lettering: Steve Craddock

V FOR VENDETTA 9

Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. © 1989 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Printed in Canada.

DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company.









OH WELL.









































WHAT





































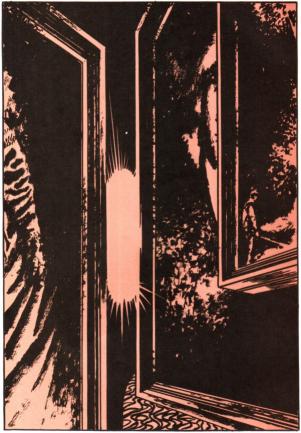




























VALEDICTION













THIS WAY



















































































YOU ARE NOW LEAVING **20NDON**























I MEAN,



































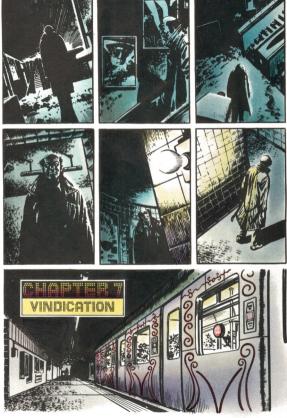


















































YES, YES ...



































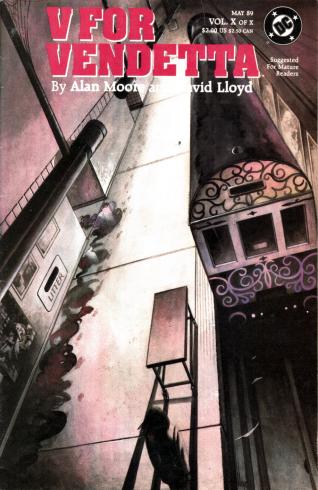












V FOR VENDETTA

By Alan Moore and David Lloyd

Color artists: Steve Whitaker

Siobhan Dodds David Lloyd

Lettering: Steve Craddock















































































































































ALL RIGHT



























































WE ...











































































































































































DC COMICS INC.

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER JENETTE KAHN

V.P.-EDITORIAL

DICK GIORDANO

EDITOR
KAREN BERGER
ASST. EDITOR

DESIGN DIRECTOR RICHARD BRUNING

MANAGING EDITOR
TERRI CUNNINGHAM

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR BOB ROZAKIS

EXECUTIVE V.P.
PAUL LEVITZ

CIRCULATION
DIRECTOR
MATT RAGONE

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

CONTROLLER
PAT CALDON



