

V For Vendetta Study Guide

V For Vendetta by Alan Moore

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Plot Summary

V for Vendetta is about a man, his quest for revenge and his desire to right the wrongs in his society. The story takes place in England, in 1997. It is a world changed by war, famine and disease. In response to these changes, the government also changes. It is a fascist dictatorship, which uses extensive means to control the people. As a result, the populace slinks into a mode of enforced contentment, making no effort to take back their freedom.

V rescues a woman, Evey, from a dangerous situation and takes her under his wing. He makes it clear from the beginning what he is about, but because he speaks in riddles, rhymes and literary quotations, she does not understand. V is a man always dressed in a costume with a cloak, hat, wig and mask. He is never seen out of costume. He is a shadowy and mysterious individual. V frequently appears almost from out of nowhere. He is skilled in martial arts and in stealth. While carrying out his vendetta against those that have oppressed him in previous years, he is also trying to light a fire underneath people's feet, in order to push them into action after being inactive for so long. One of the means by which he does this is by blowing up government buildings.

V's vendetta stems from a period in his life, when he was detained at the Larkhill Resettlement Camp. While the reasons for his confinement are never revealed, what happens to him is recounted in great detail. V suffered at the hands of inhuman keepers. By his own devices, he manages to escape the prison by blowing it up. After that point, he exists to go after those responsible for what happened to him. Each of those people has since moved on to higher roles in the government, but V still goes after each one, until he settles the score.

Meanwhile, with Evey in his charge, he does everything he can to educate her and pass along his message. While in the beginning she does not comprehend everything that V tells her, it all comes together for her at the end. Even to Evey, V is mysterious and never gives a straight answer. Insistent on showing Evey how to live free from fear and injustice, he imprisons and tortures her. The whole time, he is able to keep his identity well hidden from her. At the end of it all, his plan works. She overcomes her greatest obstacles and learns a great deal from V. After he dies at the end, she takes his place as a hardened revolutionary determined to spark the people of England into action.



Book 1, Chapter 1

Book 1, Chapter 1 Summary

Young Evey steps out into the night. It's almost midnight, and the streets are deserted. Desperate and hungry, Evey approaches a lone man and propositions him for sex. As soon as the man reveals himself as a "Fingerman," trouble ensues. Several men appear and surround Evey in a threatening manner. It is at this crucial moment that V appears. No one hears him approach, which startles everyone. He makes his entrance by quoting Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. After running the men through, using martial arts techniques and knives, V expels tear gas and whisks Evey away to safety.

V brings Evey to the top of a building. V reveals to her that he was out because of a special occasion. It is November 5, and he recites the old Guy Fawkes rhyme, which commemorates Fawkes' infamy, "Remember, remember the fifth of November, the gun powder treason and plot. I know of no reason why the gun powder treason should ever be forgot." As V finishes the quote, there is a great explosion across the city of London. It is the Parliament buildings. After the initial blast, the sky lights up with fireworks that reveal the letter "V" in the night sky.

The country's leader, Mr. Adam Susan, awaits reports from the various branches of the government in response to the event. Each department is named after a body part. The departments include The Nose, The Ears, The Eye and The Finger. Propaganda is handled by Fate. Each branch gives their report on the events. Using surveillance video, they are able to capture the image of V's facemask. The branches believe they are dealing with one person as opposed to a group. They know that it has caused a commotion, and that the citizens of London are talking about it. They also determine that the explosives are homemade and, therefore, untraceable. The leader blames Mr. Almond for the event occurring. Fate wants the story to come off as a planned demolition, as it was done at night and did not disrupt traffic.

Book 1, Chapter 1 Analysis

The reader sees evidence of the government control by several means. The first is the enforced curfew, the second is the presence of "Fingermen," who are agents of the government. In addition, the manner in which each government branch is interrogated by their leader suggests complete and utter control over the country and that which it sees and hears. It also controls what they believe, which is evident by a sign that Evey passes, when she encounters the Fingermen. It reads, "Strength through purity, purity through faith." It is ironic that Evey encounters trouble for prostitution right next to this sign.

The fact that the branches of government are named after body parts alludes to the control they wish to wield over the people. Each group does its part to make sure the



event has the right spin and makes them look good and in control, which they believe will keep the people in line. When Mr. Susan blames Derek Almond for the event occurring, it foreshadows further trouble to come for Derek.



Book 1, Chapter 2

Book 1, Chapter 2 Summary

V brings Evey to his home, known as the "Shadow Gallery." It is an abode with forbidden art and literature. Everything that the government bans is in his home. V brings Evey here as a means of protection for her. She has never before seen a place even remotely like it.

Lewis Prothero, the voice of Fate, is also the front man for the main television studio. It is here that the reader learns that Fate is more than an organization. Fate controls every aspect of the citizens' lives and is personified by Lewis Prothero. Later, Prothero is seen with his cronies, boarding a London train. As he recalls a story to his friends, V bounds aboard the train and renders the engineer unconscious. With the engineer out, V cuts the power off. Prothero continues his tale, while the men sit in the dark. When Prothero reaches the end of his tale, the men realize that they are not alone. V moves with a speed that they cannot follow. All of Prothero's men are killed, and Prothero himself is missing.

After Mr. Finch and the authorities arrive, they revive the engineer and try to get as much information as possible to find a lead. All they can get from him is that the attacker is a lone man wearing a mask. This is the first time that a connection is made between the masked man on the train, and the masked man responsible for the Parliament bombing. Mr. Finch realizes that not only is it one man they are dealing with, but that this one man possesses extraordinary skills.

Book 1, Chapter 2 Analysis

When V alludes to the government's corruption and cover-ups, it starts to reveal his true nature, and what he stands for. Clearly, this is not your average person. Between his costume and "act," the reader starts to learn what he is about. Lewis Prothero reveals part of his character, when he mentions his doll collection. He treasures them, which his friends find odd. However, he treasures them in a way that he treasures his television audience. He is a self-absorbed man, who is very concerned with his image. From the get-go, the authorities realize they are not dealing with an average criminal. V's ability to appear and disappear quickly has them stunned. Although V made his mark with the fireworks from the previous night, he leaves more tangible marks of his presence. This is where he begins to leave his "calling card," as Finch and his men from The Nose find out in Chapter 3.



Book 1, Chapter 3

Book 1, Chapter 3 Summary

Mr. Finch and his men investigate the crime scene. They find mutilated bodies, and the mark of "V" on the wall of the train compartment. Finch mentions sending a copy of their report to Fate. He also discovers a lone rose, called a violet Carson, which became extinct after the war. Here is where Mr. Finch makes a connection between the letter "V" and their terrorist, as they are now calling him. Mr. Finch meets with the Leader to give an update on the "terrorist." Once the connection with the letter "V" is made, they use "Codename V," when referring to him. They are convinced that he is a psychopath. They mention that he is out for blood and getting it. With the voice of Fate missing, they fear their credibility will be shaken. They fear a change in the voice will create unrest and uncertainty.

V checks up on Evey, whom he discovers in her room, crying. She is alone, scared and confused by recent events. V encourages her to reveal her story. She tells V about her parents. Evey explains how her mother died, and her father was sent away for being a radical. From the time she was young, she knew that many other countries were wiped from existence. Not knowing much of how things were before the war, Evey grew up in a very different world from V. All she knew was that she needed to stay in line to keep out of trouble.

Book 1, Chapter 3 Analysis

Beginning in this chapter, V leaves certain symbols as his "calling card." The first is a violet Carson, which he leaves at the scene and his "logo" with the letter V in a circle. The flower though, is going to appear again in later chapters, whenever there is a death. It becomes symbolic of a way of life taken away by the very people he leaves them for. When Finch is giving Mr. Susan his report, he mentions a vendetta. This is the first mention of a vendetta in the story.

From revealing her tale, Evey describes how the world is a very changed place. She does not clearly recall a time before the war. Evey knows that because of the war, many countries are now gone. The United Kingdom itself is in a devastated state. This was when the government had changed. Evey recalls that the government started taking people away, such as the blacks, Pakistanis, homosexuals and dissidents. This was their means of regaining control and peace.

It is obvious that V takes pity on the girl. It is unclear at this time whether it is a fatherly protection or love that is developing. Based on their conversation, V has fully brought Evey into his world and considers her a part of it. He goes on to say how life is melodramatic, like theatre. His persona is about creating a grand illusion. He alludes to "bringing the house down," as a way to foreshadow events to come in later chapters.

Everything about V is theatrical. From the costume to this speech and mannerisms to his "terrorist" acts, he is clearly trying to make a point. He places emphasis on an idea rather than himself. As he is mentioning this, he changes into a Vaudevillian costume.



Book 1, Chapter 4

Book 1, Chapter 4 Summary

Wearing his new costume, V pays a visit to Lewis Prothero, whom he is holding as a prisoner in a different part of the Shadow Gallery. He proceeds to lead Prothero on a tour of the Larkhill Resettlement Camp, which is a stage that V constructed. Prothero attempts to deny his involvement with the camp, not realizing that V knows who he is. It is because of his involvement that V clothed Prothero in the soldier's uniform. Back then, he was a commander. V knows him, because V was a prisoner at Larkhill.

As they walk down "memory lane," they come upon Prothero's doll collection, which V has dressed up as prison inmates. V continues to move through the set into the Larkhill Medical Compound. They march past doors marked with Roman Numerals and stop at the door labeled "V." Prothero at once realizes that V was the prisoner locked in room "V" at the camp. V reminds Prothero of his job overseeing the ovens at the camp and then annihilates the dolls in a makeshift oven. Prothero is devastated at the loss of his collection.

Later that night at the New Scotland Yard, V makes an appearance. He is returning Lewis Prothero. When the investigators bring Prothero in, they realize at once that there is not much left of him - mentally. The only words out of his mouth are "Ma-Ma" in imitation of the dolls. Meanwhile, others at Fate are deciding what course of action to take now that "The Voice" is gone. As soon as the viewers/listeners hear the new voice, they know something is wrong.

Book 1, Chapter 4 Analysis

V begins his encounter with Prothero as though he were launching a stage performance. Again, this ties in with V's flair for the theatrical. Prothero is alarmed that it is his doll collection before him, but does not seem to make the connection between the dolls and the prisoners he lined up at the camp to go to the ovens. This is the message that V wants to convey. As V reminds him of another of Prothero's job at the camp, which is overseeing the ovens, the dolls at that same moment are swept into an oven that V created. This action apparently pushes Prothero over the edge.

V's unconventional torture of Prothero has rendered him useless to the government. No longer capable of returning to his position, the others at Fate are worried about what to do. They know that keeping things uniform is a way to keep the people in line. If Prothero, as the Voice of Fate steps down and a new Voice takes over, it will cause some alarm among the people.



Book 1, Chapter 5

Book 1, Chapter 5 Summary

England's leader, Mr. Adam Susan, makes his first real appearance in this chapter. In an inner discussion, he tells the story of fascism and how it began in his country. Mr. Susan realizes that he is not loved but this is no matter for him. At the end of the day he has Fate as his one true passion. Fate spouts the propaganda that he issues to keep people and everyday life in check. It gives him ultimate control on everything around him.

Meanwhile, V pays a visit to his own passion, which is Justice. He carries on a one-way discussion with a statue of Justice atop the Old Bailey building in London. V expresses disappointment in her and what she stands for. He feels rejected by her and claims she has lost her virtue. In this break-up scene of sorts, he departs Lady Justice and leaves at her feet a valentine. As he walks away, the valentine explodes and destroys the entire building.

As V blows up the Old Bailey, the authorities question Prothero unsuccessfully. Whether out of shock or some psychotic state, Prothero is unable to respond. The only words that come out of his mouth are, "Ma-Ma." As the reader knows, he is mimicking his precious doll collection as they were incinerated by V. Aside from the doll reference, Prothero's only other words are "Room five." The investigators do not understand what this means and write it off as gibberish.

Back at the Shadow Gallery, Evey tells V that she wants to help him in his quest, not knowing exactly what that is. V, wanting to protect Evey, is reluctant to involve her. Ultimately she persuades him to allow her to help him.

Book 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

When V pays Justice a visit and carries on, he does so in a theatrical manner, which is typical of him. With the rise of Adam Susan to power, he no longer sees true justice carried out. While his performance comes off as poetic, it also truly devastates him since he appears to want things set straight, as they used to be. V feels that, because of Mr. Susan, Justice too has been beaten into complacency, as have the people.

At a later date, at the Shadow Gallery, Evey questions V about the meaning of an inscription of "V.V.V.V.V." that she sees in his home. V translates the Latin words: "Vi veri veniversum vivus vici" as "By the power of truth, I, while living, have conquered the universe." This gives the reader a sense of foreshadowing as he continues plucking out the government leaders. On his quest for freedom, justice and ultimately peace, he needs to use violence in order to attain it.



Book 1, Chapter 6

Book 1, Chapter 6 Summary

All of the high government officials are departing from the weekly Sunday mass. Derek is asked about the terrorist. Though he appears to be uncomfortable discussing V's case, he does share some information. Derek admits that V blew up the Old Bailey - that it was not a planned demolition. Walking away, Derek yells at Rosemary, who did nothing to provoke her husband. Derek appears to be a verbally abusive individual, particularly to his wife.

Bishop Lilliman watches from his window as the congregation leaves. He indicates to Dennis, his assistant, that his sermon contains elements that are suggested by Fate. He is also open about his "human" side, when he suggests to Dennis that he brings in the girl. The reader learns that the bishop has a weak spot for young girls. Evey is the young girl in question. She is dressed up to appear younger than she is.

Book 1, Chapter 6 Analysis

Chapter 6 is where the reader is introduced to Bishop Lilliman. He is clearly a cleric in title only. Based on his "earthly" habits, one can assume that he chose to take the role of bishop, because it would allow him a certain amount of power. It certainly hasn't hampered his lifestyle. He seems completely at ease in Evey's presence, lending the reader to believe that this is a regular occurrence. V meanwhile is preparing to leave the Shadow Gallery to meet Evey at the Bishop's rooms. Before he leaves, he takes with him a violet Carson. The violet Carson is foreshadowing the bishop's death.



Book 1, Chapter 7

Book 1, Chapter 7 Summary

Bishop Lilliman is getting acquainted with Evey. She is clearly uncomfortable with the bishop's advances and attempts to stall him. She opens a window for air, although it is a ruse to facilitate V's entry. Evey convinces the bishop to read from the Scripture. Again, this is another attempt for her to stall him. He leads her into his bedroom, and he begins reading. A master at stealth, V approaches the guards outside and knifes them down before they have a chance to grab their weapons. In a seemingly effortless motion, V scales the wall outside the bishop's rooms and enters through the open window. He comes in just as Evey fights off the bishop. As the bishop runs after Evey he comes face to face with V.

At the same time two controllers from The Ear are scanning the area, listening to conversations. The men comment on how slow activity is for a Sunday. One of them remembers what day it is and decides to listen in on the bishop. Sunday is the usual night that the bishop entertains girls. As they tune in, they hear conversation mixed in with loud music, which is Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. They hear V's voice along with signs of a struggle and realize that something is terribly wrong. They contact the Finger.

Book 1, Chapter 7 Analysis

Although Evey volunteered her services to V, she is uncomfortable with the situation that she finds herself in. Once again, she is in a dangerous spot, which sparks her fear. The scene in the bishop's rooms replay a similar scene from the beginning of the story where V rescues Evey from harm. Even though this scenario is well-planned, both V and Evey are playing the same roles. Evey is getting into a sticky position, and V is setting up to rescue her and execute his plan for murder. This also ties into V's theatrical persona. He plotted very carefully and instructed Evey on how she should act. Evey even showed up dressed in character as a young girl, further playing into V's plan.



Book 1, Chapter 8

Book 1, Chapter 8 Summary

Dominic and Mr. Finch show up at Westminster and see the bishop's 2 fallen guards outside. They go inside and see signs of a struggle. Mr. Finch notices V's mark on the wall, as well as the violet Carson left behind at the scene. He inspects it. They determine that Evey, is an accomplice in the crime. They attempt to reenact the events leading up to the bishop's death. The recording that Mr. Finch has of the crime reveals that V told the bishop who he was, by referencing "Room Five." V continues and reenacts the transubstantiation of mass. In doing this, he gives the Bishop a communion wafer, which the bishop swallows. He dies quickly after that. When the pathology report comes back, it indicates that the wafer was full of cyanide. V poisoned the bishop.

The next day at The Ear, technicians are playing back the recordings from the bishop's quarters. The music played in the background is Beethoven's Fifth. Mr. Finch explains to his partner that the music is Morse code for the letter V. He then drops the violet Carson from the crime scene with Dr. Delia Surridge, the coroner, so that she can investigate it. Mr. Finch hopes that Dr. Surridge will be able to offer some lead based on the flower.

Book 1, Chapter 8 Analysis

The murder of Bishop Lilliman is another example of how V plays out a scene, as though from a play. He shows up and acts as judge, jury and executioner to the bishop after he reveals their connection. V proceeds and acts as a priest would in celebrating mass. The bishop must have believed that his sins were forgiven since he so willingly went along with receiving "communion." To top off the act, V even played Beethoven as a soundtrack for the murder. Leading into the next act is Dr. Surridge's introduction into the story. When she receives the violet Carson, she is visibly shaken. However, Mr. Finch does not notice. Her holding the flower in her hands foreshadows what her fate will be.



Book 1, Chapter 9

Book 1, Chapter 9 Summary

Back at the Shadow Gallery, Evey is upset initially over V for involving her in a murder. He only told Evey exactly what she needed to know. She later apologizes to V for the outburst. She accepts responsibility for her involvement in the bishop's death, but swears that she will not kill again - even for V. Evey does truly want to help V, but she does not yet know exactly what is involved. In order for her to know that, she would need to know his plan which he has not disclosed to her. This is perhaps because of her young age.

At The Nose Mr. Finch and Dominic are poring over the case. This is the first time the connection appears to be made between Prothero repeating "Room Five" and V. Finch searches in Fate's database to see if any of V's victims had been at the camps. His search turns up Bishop Lilliman's name in association with Larkhill. Finch sees this as a big lead in the case. They also find out that Prothero was there too. Every other name that Finch pulls up in the computer that was associated with Larkhill is dead, with the exception of Dr. Surridge.

Derek and Rosemary Almond are at home. Derek is cleaning his gun as Rosemary attempts to start a conversation with him. It fails. It ends with him exploding at her and hitting her. Although Derek has pressure at work with Adam Susan laying into him, he is clearly an abusive man. Later that same night, Derek is setting up for another altercation with his wife. He takes his gun and goes to see her while she sleeps. Rosemary wakes up and sees him with the gun. He puts the barrel to her head and makes like he is going to shoot her but then laughs and tells her that he did not load it.

Dr. Surridge returns home from a long day. She is recalling a memory of a man surrounded by flames. As she sits and looks at the violet Carson, she appears to be reliving some painful memory. Dr. Surridge is in bed that night and wakes up, when she hears a noise. She knows that it is V, who has come to kill her. She asks if this is his plan, and he answers with a clear "Yes."

Book 1, Chapter 9 Analysis

Evey's attempt to help V with his work failed after the first go-around. This is likely because her age and lack of experience make V uneasy with bringing Evey in on his plan so quickly. V's realization that Evey is still hampered by fear foreshadows what he will need to do in order to rid her of it. Meanwhile, as Mr. Finch and the authorities are struggling to make sense out of the murders, they make the connection between V and "Room V" at Larkhill. Sensing where things are headed, Finch attempts to get a leg up on V by rushing to save Dr. Surridge. At the end of the chapter however, V clearly is one step ahead of the game as he tells the doctor that he is there to kill her.



Book 1, Chapter 10

Book 1, Chapter 10 Summary

Back at New Scotland Yard, Dominic and Mr. Finch continue going through all the names associated with the Larkhill camp. Each name so far comes up as deceased. Even though each death appears to be the result of natural causes, both men know that V is behind it. They are startled to see Dr. SurrIDGE's name come up. She is the only one on the list, who is still alive. They try to reach Derek Almond in an attempt to get to Dr. SurrIDGE before V does.

What they do not realize is that V is already with Dr. SurrIDGE. She explains to V that she knew he would come back for her. Her reaction to V is one of surprise at her past actions. Dr. SurrIDGE tries to explain that she did only what she was told. Now however, she realizes that was wrong all along. During her time at Larkhill she performed gross experiments and hid behind the excuse that she was told to do it.

Dr. SurrIDGE tells V that Eric Finch had given her a violet Carson earlier that same day, and she knew then that V was the terrorist. V gives her another flower. This one is hers. When she asks him if there will be any pain he replies that he already killed her with an injection while she slept. She asks to see his face one more time before she dies, and he obliges. As V leaves the house he runs into Derek, who is convinced that he has his man. Unfortunately, since he didn't load his gun at his house, V overcomes and kills him.

When Finch and Dominic arrive they realize they are too late. Mr. Finch is particularly shaken by Dr. SurrIDGE's death. He has known her for years and does not understand why V would go after her. He then vows to go to the death for V. Dominic finds her journal by her bedside and hands it to Mr. Finch. It is a daily journal of her work at Larkhill.

Book 1, Chapter 10 Analysis

At the start of this chapter, V's vendetta becomes more apparent. He is going after those individuals responsible for his torture at Larkhill. It is also at this time that Eric Finch and his partner are starting to see this connection as well. What they do not understand is his bigger plan. While they are catching on to whom his next victim will be, they fail to see the connection, if any, to the attack on Parliament.

It is important to note that, as V attacks and kills each victim, he does so using the appropriate punishment for their crimes. For Bishop Lilliman, V gives him a poison communion wafer. He does this probably, because he saw the bishop (who was a priest back during Larkhill) as one who helped kill the inmates, rather than offer comfort as priests normally do. In Dr. SurrIDGE's case he gives her a lethal injection. During their time at Larkhill, Dr. SurrIDGE administered her experiments by way of injection.



Book 1, Chapter 11

Book 1, Chapter 11 Summary

It is now Christmas Eve and Mr. Finch is making his report directly to Mr. Susan. Mr. Finch covers the facts that V injected Dr. Delia with a poison, and that Mr. Almond showed up and faced V. However, Almond never loaded the gun. Plus, since they made the connection with the victims and Larkhill, Almond was going to warn Delia, because she was the last person alive on the list. They were too late.

Finch tells Mr. Susan about the diary and indicates that although he does not know who V is, he knows *what* he is. He then begins to read aloud excerpts of it. In it, Dr. Surridge documents her arrival at Larkhill, and her hormone experiments that she plans to administer to the inmates at the camp. By her own account, this does not sound like a woman with much compassion for human life. She talks about the inmates as barely human and how they deserve to be there and undergoing her experiments. As her experiments proceed, she documents what happens to the patients and how many die. Though most of the people that got her injections did die, one was surviving quite well. This was the inmate in Room Five.

As time went by, the inmate in Room Five made some unusual requests for fertilizer and grease solvent. However, they allowed him to have it, not realizing what he was up to. They found out soon enough, when they heard the first explosion. With the supplies Room Five had, he made mustard gas and napalm and used it to take the entire camp down. What Dr. Surridge describes next brings the reader back to the memory she recalled back at her house while she was still alive in Chapter 9.

When Finch gets to the end of the diary he still has no answers. He does not know what happened to the prisoner in Room Five. Nor does he understand how this inmate became "Codename V." There was a four year gap between that fateful event at Larkhill and the present day. While Finch does not know exactly what went on in those four years, he does know that V was busy enough killing another 40 people that were involved with Larkhill.

Finch continues to explain to Mr. Susan that he sees two motives for V, not just one. The first is revenge, or a vendetta, the second is something far more sinister involving the government. Finch proposes that the diary could even be a fake or a smokescreen for something else, something bigger.

Book 1, Chapter 11 Analysis

Dr. Surridge writes about how interested the inmate in Room V had become in gardening. The camp allowed the inmate gardening privileges. As part of his privileges, he chose to grow violet Carsons. The reader can now correctly deduce that this is where V's issues stem from as well as his use of the roses. These flowers are



significant to the people that he gives them to. When they see them, they should be reminded of the time at Larkhill, and they should know immediately the relationship between Larkhill and the prisoner in Room V.

In addition, V's choice of flower is significant. This foreshadows events later in the story that involve Valerie Page coming up in Book 2, Chapter 2 and Book 2, Chapters 10-11. These flowers also have other significance. Aside from their relation to V and Valerie, they are also a sign of a peaceful society that is long gone. Valerie mentions this in Book 2, Chapter 10. She says the happiest time in her life is before the war, when she had love and violet Carsons.



Book 2, Prelude

Book 2, Prelude Summary and Analysis

Book Two begins with a song, which V is performing. He is describing, through his song, that the government is and society has become decrepit. Through the images we see that Rosemary Almond is essentially being cut off from the government that her husband worked so hard for, and died for. Since she will not receive any widow's benefits, she is now forced to find work in a cabaret act. Evey, we discover, is passing time watching videos on TV. As a finale, V sings about the narrow-minded government, and how people need to fall in with their government's mindset, not an individual's.



Book 2, Chapter 1

Book 2, Chapter 1 Summary

To pass the time, V is entertaining Evey with a magic act of the disappearing rabbit. Later, they have a dance, and Evey asks V about his intentions. She describes how she has been living with him for a while, and he has not made a move on her. She does not understand why. Evey asks V if there is a reason. Maybe there is somebody else, or maybe he is her father?

V asks her to follow him outside. Before he does so, he blindfolds her. She realizes that he has taken her outside, but she does not understand what he is up to. As she grows impatient with his puzzling answers, or his lack of answers, V has lead her far from the Shadow Gallery. The only thing he says to her is that he is not her father. By the time she takes her blindfold off, she realizes that he has left her all alone in the street.

Book 2, Chapter 1 Analysis

Although Evey does not feel that V is answering her questions, in a roundabout way he does. He leads her out blindly into the street and tests her. Evey is getting to the point where she seeks answers, which V still does not feel she is ready to handle. He forces Evey to face her fear of abandonment. It is confusing for the reader to witness this, as he does not explain why he does this. By leading her out and abandoning her, he sets the stage for a transformation, which she does not realize is happening. In order for Evey to be ready for his answers, she needs to get over her own fears and immaturity.



Book 2, Chapter 2

Book 2, Chapter 2 Summary

Rosemary Almond is at her husband's burial. Some of Derek's colleagues are also there. One of them, Roger Dascombe, approaches Rosemary and asks how she will get by. She takes his meaning to be more than just friendly. Although this bothers her a great deal, she knows that she might have to give in and do things that she would not have thought otherwise. Although Derek had been abusive, his presence did offer safety and security for Rosemary in an unsafe and insecure world. Eventually, Rosemary gives in to Roger and lets him take her out for dinner. She is no fool. She knows that this is not a free meal. In order to survive, she needs to live a different life and do things she would not ordinarily do. Evey, who is also alone again, has to figure out how she will get by.

V, who is out wandering the streets, passes an old cinema house. In front of it he spots a movie poster for "The Salt Flats" starring Valerie Page. He removes the poster from the wall, rolls it up and takes it. As he departs, he sees a Fate poster, which reads, "Strength through Purity, Purity through Faith." Before he passes it by completely, he leaves his trademark "V" painted on it.

Book 2, Chapter 2 Analysis

V has an obvious love of art and cinema, as depicted by the items at the Shadow Gallery. The movie poster that he takes from the wall is foreshadowing events to come in Book 2, Chapter 10. Valerie Page is a movie actress, who starred in the "Salt Flats" prior to the war. There is a connection between Valerie and V, incidentally both with V names. The connection takes them back to Larkhill. So, even though V has a love of films, his desire to take the poster stems far deeper.



Book 2, Chapter 3

Book 2, Chapter 3 Summary

V makes a typically sneaky entry into the television studio. When he comes in, there are two guards watching programs with the volume on high. The noise of the programs continues in the background as V makes his way further inside the studio. When the elevator doors open, the guards stationed at that post are surprised by V's presence since they never heard him come in. The only sound in the background is television. V assaults the four men at the elevator and takes them all down in a seemingly effortless attack.

When V enters the control room, he yet again surprises everyone. He opens his coat to reveal that he has explosives strapped to his body. He holds out a video tape. Next thing the viewers know is that their televisions are blacked out. Their regularly scheduled programs have been replaced by a video recording of V. Since it is during primetime, everyone is watching what is happening. V's diatribe is addressed to the people of the nation as though humans were employees in a corporation. He tracks human evolution as though it was a business.

Book 2, Chapter 3 Analysis

V's entry into the studio is significant in order for him to get his message out to push people to do something for the greater good. However, he does so through violent means once again. He seems to believe that the only way to gain freedom and peace is through violence. V's method of getting to the people by way of television is astute. A big part of V's argument is that the people in the current society are complacent. They go along with what the government tells them, as though they do not know any better. Also, by targeting the audience during primetime, V knows that there will be many people watching his broadcast. Again, knowing how passive people have become, there isn't much more that everyone would be doing other than watching television.



Book 2, Chapter 4

Book 2, Chapter 4 Summary

V commends people for the advancements they made and successes they had. One of these successes was when man first landed on the moon. V quickly changes gear however, and begins talking about the war. As V refers to further advancements as "promotions," he says that it has been turned down repeatedly in favor of war. People got complacent and their "work" reflected such. The drop in work standards should not be blamed on bad management, even if the management is very bad. The management that has been in place was a long line of "embezzlers, frauds, liars and lunatics making a string of catastrophic decisions."

V blames the people for electing these individuals into positions of power. The continual errors he says are nothing short of deliberate, and he cannot understand why. By continually allowing these people into office, they are in effect encouraging bad behavior and reinforcing bad habits. V reminds the people that they have the ability to stop the cycle. He gives a deadline of 2 years in order to make the necessary changes. If they do not, they will be "fired." At that moment, building security bursts into the room and aims their weapons at V, who is standing stock-still. Since he does not move, they open fire. In the background, an announcement is made that normal programming will once again resume. The chapter ends with V's motionless body on the floor.

Book 2, Chapter 4 Analysis

V's message here is clear. He is expressing his disappointment in the people as though the country was a failed business venture. If a company has unmotivated employees, it is not a company that will succeed. V takes drastic measures to ensure that people understand his message. At the same time, while he does so with gusto for the masses, he refuses to do so with Evey. This may be because he ultimately has more faith in Evey to learn from her experiences, rather than the masses that tend to be lead anywhere like sheep.



Book 2, Chapter 5

Book 2, Chapter 5 Summary

After the death of Dr. Surridge, Mr. Finch is sent away on a forced vacation. Mr. Peter Creedy, who is taking over for Derek Almond remarks how baffled he is at how V knows so much about Jordon Tower. What no one realized about the scuffle after the broadcast is that Mr. Dascombe, who worked in the control room, had been coerced into wearing V's costume. When security entered the room and opened fire, they got the wrong person.

Dr. Surridge's death has a deep effect on Finch. While on his solitary vacation, Finch plays his relationship with Dr. Surridge over in his mind. Although they shared some physical relationship, it sounds as though he cared much deeper for her. He believed their involvement was secret. Even still, this doesn't seem to bother Finch that much.

Evey now has a new place to stay. An older gentleman, named Gordon, takes her in. He expresses sympathy at her being kicked out of her last home. The only indication Evey gives about her relationship with V was that it was platonic, and she said she did not think of him any longer. As she is saying this, Gordon is reading a newspaper where the front page headline reads, "Guy Fawkes Video Error."

Book 2, Chapter 5 Analysis

When Peter Creedy wonders how it is possible that V knows so much about their buildings, it is the first time any mention is made over V's source of information. This foreshadows events later in the story, when V shows Evey other rooms in the Shadow Gallery that had been previously closed off to her (Book 3, Chapter 5, page. 220). However, this train of thought seems to go nowhere. V's venture into the television studio follows Evey into her new home, when he appears on the front page of the newspaper. The government is playing it off as an "error," rather than admitting what happened.



Book 2, Chapter 6

Book 2, Chapter 6 Summary

Later the next month, at the Kitty-Kat Keller Cabaret, the current act on stage is a woman singing about the "affairs of state." In the audience of the cabaret are Evey and Gordon. She is curious about Gordon's friends. While she does not think they are nice, she finds them "interesting." She sees Rosemary Almond sitting alone at a nearby table. While Evey does not know Rosemary personally, she knows her from the news. At that moment, a cabaret worker approaches Rosemary's table and tells her she has no credit and asks her to leave. Since Evey does not hear this conversation, she sees it as someone paying Rosemary some attention, and that makes Evey feel good. While she thinks she has been abandoned by V, he still watches her every move. He is never far away from her.

Book 2, Chapter 6 Analysis

Evey is glad to see someone pay Rosemary some attention. It makes her happy to know that the woman is not alone. Evey is very sensitive to being alone and senses this in other people. She knows that Rosemary is all alone in the world as Evey is alone. They both need to rely on the kindness of others in order to survive. Even though Evey has been through a lot, which should have toughened her up, the reader really sees Evey as truly naive. When Gordon gives her a warning that things are about to get ugly at the bar, Evey she sees nothing menacing about the men. She is young and seems to be in denial about life. She is truly surprised when a brawl does break out, and she and Gordon are forced to flee the scene.



Book 2, Chapter 7

Book 2, Chapter 7 Summary

More time has gone by. It is now April. Evey and Gordon begin a romantic involvement. Two months later, Gordon has visitors at his front door and instructs Evey to lock herself in the bathroom. Outside, it is Alistair Harper and another man knocking. Gordon realizes that trouble is brewing, and he refuses to open the door. From the conversation, Gordon is involved in some bootlegging business with Harper. As Gordon gets closer to the door to continue his conversation with Harper, the goon with him raises a large sword over his head and drives it through the door. The weapon slices into Gordon's body.

After the commotion, Evey calls to Gordon from the bathroom. When she does not get an answer, she goes downstairs and sees Gordon's lifeless body on the floor. As she sits in shock, she has flashbacks of her past, when her mother died, and her father was taken away. The more recent flashback is from, when V abandoned her in the street. Calmly, Evey goes upstairs and finds Gordon's gun.

Book 2, Chapter 7 Analysis

With Gordon dead, Evey has to go through the feeling of abandonment once again. As Gordon lay dead on the floor, Evey sits in shock. In her mind, flashbacks of her mother's death and father's arrest haunt her. Her more recent memory brings V to her mind, when he left her on the street. Although her experiences should have toughened her up, they instead bring her to the edge where she is ready to start taking revenge. Only she does not think her plan through as carefully as V would have. Evey goes with her gut reaction and acts rather spontaneously. Without a lot of prior thought, she goes to find Gordon's gun.

Book 2, Chapter 8

Book 2, Chapter 8 Summary

Evey makes her way out at night and heads toward the Kitty-Kat Keller Cabaret. The streets are deserted. When someone taps her on the shoulder she becomes alarmed. The person tapping her is Rosemary Almond, who is looking for the stage entrance. Evey recognizes her but is unable to help her. Evey hides in a dark side alley with her gun against her chest. She nervously awaits Harper. When he arrives she is ready for him and aims her weapon. However, she is knocked unconscious before she has the chance to fire a shot.

Book 2, Chapter 8 Analysis

This chapter presents two, related dilemmas. First, Evey is on her own and clearly afraid of her own shadow. At this point, she seems less driven by anger and more by fear. Her latest experience losing Gordon has done little to shape her maturity and help her grapple with reality. She still looks like a little girl. Second, with Rosemary running into Evey and looking for the stage entrance, one can deduce that she has taken a job there. Rosemary, a mature woman, seems rather nervous, as she approaches Evey. With her husband dead, Rosemary's world has turned upside-down. She is learning a hard lesson on what it takes to survive in the world she lives in. Both women are doing what they need to, in order to make things right in their lives.



Book 2, Chapter 9

Book 2, Chapter 9 Summary

The scene that unfolds is Evey's dream. She is dressing up for a party wearing the same dress from when she went to see Bishop Lilliman in Chapter 6. She is sitting at a dressing table. Her father appears and tells her that there is a Punch and Judy man at the party. He leads her to a room and suddenly Gordon appears. Gordon then takes her into a room that resembles the bishop's. She is growing confused about her surroundings and the people she is with. Her mother appears, and Evey walks away. Suddenly, she sees that she is in a retirement home and the party is for them, not her. She sees the Punch and Judy man whacking the heads off people, some of whom she recognizes. She tries to run out and realizes that she is being followed by the Punch and Judy man, who turns out to be V.

When Evey wakes up from her dream, she finds herself in a prison cell. The only thing she sees through the bars of the door is a "Strength through purity, purity through faith" sign. Her cell is bare. The only sound she hears is the scurrying of a rat that comes out of a hole in the wall.

Book 2, Chapter 9 Analysis

Evey's dream is very telling. When she sits at the dressing table getting ready, it is similar to V's preparation for a trip out which is very theatrical. Everything about the start of the dream is reminiscent of the theatre. It also foreshadows what she does at the end of the story after V dies. As Evey takes on V's role in the future, she will take his place at his dressing table and mimic his actions. The dream also delves into how Evey relates to those she loves that she has lost. When her dearly departed appear and disappear in the dream, she acts rather disconnected from them. There is little sense of abandonment that comes through.



Book 2, Chapter 10

Book 2, Chapter 10 Summary

Evey's meals are brought to her through an opening in the cell door. Since there is no light in her cell, when the sun sets, her room gets dark. She sleeps. She wakes up, when she hears voices. There are guards, who come to take her for questioning. She is blindfolded and therefore cannot see them or where they are taking her. Once they reach their destination, they remove the blindfold. All she sees are shadows and a bright light shining on her.

The interrogation begins by showing her a film. At first she does not know what it is, and then she remembers. The film is of her from the year before, when she was out on the street in her short-lived career as a prostitute. She freezes, as V's image appears next on the screen. She realizes that they know of her involvement with this wanted criminal. The interrogator tells her that she is formally charged with the attempted murder of Peter Creedy. They put the blindfold back on her and send her to another room. They completely shave off her hair. A doctor gives her an examination, she is blindfolded once again and taken back to the cell. When she returns, the rat is also there.

When Evey wakes up later, she notices a piece of paper sticking out of the hole in the wall. She picks it up and sees writing. It is a five-page letter written by a woman, named Valerie. The note details Valerie's own imprisonment. It is a personal account of her life and her loves. Something about this letter makes a deep impression upon Evey, as she goes through her own imprisonment. It begins to teach her something about inner strength. When she is taken for further questioning, her captors torture her and hold her head under water repeatedly.

Book 2, Chapter 10 Analysis

The earlier references to Valerie are explained further in this chapter. Evey reads the note as though Valerie was a prisoner where Evey is. Valerie's courage strikes a chord in Evey that sticks. From the letter, she learns a lesson about being truly free. She is learning that they can keep her prisoner, but only she has the ability to give in to fear or to live free of it. This starts Evey's transformation into adulthood.



Book 2, Chapter 11

Book 2, Chapter 11 Summary

Evey continues to read Valerie's letter. In it, Valerie describes her life starting with her childhood where she sought her parents' approval of her sexuality. Evey, who is still being tortured with water is now questioned about V. Her captors question what she knows about the terrorist. They know that she was spotted outside the Kitty Kat Keller Cabaret with a gun and believe she was acting on V's behalf. She tells them that she was not.

In Evey's mind, she is thinking about Valerie. Valerie continues to detail her life and work as an actress. She talks about how she found true love with another woman. She says that the three years before the war were her best years. She details her happiness, as she was young, in love, and leading a successful career. Then, the war happened, and things started changing. She and her lover lived in fear of being arrested. Ruth was arrested and tortured. The authorities then caught up with Valerie, too.

After further questioning, Evey is shown a confession and asked to sign. The confession admits her guilt in her association with V. In addition, it alleges that V brainwashed her and used her as an accomplice to kill certain government officials. Her captors ask her to sign the document, and Evey very calmly answers, "No." Evey's captor takes her back to the cell and explains that a firing squad will be arranged to have her shot.

Book 2, Chapter 11 Analysis

Valerie mentions the violet Carson in connection with her happiness. They represent the best years of her life. They represent a life with freedom and love. There is a connection made here, when Valerie mentions appearing in movies. She is the same Valerie from the movie poster of "The Salt Flats" that V took from the cinema wall in Book 2, Chapter 2.

Another facet of Valerie's story that strikes Evey is the calm with which Valerie faced adversity. Even as she stared death in the eye, it did not shake her. Valerie's letter is left behind as her legacy. Her legacy is love. Therefore, although Evey never meets Valerie, she is changed after reading about Valerie's experience. Evey's transformation is now complete. She is no longer a shaking, crying child. She becomes a woman with great inner calm.



Book 2, Chapter 12

Book 2, Chapter 12 Summary

A guard comes for Evey and tries to strike a bargain with her. He tells her that if she confesses she will have a shortened sentence and probably be able to get a job working for The Finger upon her release. She declines. When she says "No," the guard allows her to go free. Evey is standing in the middle of her cell thoroughly confused by what the guard tells her. She turns and walks to the open cell door.

When she peers out into the hall she sees an empty corridor. As she walks through the hall, she passes a figure of a guard. Seeing that it is not real, she continues. She walks into another room and recognizes it as the interrogation room. The figure sitting at the table is also a mannequin. She sees a tape player. When she presses "Play," she hears the voice of the interrogator. Moving on, she passes an area where there is a cage with the rat in it.

The next room she walks into she recognizes as the Shadow Gallery. V stands in the middle of the room and welcomes her home. Immediately, Evey is horrified by the realization that V was her tormentor. The whole imprisonment was fake. She is shaken and unable to see why V would do this to her. He explains very calmly that he did it, because he loved her and wanted to set her free.

Book 2, Chapter 12 Analysis

Evey stared death in the face and emerged victorious. She no longer felt fear. The experience completely freed her. However, when she saw V upon her departure, she was beside herself. V on the other hand, appeared completely composed as usual. He put Evey through an experience as close to his incarceration as he could. After his imprisonment, V also lived a life free of fear. Not only did he live a life free of fear, but he lived in defiance of the government. Since he was no longer afraid, he felt compelled to do everything necessary to show others that they too could be free and reclaim the lives they once had before the world changed.



Book 2, Chapter 13

Book 2, Chapter 13 Summary

When Evey hears that V is behind this elaborate scheme to set her free she reacts with rage and raw hatred. V says to Evey that her whole life was spent inside a prison of her own. He did this to Evey to take her away from that. Her whole life had been spent in fear, because of her mother and father, and eventually Gordon. This experience was designed to remove that fear from her. V goes on to explain that she was born into a prison, like so many others. He wants her to know that there is life beyond that prison. She refuses to hear it, V says, because the idea of freedom is terrifying.

V talks her through the stages of her acceptance of her new existence. He suggests going up to the roof for Evey to see things as new. This time, when V takes her outside, he does not use blindfolds. When they get to the roof V realizes it is raining and attempts to cover Evey from the cold. Not feeling the chill, Evey walks unassisted into the nighttime air.

Later in September at The Nose, Dominic and Mr. Finch are working. Finch is engrossed in a book titled *The Roots of Coincidence* by Arthur Koestler. Dominic is remarking that six months have passed since the last V incident. He asks Finch if he thinks it is over. Mr. Finch, who continues reading barely hears the question. Since his return from vacation, Mr. Finch is nothing but distracted.

Book 2, Chapter 13 Analysis

V welcomes Evey to her new life. He encourages her to experience the full range of her emotions but tells her to remember how she felt before she was freed. When she reaches back into that place, she is calmed. V leads her outside to see things anew. As the rain pours down, and Evey greets it with renewed enthusiasm, the experience can be likened to baptism where previous sins are washed away. While it is unlikely that there is a religious connection here, the fact that Evey steps out into the rain mimics an act of purification. For the first time Evey sees things differently. She embraces it readily.



Book 2, Chapter 14

Book 2, Chapter 14 Summary

Vignette 1:

At the Shadow Gallery, a cleaned-up Evey visits V, who is playing the piano. Some time has gone by, as the reader can tell by the length of Evey's hair. She approaches him and gives him a kiss on the mask. She thanks him for the experience. He explains that she alone created the experience. When Evey says how she believed it all, including Valerie's letter, V asks her to follow him. He shows her the poster that he had of Valerie and explains to Evey that Valerie was in fact, real. He tells her that she was the woman in Room Four.

Vignette 2:

At the Kitty Kat Keller, we see Rosemary in a dressing room. As she is vomiting, there is a knock at the door. It is a curtain call. She now works at the cabaret. She explains to the emcee that she gets nervous before going on stage and that she was sick. He agrees to stay with her.

Vignette 3:

At the Shadow Gallery, V is showing Evey his garden of violet Carsons. He explains that he grew them in Valerie's memory. He also asks Evey to pick a rose for him to give to Alistair Harper. He was the man she was waiting to kill outside the Kitty Kat Keller, when he picked her up. If she gave V the rose, he would leave it behind with Harper after he killed him, as his calling card. Evey hesitates at the offer and finally says to let the roses grow.

Vignette 4:

Mr. Susan is in his usual spot before the television screens, and a message pops up on all of the monitors. It says, "I love you." Surprised, he takes a step back to be sure of what he is seeing. The guards from outside overhear him and come in to check on things. Seeing the screens are now back to normal, he sends the guards out.

Vignette 5:

Shadow Gallery: Evey asks V what he will do next. His answer to her is, "the finale." At that time he says he will need her help and that it will be soon. He puts on a record and asks Evey for a dance.



Book 2, Chapter 14 Analysis

When Evey thanks V for helping her he replies that she had done it all herself. He set the stage, but she created the drama. This brings up another reference to theatrics, which are what seem to drive him. V then shows her the movie poster of Valerie Page in "The Salt Flats" and explains to Evey that Valerie was in fact, real. He reveals that she was the woman in Room Four, next to him. V goes on to say that the violet Carsons he grew at the Shadow Gallery were in Valerie's memory. This plays into his use of the flowers for his vendetta, to get back at those that caused his and Valerie's suffering.

This is a different Evey now. She is no longer the immature girl she was when she first came to V's home. Her experience matured her into a woman. She is no longer flighty or whiney. She is composed and staid.



Book 3, Prologue

Book 3, Prologue Summary and Analysis

It is now November 5th. At The Ear, Dominic and Mr. Etheridge are working late. Dominic is looking for Mr. Finch. Dominic says that the pharmacy called looking for misplaced records for toxic chemicals that Eric had requisitioned months prior. He also indicates that Eric had been depressed lately and reading Koestler's book. Mr. Etheridge comments that he book was about the right to die with dignity. Incidentally, the author killed himself. He asks Dominic about the Terrorist case and Dominic answers that there was no new information since earlier in the year.

At the Shadow Gallery, Evey is removing some items from her room to get rid of. She is removing items that are reminiscent of childhood like stuffed animals. V takes them and puts them in a trunk. He jokes about her doing spring cleaning in November. Evey asks him if he ever feels like clearing out those things that are no longer necessary. "All the time," he tells her. Evey also takes this time to ask him what he has been working on. She knows he is up to something. He only tells her that yes, he is and that it will be over by Christmas.

Meanwhile, Mr. Susan is addressing Fate. He asks the computer if he is loved. He knows he is feared and respected, but now he wants to know if he is loved. He gets down on his knees and begs for a sign.

In a different scene V stands atop a building in London that looks out on Jordon Tower. The only prop before him is a music stand with sheet music on it. Atop a building in London, we see V pick up a baton and point it at Jordon Tower. At that moment, the building explodes. V continues his symphony. As he points his baton at the old post office, it too explodes.

The Leader's secretary comes up on his monitor and tells him he has Mr. Heyer and Mr. Creedy waiting to talk to him. Creedy tells Mr. Susan that Jordon Tower and the old post office were blown up. Mr. Susan comments that they are now blind and deaf and unable to speak. They are unable to broadcast, but V somehow finds his own method and is conducting his own broadcast.

V begins his broadcast with the mention of Guy Fawkes and his significant contribution to their common culture. To commemorate this occasion, the right to privacy is given back to the citizens. This "right" is given, simply because the government's systems of communication are down. For 3 days, the people will be able to communicate as they please without having the government listen in.



Book 3, Chapter 1

Book 3, Chapter 1 Summary

People have mixed reactions about this new freedom. A young girl riding her bicycle in the street tests the cameras to see if they truly are out. In an obvious act of defiance, the young girl gestures and curses at the camera. As she walks away with her bike, she takes out a can of spray paint and makes V's trademark sign before she leaves. Others are a little more torn over their privacy. One citizen remarks that they miss the sounds the cameras made as they moved from spot to spot. Some are simply in a state of disbelief over it.

Back at the Head, reports coming in to the Leader suggest that the people are quiet. Still, they are not taking any chances and will have reinforcements come in for safety. As Dominic is making his report, he thinks he overhears Mr. Susan say, "I love you." While Mr. Susan did utter those words, they are directed to the computer before him. Then, he sends Dominic away.

On the streets, the army is marching, making their presence known. Rosemary enters one of the stores. Knowing that she is not being watched or listened to, she asks the store owner for a gun. The man is reluctant to discuss this openly with her. However, when she mentions cash, he begins to warm up. When he asks why she wants a gun, she simply answers, "for protection." When he knows that she is serious and has cash, he agrees to meet her at closing time to give her the gun.

Although the government forces are visible, it has not stopped looters. People are taking advantage of their freedom and acting out. It has been a long time since the people had their chance to speak up and their using their voice now. Reports of violence and outbursts are coming in from all over town, overwhelming the army. Evey calls this uproar anarchy. V corrects her and calls it chaos.

Book 3, Chapter 1 Analysis

People are starting to test the waters with the freedom they now have without the constant surveillance. Although still apprehensive about acting out, little by little the people start defying government law. It quickly gets to a state where troops are needed to keep looters at bay. While the people are tentatively reaching out for their freedom, they are not using it properly. V's intention to take out the surveillance is to give people the opportunity to reclaim their government and their freedom. Possibly because they have lived so long under oppressive rule, they are unorganized and don't know how to seize back the power. When Evey comments that it is anarchy, V disagrees and calls the current state chaos. Anarchy is the absence of a political authority and a state of political confusion. The government is still in place and while there is confusion amongst the high officials, they are still firmly in place.



Book 3, Chapter 2

Book 3, Chapter 2 Summary

At the Head, Mr. Susan watches the screens before him and sees the chaos that ensues on the streets. He appears to be losing his mind. He sits alone in his room with the monitors, seeing everything that goes on around him, yet he does not interact directly with anyone.

At the end of the day, Rosemary returns to the store to buy her gun. She meets the owner in the back of the store, and they complete the transaction. The store owner does not seem to entirely believe that Rosemary needs the gun to "defend" herself.

Mr. Creedy corners Harper for a chat. He automatically suspects Harper of illegal dealings and murders, which Harper denies. His behavior has been found out and is not going to be tolerated. Using blackmail, Creedy recruits Harper to help "his side" out. The deal is that Harper will help Creedy crack down on insurgents and in return, Creedy will keep his mouth shut about Harper's illegal activities.

Conrad plays puppy dog to Helen. It is obvious that he is obsessed with her and in return, she is cruel and cold-hearted toward him. To her he is nothing more than a plaything. Mr. Susan's deterioration is now known amongst certain people. Helen and Conrad talk about it as though he is gearing up for a mental breakdown. Conrad knows that Creedy's anxious for this breakdown so that he can go in and snatch the position away from him. Helen however, has different plans. She wants Conrad ready to jump in at the right time as leader instead of Creedy.

V meanwhile talks to Evey about the collapse of authority and how it creates widespread chaos. He leads Evey to a part of the Shadow Gallery where she has not been yet. He takes her to what he calls his "love nest." He shares the story of his love of Justice to Evey. He explains that he lost his "love" to someone, who abused Justice and changed the meaning of what she actually was. She was no longer someone virtuous to V but rather she became vicious in her judgments. The man he is referring to is Mr. Susan. V then takes his seat in a never-before-seen room that mimics the room at The Head, where Mr. Susan sits in front of all of his monitors.

Later on November 7th at The Nose, many poems in the form of love letters are picked up all over the streets. No one knows the source of these, but their existence creates some alarm. It indicates that the populace is uneasy and there is trouble brewing. These "letters" sound like they came from V and express his emotions over losing his love, Justice.



Book 3, Chapter 2 Analysis

As his control slips away, Mr. Susan begins to lose his mind. Perhaps it is the years of forced isolation that has driven him to this point. The guards stationed outside his office hear Mr. Susan talk to himself. It could be love he truly craves since he refers to Fate as his only love. As it happens, Fate is something that he can control which for reasons he does not yet know, he is unable to control it. Interestingly, the system called Fate, which he controls now, starts to breakdown in an apparent response to what is occurring out on the streets.



Book 3, Chapter 3

Book 3, Chapter 3 Summary

Mr. Harper begins to accept bribes for "police protection" in certain areas. He then has a secret meeting with Helen. She is a cunning woman with a lot of power. She tells Harper that not only is Creedy preparing to jump in to Susan's spot, but that he has formed a civilian auxiliary force and planned a coup. Helen asks Harper for his protection so that Conrad will get the coveted spot instead of Creedy. She bribes him handsomely and he accepts.

Rosemary performs on stage at the Kitty-Kat Keller Cabaret. She goes through the motions of her stage performance but in her mind images of Derek and other events that that changed her life are unfolding. She leads a different existence now. Somehow, she is more exposed to life's realities. She sees the world as a scary and unsafe place.

Dominic reads the "love letters," and something hits him. V knows the intricacies of their system. He must have some way to tap into them. Dominic races to The Head to tell Susan of these findings. He tells Susan that V must have had access to Fate since the very beginning. As he is delivering this news, Susan sees before him on the monitor V's logo.

Book 3, Chapter 3 Analysis

Rosemary's internal dialogue foreshadows future events nicely. Earlier on, she buys a gun for "protection" though it is questionable as to why she really needs it. Her initial reasons for needing to defend herself on the streets are valid, though from seeing what is truly on her mind, it is doubtful she will use it for those reasons. Since living on her own as a widow, she sees the world as it really is. She sees it as unsafe, unpredictable, with no real freedom to speak of. This inner dialogue sets up Rosemary's future encounter with Mr. Susan.

When Dominic makes the connection between Fate and V, he is overwhelmed. A system that had been so closely monitored had been monitored by a third party all along. As Fate meets its own fate, it creates an interesting irony. The system that the government believed was under their control all along was truly in the grip of someone else. As things are playing out, it seems like there are some things that are not meant to be controlled.



Book 3, Chapter 4

Book 3, Chapter 4 Summary

Eric Finch visits Larkhill and realizes that the only way he is going to crack the case is to get inside V's head. To do so, Eric induces a psychotropic state by taking acid. While he is waiting for the drug to take effect, he walks around and tries to convince himself that Dr. SurrIDGE was a good woman. He still wants to believe that her diary is a forgery and that she did not do the things that are written in that journal. As Finch is facing this loneliness, dozens and dozens of people appear, and they are all happy to see him. He notices now that he is wearing the uniform of a prison inmate. He is remembering the people that he saw before the war. He sees all the people that were taken away afterwards. These included minorities, homosexuals, disabled individuals and dissidents. They walk away from him as quickly as they appeared.

Finch sees a building close by with lights on and people inside. As he hallucinates, he sees Dr. SurrIDGE before him. Although he explains that there are things bothering him, she brushes him off on Father Lilliman. In this sequence, she calls to Lewis Prothero to take him away. As Finch is dragged off, he sees Delia kneeling to the priest and kissing his ring. As Finch's hallucination continues, he is tossed into a cell, which he quickly realizes is Room Five, where V was imprisoned. He mixes the chemicals that are on the floor. He now realizes that he is keeping himself a prisoner there. Once he sees this, he knows that he must break free. He sets off the explosives that the chemicals create, and he leaves the building a free man. This makes him deliriously happy.

Book 3, Chapter 4 Analysis

Finch thinks that by taking the LSD it would be thinking like V thinks. There are several issues going on here. The first is what Mr. Finch says it is and that is cracking the V case. The second is clearing Dr. SurrIDGE's name. The third thing is Finch dealing with his own loneliness and fear. He is trapped, as everyone else is trapped and lives in fear. His job disturbs him as life in general disturbs the general populace. He sees that he has been living in a prison cell, just as V was while at Larkhill. Just as V demonstrated for Evey, each person is responsible for and capable of breaking free of those shackles. This is when Finch realizes this too.



Book 3, Chapter 5

Book 3, Chapter 5 Summary

At the Shadow Gallery Evey approaches V and asks what his next move is going to be. Since all the chaos is ensuing on the streets above, Evey sees V as "sitting things out." She wants to know what he is going to do. He leads her to yet another part of his home that she had not yet been to. As they make their way through corridors, he explains that all he has done was in an effort to pass on knowledge to Evey. The room V takes her to has a computer in it that is linked to Fate - the government's own bloodline to everything. V explains that just like the computer is linked to Fate and all other government information, so is everything connected in life.

V takes her to yet another new room. It is full of television monitors, just like Mr. Susan's room at The Head. This allows V to have eyes and ears just like Fate. Another room V brings her to is a laboratory. It contains manuals and all the ingredients needed to make explosives. He leads her to a Tube station where a train sits. The cars are full of explosives and lilies he instructs her to place the explosives behind the lilies. Once again, Evey asks what it is all for. He explains to Evey that he has revealed his will to her, but she does not get it. The only other thing he tells her is that he is waiting for someone, but will not tell her who. She thinks this is another one of V's guessing games. He stops answering her questions.

Book 3, Chapter 5 Analysis

When the violet Carsons are mentioned in the book, they are mentioned as a celebration of Valerie's life. As V shows Evey the train car filled with explosives and lilies, it signifies a much different message than the violet Carson. The train with the combination of explosives and lilies gives it a true air of a funeral. The bombs can only mean death and lilies are strongly associated with funerals. As V imparts the last of his knowledge to Evey, it conveys the message that V is aware of his impending doom.

V has taken great pains to pass this knowledge on to Evey. He has a much bigger plan in store for her. Once again, Evey asks what it is all for. He explains to Evey that he has revealed his will to her, but she does not get it. She does not understand yet that the will he is referring to is his last will and testament.



Book 3, Chapter 6

Book 3, Chapter 6 Summary

Helen and Conrad are together again and conspiring. Helen remarks about Mr. Susan making a public appearance to restore the public calm. Although she does not find it amusing, it perplexes her how Creedy thinks he would ever be able to run the country and replace Susan. Creedy and Harper meanwhile, meet up before the parade is scheduled to begin. It seems that Creedy is in fact staging this parade and putting on a show of sorts. His goal is to make Mr. Susan look incompetent so that the citizens will warm to him replacing Susan. Helen is conspiring once again with Harper to make Conrad the next leader. However, she plans to make all of the decisions, backed-up by Harper's "muscle." Even though Fate's video system is still out of commission, V's system is working well, and he captures their entire interlude on video.

Mr. Susan is once again caught in an odd moment. The guards are coming for him to take him to the motorcade. He is clearly still distraught that there is no video access and no way to be in touch with the people. It is the only way he knows how to deal with the outside world. All holed up with no contact from the citizens he does not seem to know quite what to do with himself. Although he feels the system has failed him, he accepts it.

Mr. Finch is back from his trip to Larkhill and is looking disheveled and shuffling along the streets of London. He is still struggling to find a clue that will help him crack the case. Over and over in his mind, he rummages through details and clues he already has... especially the latest insight he has since his trip. He passes the old Victoria Station Tube station, and he stops in his tracks. It hits him immediately that this is the clue he has been waiting for. The thing that makes him stop is the sign for the station. It displays a V inside a large circle, reminiscent of V's own logo. He goes into the abandoned station and goes as far as he can.

Book 3, Chapter 6 Analysis

Creedy's use of the parade sets the stage for potential disaster for Mr. Susan. He does this in a way not unlike how V sets the stage for his encounters. There are a few parallels to be made here. First, V and Creedy set the stage for a very public occasion. Both are moving forward in hopes of sending strong messages. For Creedy, it is to show how their leader is incompetent. For V, it is to further shake up the people to do something about their incompetent government. At the apex of both events there will be a lot of excitement.



Book 3, Chapter 7

Book 3, Chapter 7 Summary

Mr. Susan is traveling in his motorcade and recalling memories from long ago. As he watches the crowds amassed as he moves on by he is comforted by the fact that the public has not forsaken him. Meanwhile, Finch goes further into Victoria Station and finally comes upon the waiting train full of lilies and explosives. It is not clear if Finch sees the explosives, but he certainly sees the lilies and is puzzled by it. This is the moment that V's been waiting for. He sits in the station around a corner and sings a song while strumming on his guitar.

Mr. Susan's people are out amongst the crowds for the parade. They are looking to make it a big success for the leader by showing how loved he is. His guards and Fingermen men are trying to set the event up by having people wave more enthusiastically. They find a child to approach the leader with a flower. Rosemary appears out in the crowd. She is armed and looking to get closer to the motorcade. She is the embodiment of what the general populace is most likely feeling. If there was true love for the Leader, the guards would not need to look so hard for individuals to come out and show their support. However, Rosemary is clearly resentful of all that Mr. Susan has done for the country and the state that it is in.

Susan's men recognize her and let her through the throng to get to the front. They think it will look good if she is seen and even better if she approaches the car with Susan in it to shake his hand. They think because of her status that she is a safe choice. She does not see herself important as they do, although once she pulls the trigger she knows she will live in infamy. As his car approaches, Susan seems genuinely interested to meet one of the people. Then, as Rosemary approaches, she surprises everyone by shooting Mr. Susan at point-blank range.

Back at Victoria Station, there is a scuffle between Finch and V. V catches Finch with a non-mortal wound. V disappears and Eric surveys his wound. When he looks down and sees a trail of blood that he knows is V's, he becomes elated with the knowledge that he is the man that killed V. He is elated that he not only cracked the case, but that he found V and killed him.

Book 3, Chapter 7 Analysis

As Mr. Susan sits alone in his car watching the crowds, he feels completely disconnected from them. He has been so separated from them for so long that he has no relationship with them. He likens his God to that of the television screens he was so intimate with for so long. It is the great love affair of his life - that with Fate. Since the screens no longer work, he feels betrayed. This being the case, he decides to put his



faith back in the people and win back their love - in order for him not to be alone anymore. Thinking of this makes him feel optimistic.

In a pivotal encounter, V tells Finch that although he can kill the man, he cannot kill an idea. This may be why V makes it so easy for Finch to find him and mortally wound him. If V is an idea, then he is easy to replace. This foreshadows Evey's actions in the near future. The true reason for V passing the knowledge and training to Evey is about to be revealed. Although V drops hints for Evey, she will not understand it, until it is almost too late.



Book 3, Chapter 8

Book 3, Chapter 8 Summary

Right away Rosemary is taken into custody and questioned. Authorities believe that V is behind her motive to kill the Leader. The assassination caught everyone by surprise. In the interim, leadership will fall to the Finger. Creedy announces that he received a communique from Codename V, who announced that he will make an appearance at midnight that night. Mr. Finch chooses that moment to make his appearance and exclaims that he killed V. Although he did not actually see V die with his own eyes, he knows that from the volume of blood he lost, that he inflicted a mortal wound. Dominic goes to see Finch and questions him about V's condition. Dominic asks Finch where the fight occurred. In a deliberate cover-up, Mr. Finch lies and says he does not remember, although in his mind the images are ingrained.

While Helen and Conrad are listening to the updates, someone comes by with a parcel for him. It is a videotape. Conrad leaves and takes a moment to view the videotape at his office and is horrified by what he sees. The video is of Helen and Harper conspiring behind Conrad's back while also in an intimate embrace. Even though Helen knew that the government's cameras were not working, she did not realize that V had his own setup and that he was capturing her dalliances. Conrad knows now that he has been played for a fool.

Creedy has taken control so far of all communications. He has made an announcement that is broadcast over all London. He is informing the people that Codename V is dead. It is his attempt to regain order over the masses. Harper takes this time to attack and kill Creedy to take him out of the equation for Helen and Conrad.

V struggles to return to the Shadow Gallery where Evey is waiting for him. As he enters, he tumbles down the stairs, and Evey then realizes the gravity of his situation. He tells Evey that the one he was waiting for had shown up and everything was over. He knows that his wounds are fatal and tells Evey. He also tells her that she must know who V is, though she must never see his face. He says this to her to prepare for the role that she is now going to play.

Book 3, Chapter 8 Analysis

As Finch plays the scene out again in his mind, he realizes how easy it would have been for V to kill him. He understands that V waited for him and spared him on purpose. He just does not understand why. It is likely that V, using his surveillance, watched Finch closely and saw that he was the weakest link in the government. If he is able to turn one, perhaps the rest will topple. At this point, V is only indirectly related to the events occurring. However, it may be said that V's influence is behind some of the incidents. Perhaps his messages reached enough people to make a difference and shake their

confidence in the government. He certainly persuaded people like Rosemary and Evey to take a stand and make drastic changes.



Book 3, Chapter 9

Book 3, Chapter 9 Summary

Evey waits over V's body. He is not yet dead. He tells her that his work is almost all done and ready for her to pick up. She traces the trail of blood back to the Victoria Station. So far, the things that V told her do not make sense. She does not understand what V's plan was or if it is finished. It has not clicked yet what he expected of her - what he was educating her for. In Evey's mind, she is playing over how she has lost all of the people that were close to her. She imagines that she sees Gordon under the mask, then her father. Finally, it dawns on her who V must be. She now realizes that V was educating her to be his replacement.

Book 3, Chapter 9 Analysis

Once again, however briefly, Evey experiences flashbacks to losing those she has loved. With V's lifeless body lying before her, she fantasizes about the face under the mask. She envisions Gordon as well as her father. Her better judgment takes over, and she realizes that this is not the case. Before dying, V told Evey that she must know whose face lies behind the mask, but she must never know his face. This is when things start to sink in for her. All of the wisdom and information he passed on to her is now making an impression. She becomes more determined and develops her own plan. Instead of sitting around and feeling sorry for herself, the new Evey takes charge of her life.



Book 3, Chapter 10

Book 3, Chapter 10 Summary

At 9:30pm that same day, Dominic notices that the people are still gathered outside. Even though the announcements have told them to return home, they stay. These people are not V's followers. They are just people that respond to the symbol. The government forgets that it is symbols that people respond to, not people. Finch realizes that they were able to suppress the people's bitterness but they never dealt with it. Finch decides to get out before things get completely out of hand.

Harper goes to see Helen to let her know he has taken care of Creedy, and he is surprised by Conrad, who is caught hiding in the shadows. There is a brief struggle. Harper ends up beating Conrad by using the same blade on him that he used on Creedy. Helen comes home after Harper has left and sees that Conrad is badly injured. Instead of helping him or getting him to a doctor, she shows her true colors and lays into him about how he has ruined their chances for taking over leadership. Her parting gift to Conrad is the videotape that V sent earlier. Then she leaves.

Dominic finds himself senior authority in light of the other members being killed. He is with the guards, who are standing watch over the crowds gathered around Big Ben. As it strikes twelve, Dominic remembers that the landmark was blown up a year earlier. So where were the chimes coming from?

Evey makes her first appearance as V. She announces that in 24 hours, Downing Street will be destroyed and The Head along with it. She claims that the few in power have taken control over freedom, which was only people's to control. It is up to the people to take it back. Anarchy gives the opportunity for new life and hope. The people are moved enough when they hear this that they come after Dominic. As he runs away, he runs into V/Evey, who bears down on and kidnaps him.

Book 3, Chapter 10 Analysis

From the time the bell tolls over London, the reader knows that Evey knew what she needed to do and made up her mind to do it. It is important to note that V was correct, when he said that they can kill the man but not the idea. The same goes for symbols. Symbols represent ideas too. Before his death, V did enough to get people thinking about their rights and freedoms. With Evey as the "new" V she can continue his work and see that his mission is completed.



Book 3, Chapter 11

Book 3, Chapter 11 Summary

It is now November 10th, 1998. Evey is carrying out V's final wishes and placing him on the train that does in fact become a funeral bier. V's last request was for a Viking funeral, which Evey is preparing him for. As she does so, she announces the new order of V. She will not be part of any killing scheme. Evey vows to help the people rebuild their society and guide them but that is all. She sets the train in motion and rushes to the top of the building in order to get a good view of the explosions.

Mr. Finch walks down the street and passes some angry mobs. As he passes, he encounters Helen Heyer, who is desperate for his help. The crowds have overturned her car and taken everything. She begs for his help and attempts to coerce him into working with her to start a new empire. Helen is determined to not be held down. Finch listens to her diatribe and pushes her away. He continues to walk alone down the street as she hurls insults at him.

Book 3, Chapter 11 Analysis

Evey makes it crystal clear what she will do in her new role. Her predecessor was about fulfilling his vendetta, which entailed killing several people. From the beginning, even prior to her transformation, Evey was against killing. Luckily, V set the stage well. All she needs to do is guide the people of England and help them rebuild their empire. Since their old government is non-existent, this is the time to fulfill V's vision of freedom, justice and peace for the masses.



Characters

V

V is a man who lives alone and wears a black cloak, hat, wig and mask all the time. The reader never sees who the man is under the mask. There are a few reasons V wears the costume. One is that he is so badly burned from an old accident that he does not want to show himself. Another reason, and an important one, is that V is a highly theatrical individual. He is well educated, whether formally or self-taught is not known, but he comes off as an intellectual. In Book 1, Chapter 1 where he makes his entry to save Evey from the Fingermen, the first words out of his mouth are from Shakespeare's Macbeth. He quotes from various literary works throughout the story.

Another reason for the costume, and one that relates to the end of the book, is that although he is a man, he represents an idea. The idea is one of freedom and justice and does not need to be associated with one person. He considers himself "everyman."

Highly skilled in martial arts, V has a personal vendetta against the individuals that tortured him in the years after the war that involved England. While the reasons for his imprisonment at the Larkhill Resettlement Camp are never revealed, the reader is exposed to the inhuman treatment he received while there. During his confinement, he learned how to make homemade explosives and how to garden rare flowers (violet Carsons.) Once he escapes from Larkhill, he sets out for his revenge against those who held him captive. Those same people are now in high government positions.

V is also bent on straightening things out amongst the society in general. The world he lives in now is run by a totalitarian government, devoid of freedom and justice. Those two ideals are very dear to him. He works hard to get his message out to the people, as well as to Evey whom he trains to be his replacement.

Evey Hammond

Brought up as an only child in a working class family, Evey is pushed to prostitute herself in order to make extra money. When V encounters her, she is 16, whiney and ignorant. The act of her prostituting herself shows the reader that she sees herself as older and in control. She thinks she's smarter than she is. It isn't until she spends time with V at the Shadow Gallery that she realizes how foolish she had been. Evey takes the time to read the many books that V has in his home and this makes her smarter and wiser.

After the time Evey spends imprisoned unknowingly by V, we see her emerge as an entirely different person. No longer is she a scared child. Evey understands that V put her through the imprisonment and torture to free her. She had been a girl running scared from everything. The experience transforms her into womanhood. She finds inner peace and calm in the face of chaos and adversity.



At the end of the story, Evey is transformed into an entirely different persona. After she grapples with the loss of her parents, Gordon and finally V, it becomes apparent to her what she needs to do. It becomes apparent that V had trained her all along to take the reigns and fill his shoes once he's gone. Over the time the book spans, she grows into a mature woman willing to accept greater responsibility for the world she lives in.

Eric Finch

Eric Finch is another of Adam Susan's men, who speaks for the Nose. He works as the chief investigator for all crimes and events related to V. Out of all the people in high government, Mr. Finch seems the most level-headed. He has been a party member for many years, but when he investigates V's crimes, his faith in the system is shaken. Although he wants to believe that V is a terrorist, he cannot help but feel that on some level, he is right. When all conventional methods to crack the case have been exhausted, Mr. Finch goes to extraordinary measures to see things as V sees them. Once he does, he is able to locate V easily. After he mortally wounds V, he has the opportunity to turn him in, but he chooses not to. At the end, when he no longer believes in the government, Mr. Finch resigns from his post.

Adam Susan

Adam Susan is England's leader. He rules the country with an iron fist and allows for no freedom for the people. Mr. Susan's mission is total control. His passion however is Fate, which is the instrument through which he exercises total control. Fate is a system that he devised that, up until V's interference, has never failed him. Since he is totally cut off from people he relies on Fate for information, power, and ultimately, company. As V's actions escalate and upset his totalitarian system of ultimate control, he begins to lose his grip on reality. Mr. Susan is only effective, when he's in total control.

Conrad Heyer

Conrad Heyer is one of the leader's top men in the government. He heads up the Eye. He's married to Helen Heyer. Conrad's position puts him in a good spot to lead a coup, which he is planning, as Adam Susan's mental stability falters. Unfortunately for him, he's clueless, when it comes to Helen's activities. His feelings for her are slightly obsessive. He does not dare to imagine that she is working and sneaking around behind his back. At the end he gets the ultimate surprise when, seriously wounded, Helen refuses to help him.

Derek Almond

Derek Almond represents the Finger, which is another branch of Mr. Susan's government. Regardless of what he does or how well he performs at his job, Mr. Susan belittles him and uses him as a scapegoat for everything that goes wrong. As a result,



this makes Derek a bitter man. His marriage to Rosemary Almond is a perfect example of this. However, regardless of how his boss treats him, Derek still comes off as a verbally (and potentially physically) abusive to his wife.

Lewis Prothero

Lewis Prothero, the voice of Fate, is the front man for the main television studio from which all news is broadcast. More than that, Lewis Prothero is the embodiment of Fate. He is the man people associate Fate with. Although he has a successful television career now, he had at one time been in the army as a commander. During his time in the service, he was stationed at the Larkhill Resettlement Camp. Mr. Prothero is V's first victim. After V is through with him, there is nothing left, mentally.

Bishop Lilliman

Bishop Lilliman is one of V's victims. Years before, the bishop was stationed at Larkhill while he was still a priest. Since he did nothing to help the inmates there, he joined the others on V's list. His sermons are proof of his approval of the government since he uses his weekly mass to spread further propaganda. As a Bishop, his appetites are deplorable. Even though he's a man of the cloth, he has a penchant for young girls. The reader sees this very clearly, when Evey uses herself as a decoy, while V gets ready to kill him.

Rosemary Almond

Rosemary Almond is Derek Almond's wife. When she becomes widowed, her world turns upside-down. The government that her husband worked so hard for does not allow for any widow's benefits. In order to stay afloat, she relies on the kindness of one of her husband's colleagues as a mistress. This works, until her lover is killed. As a last resort, Mrs. Almond takes a job working as a showgirl in a local cabaret act. Finally at the end of her rope, she defiantly purchases a gun. Determined to put an end to all the wrongs she sees in the world, she shows up at the parade where Adam Susan is making an appearance and shoots him. When she is taken into custody, she is accused of working with V.

Helen Heyer

Helen Heyer is Conrad Heyer's wife. A power-hungry control-freak in her own right, she angles to get Conrad in line to be the next leader. Mrs. Heyer is cruel and cunning. From her actions in the story, the reader witnesses just how far she will go. She has an affair with Alistair Harper, who helps in her plot. When Conrad is seriously wounded at the end, she refuses to help him. Seeing him in such a state, she realizes he will probably die. Her reaction is rage, since she feels he has ruined any chance at becoming the next leader.



Alistair Harper

Alistair is a seedy individual. He will sell himself out to the highest bidder and play both sides. At one time an independent agent, he is recruited to work for the government as extra "muscle." While he does this, he is also paid by Helen Heyer to keep the authorities at bay long enough to place Conrad in the role of their next leader. While working independently, he is responsible for Gordon's death. At the end, he is found out by Conrad, who fatally wounds him. He gets his just reward.

Dr. Delia Surridge

Dr. Surridge is another of V's victims. Although she now works as a coroner for the government, she used to be a doctor. One of her assignments had been to conduct experiments on the inmates at the Larkhill Resettlement Camp. She personally oversaw V's progress in one of her programs. Years later, when V comes to her to take his revenge, she apologizes for her actions. Of all V's victims, Dr. Surridge is the most sympathetic, because the reader sees that her apology is sincere.

Valerie Page

Valerie Page is a movie actress. Her role in the story is very unique. While she does not have a direct role in the events, she does have a direct impact on some of them. Valerie was imprisoned at Larkhill and confined to the room next to V, in Room IV. While she was at Larkhill, she wrote an impassioned letter, which contained her autobiography. She talks about life before, during and after the war. During Evey's "detainment" V leaves the letter around for her to find. Evey finds the letter and it transforms her.

Gordon

Gordon is Evey's lover. When V abandons Evey on the street, she has no where to go. Gordon is an old friend of hers, who is much older than her. He takes her in and looks after her. Eventually they become lovers. Gordon is involved with illegal dealings. He deals in items not readily available that are outside the government's control. This eventually catches up with him, when Alistair Harper and one of his thugs pay Gordon a visit. The thug kills Gordon, thus leaving Evey alone once again.



Objects/Places

Shadow Gallery

The Shadow Gallery is V's underground home. It is a warm haven full of illegal art and pop culture items.

The Head

The Head is the executive branch of the government, lead by Adam Susan, England's leader

The Eye

The Eye is a branch of the government that watches every move the people make with the use of surveillance cameras strategically placed in public as well as private

The Ears

The Ears is a branch of the government that listen to all conversations that people have, with the use of surveillance equipment

The Finger

The Finger is a branch of the government responsible for carrying out directives from the leader, Adam Susan

The Nose

The Nose is a branch of the government that heads up criminal investigations

Jordon Tower

Jordon Tower is the building where the British Television Network broadcasts from

Larkhill Resettlement Camp

The Larkhill Resettlement Camps is the concentration camp used for human experiments after the war



Parliament

Parliament is a building that represents England's former way of life, before the war

The Old Bailey

The Old Bailey is the original home of Justice

Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is a large church in London, which, as of 1997, houses corrupt political ideals since its bishop uses the pulpit to spew propaganda

Dr. Surrige's diary

Dr. Surrige's diary is a series of notes compiled from her days spent at Larkhill, when she conducted experiments

The Kitty-Kat Keller Cabaret

The Kitty-Kat Keller Cabaret is a local nightclub where people of varying classes come to watch cabaret acts



Themes

V and the Number 5

It is important to point out the connections between V and the Roman numeral V. For starters, the name of the book itself is five syllables. V is an individual with a vendetta. Each chapter in the book has a "V" in the title. Also in Chapter 1, when the fireworks go off and the letter "V" emerges, it is at once his name and a remembrance of his time spent at the Larkhill Resettlement Camp in Room V.

Every time V leaves a crime scene, he leaves his mark, which is the circle with the letter "V" in the middle. This serves as a reminder too, to the people he seeks for his vendetta the significance of "V." They do not make the connection however.

In Book 1, Chapter 5 Evey asks V the meaning of "V.V.V.V.V." There are five V's that in Latin are "Vi veri veniversum vivus vici" which translates to "By the power of truth, I, while living, have conquered the universe." This gives the reader a sense of foreshadowing as he continues plucking out the government leaders. In Book 1, Chapter 8, Eric Finch makes the connection between Beethoven's Fifth and the opening bars, which he realizes is Morse code for the letter "V."

Most importantly the connection between V and the number V is most strongly made during his incarceration at Larkhill. He was confined to Room V and this is where he made his transformation from, who he was before into a new person. It was the defining point in his life. His confinement altered his identity, so he adopted this as his new profile. He lived the remainder of his life as a product of his time spent there. Certainly his vendetta was a product of that time as well.

Use of Music

Music plays an important role in V's life and his vendetta. It sets a distinct tone and pace to the story at times. This happens several times throughout the book. When V first brings Evey into his home, at the center of everything is his jukebox, which is filled with Motown and soul music. It's interesting that he takes an interest in music that is so soulful, when his society has no soul. As a matter of fact, society sold its soul, and V, meanwhile, stole in order to keep his. The use of music at the Shadow Gallery also allows the reader to see a different side of V. When he puts music on the jukebox and dances with Evey, it shows a softer, gentler side of him.

For Lewis Prothero, whom V is holding prisoner at the Shadow Gallery, he breaks out into a vaudeville song and dance act. As he does, he theatrically unveils the "stage" that accurately mimics the Larkhill Resettlement Camp where Prothero was a commander. He uses a tool of play-acting to convey a serious message. When V kills Bishop Lilliman, he puts Beethoven's Fifth Symphony on the record player. When Mr. Finch shows up later to start the investigation, he notices that the opening bars of Beethoven's



Fifth are Morse code for the letter "V." V does not necessarily put on an act to ease his message out, but rather to drive his point home. In some way it makes the message more grotesque.

At the start of Book 3, V has sheet music set up on a stand and acts as though he is conducting a symphony, when he is blowing up Jordon Tower and the old post office. He sees these acts as necessary in his overall mission. As with many other instances in the story, he sets this to music, as he believes that "all the world's a stage." He lives this belief. Even if he does not play the music, he will sometimes quote it as he did, when he showed up at Bishop Lilliman's rooms. He said, "Please allow me to introduce myself, I'm a man of wealth and taste" which is the opening line to The Rolling Stones song "Sympathy for the Devil."

One of the final chapters of the book has V playing guitar and singing while waiting for Mr. Finch to show up. So as V played music while destroying buildings and killing those on his vendetta, so did he do so as he awaited his own execution. However, he chose the time, place and song. He maintained control of his situation at all times.

Violence as a Means of Gaining Peace

Violet Carsons are a sign of death by violence. After V is done with each of his victims, he leaves a flower behind. The flower, which became extinct after the war, symbolizes life in peacetime. Yet, V chooses to leave the violet Carson, a symbol of peacetime at the scene of violent crimes. Again, relating to this flower, he was allowed to grow his own garden of violet Carsons while detained at Larkhill. This symbol of peace grew amidst an environment of violence and human suffering.

Is V a terrorist or freedom fighter? He uses violence as a way of creating peace for himself by fulfilling his vendetta and also creating peace for the people. He even does so with Evey. Out of love and in his desire to transform and "free" Evey from the shackles of her own mind, he does so in a violent manner. He does this by imprisoning her, shaving her hair off and torturing her. Every action he takes, even if it is for the greater good and out of a desire for peace and freedom, he does violently.

The Latin inscription in his home, "Vi veri veniversum vivus vici" ("By the power of truth, I, while living, have conquered the universe") is yet another example of this theme. While in pursuit of truth and peace, he has "conquered the universe." The very act of conquering comes by violent means. This, V says, is his motto. Another thing V does is take control of the television studio in order to broadcast his message to the people. His aim to shake the people up in order to get out from under fascist rule, but once again he carries this out in a violent manner. When he shows up, he has explosives strapped to his body. When he does a switch with a station operator, it ends violently for the operator in a case of mistaken identity. To fulfill his vendetta as well as rid the world of some very evil individuals, he carries out some vicious murders. His wish for a peaceful world where freedom and justice reign is noble, but does that justify his means?



Style

Point of View

The book is written in third person omniscient point-of-view. The graphic novel allows the reader the benefit of knowing everyone's thoughts, actions and motivations equally. There is no one voice stronger than another. This style of novel also leaves certain things open for interpretation. In most cases, the message comes across very clear. However, without the help of inner dialogue or full descriptions, it is hard to know exactly what each character is thinking and feeling.

The use of pictures can be particularly useful in certain circumstances. For instance, when Gordon is killed and leaves Evey alone once again, the reader is confronted with several images that pass through her mind. It is fairly simple to recognize what she is thinking and feeling. With this particular point of view, one can easily see that, when Gordon dies, Evey wrestles with the emotions of being alone again. She is feeling the loss of her parents and abandonment by V at the same time. Another example where this point of view is particularly useful is at the end, when V dies. It is a similar display of emotions from Evey that the reader is exposed to. She momentarily slips back into her old ways of feeling fear and desertion. As she retraces V's final steps, the images that unfold are of understanding and resolve. This is done very well with this particular point of view.

Setting

V for Vendetta takes place in London, England. The story spans from November 1997 through November of 1998. The society is ruled by a totalitarian, fascist government. It creates a dark and brooding environment. It also creates an atmosphere of fear. The environment is also one of complacency. So with all the controlling elements of the government, the people under its rule have become indifferent. They live their lives according to the rules imposed on them but they seem to have no desire to break out of that and enact change.

Within this dark setting, there is one place that defies the government rule of austere living. That place is V's home at the Shadow Gallery. While not exactly a light and airy place, V's living quarters do have more warmth than any other place. This is because he has filled his home with all of the forbidden art and artifacts long since banned. V's abode is an accurate representation of his tastes and personality. The other rooms to the Shadow Gallery are merely a necessity for his mission. In order for V to succeed, he has to meet the enemy on their level and get information the way the government does which is by spying.



Language and Meaning

The graphic novel presents language differently than any other form of novel. The language is seen as pure dialogue throughout. There is little to no description in between each character's thoughts and words. The story is told through words and the use of pictures. While there is no written description of characters' emotions or setting descriptions, the reader can see a lot in each picture frame. With only pictures to make the descriptions, it sometimes leaves what is really happening open to interpretation. However, it also forces the reader to pay greater attention to the surroundings in order to pick up the little details.

Since the story takes place in England each character speaks like a native of their land. This can be discerned from some phrases they use. There is a definite distinction between the way different characters speak and their status. For instance, Alistair Harper speaks in a manner that sounds lower-class than Helen Heyer. Alistair is nothing more than a street thug, while Helen is angling to rule the country. There is clear difference in the way the two speak and carry themselves. Since it is a graphic novel, it offers the added benefit of knowing what each character is thinking and feeling based on the pictures associated with the passage.

Structure

The book is separated into 3 sections: Books 1, 2 and 3. Each book contains several chapters, which are occasionally punctuated with date and time stamps to alert the reader of the overall timeline. There is a clear break in action between each book. However in many instances, the action flows from one chapter into the next with no clear break in between them. Interestingly, one characteristic of each chapter is that it is titled with a V word. This is consistent the overall theme of V and the number V. Additionally, with the start of Book 1 there is a Prologue followed by the start of the Chapter 1. Book 2 starts with a vaudevillian tune called "This Vicious Cabaret." Book 3 starts with another Prologue with V blowing up the Jordon Tower where the main television station broadcasts.

It is interesting to note how music plays a big role in how the story is laid out. As mentioned above with the start of Book 2, V plays a song on his piano while the story is continuing in each frame. It happens again twice in the book at the Kitty-Kat Keller Cabaret. The first time is when Evey is there with Gordon. The woman on stage is performing her number, which is glorifying the fascist government. At the same time, Evey is lost in her thoughts, which have nothing to do with government policies. Later on, the use of music is used again to portray one image while communicating another. This happens when Rosemary Almond is working as a showgirl at the cabaret. The music sets the pace however, Rosemary's thoughts set a completely different tone. The use of music is used very cleverly in how this story is told.



Quotes

"Remember, remember, the fifth of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot. I know of no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot." (Book 1, Chapter 1, page 14)

"Vi veri veniversum vivus vici" translated from Latin means, "By the power of truth, I, while living, have conquered the universe." This is a quote from John Faust. (Book 1, Chapter 5, page 44)

"Please allow me to introduce myself; I'm a man of wealth and taste." (Book 1, Chapter 7, page 54)

"And in the yard, I saw him. He had the flames behind him. He was naked... he looked at me, as if I were an insect. Oh God. As if I were something mounted on a slide. He looked at me." (Book 1, Chapter 11, page. 83)

"All I can do is pack away all the things I remember, put them in a drawer with all other useless souvenirs and just carry on. You've got to carry on." (Book 2, Chapter 2, page. 105)

"To be frank, you're not trying, are you? You see, you've been standing still for far too long, and it's starting to show in your work...and I might add, in your general standard of behaviour." (Book 2, Chapter 4, pages. 114-115)

"I don't know who you are or whether you're a man or woman. I may never see you. I will never hug you or cry with you or get drunk with you. But I love you." (Book 2, Chapter 11, page. 160)

"...you're afraid, Evey. You're afraid because you can feel freedom closing in upon you. You're afraid because freedom is terrifying. Don't back away from it, Evey. Part of you understands the truth even as part pretends not to." (Book 2, Chapter 13, page. 170)

"Turning and turning in the widening gyre, the falcon cannot hear the falconer. Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold." (Book 3, Chapter 2, page. 196)

"With science, ideas can germinate within a bed of theory, form and practice that assists their growth but we as gardeners, must beware for some seeds are the seeds of ruin and the most iridescent blooms are often the most dangerous." (Book 3, Chapter 5, page. 220)

"First, you must discover whose face lies behind the mask, but you must never know my face." (Book 3, Chapter 9, page 248)

"Upon our guided tour you showed this place to me and said it was your will... I didn't understand...not then...but you were right, of course, about this place. You did show me your will...and I'm sole beneficiary." (Book 3, Chapter 11, page. 262)



Topics for Discussion

V's mission involved killing as a means of enacting change. From the beginning, Evey was against killing. Would it have been possible for the changes to occur without killing?

V was a man who was well educated, and an intellectual. He frequently used quotes as a way of communicating his ideas. In some instances, his words and their delivery could be construed as witty. Are there any examples of V possessing a sense of humor? If so, what are they?

By the end of the story, Evey was a woman transformed. What characteristics were changed? What was the catalyst for this change? Explain.

Eric Finch was a man involved in party politics for years. Which events lead up to his eventual departure from the party? Describe in detail what those events were.

The violet Carson held great significance to V. What did it mean to him? Why did he choose this flower to associate himself with his murders?

Throughout her life, Evey had to deal with abandonment issues. In the end, what helped her through these issues? How did it help shape her decisions?

Rosemary Almond is another character, who underwent significant change in the story. However, she remained unhappy with her decisions. If her circumstances never changed, would she have been happy? If not, what would have made her happy?