

= V for Vendetta (film) =

V for Vendetta is a 2006 dystopian political thriller film directed by James McTeigue and written by The Wachowski Brothers , based on the 1988 Vertigo Comics limited series of the same name by Alan Moore and David Lloyd . The film is set in an alternate future where a neo @-@ fascist regime has subjugated the United Kingdom . Hugo Weaving portrays V , an anarchist freedom fighter who attempts to ignite a revolution through elaborate terrorist acts and Natalie Portman plays Evey , a young , working @-@ class woman caught up in V 's mission , while Stephen Rea portrays the detective leading a desperate quest to stop V .

The film was originally scheduled for release by Warner Bros. on Friday , November 4 , 2005 (a day before the 400th Guy Fawkes Night) , but was delayed ; it opened on March 17 , 2006 , to positive reviews . Alan Moore , having been dissatisfied with the film adaptations of his other works From Hell (2001) and The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003) , declined to watch the film and asked not to be credited or paid royalties .

V for Vendetta has been seen by many political groups as an allegory of oppression by government ; libertarians and anarchists have used it to promote their beliefs . David Lloyd stated : " The Guy Fawkes mask has now become a common brand and a convenient placard to use in protest against tyranny ? and I 'm happy with people using it , it seems quite unique , an icon of popular culture being used this way . "

The film is the final project cinematographer Adrian Biddle worked on before his death in 2005 . The film is dedicated to his memory .

= = Plot = =

In the late 2020s the world is in turmoil , with the United States fractured as a result of prolonged civil war and a pandemic of the " St. Mary 's Virus " ravaging Europe . The United Kingdom is ruled as a fascist police state by the Norsefire Party . Political opponents , immigrants , Muslims , homosexuals and other " undesirables " are imprisoned in concentration camps . On November 4 , a Guy Fawkes @-@ masked vigilante identifying himself as " V " (Hugo Weaving) rescues Evey Hammond (Natalie Portman) , an employee of the state @-@ run British Television Network (BTN) , from members of the " Fingermen " secret police while she is out past curfew . From a rooftop , they watch his demolition of the Old Bailey criminal court building , accompanied by fireworks and the 1812 Overture . Inspector Finch (Stephen Rea) , Scotland Yard 's Chief of Police , is tasked with investigating V 's activities while BTN declares the incident an " emergency demolition " . V interrupts the broadcast to claim responsibility and encourage the people of Britain to rise up against their government and meet him on November 5 (Guy Fawkes Night) , outside the Houses of Parliament . During the broadcast , the police attempt to capture V. Evey helps him escape but is knocked unconscious .

V takes Evey to his home , where she is told she must remain for one year . V then kills Lewis Prothero (Roger Allam) , Norsefire 's chief propagandist , and Anthony Lilliman (John Standing) , the Bishop of London . Evey offers to help , and uses the opportunity to escape to the home of her boss , comedian and talk show host Gordon Deitrich (Stephen Fry) . In return for Evey trusting him with her safety , Gordon reveals prohibited materials including subversive paintings , an antique Quran , and homoerotic photographs . After Gordon performs a satire of the government on his show , his home is raided and Evey is captured . She is imprisoned and tortured for information about V , with her only solace being a note written by actress Valerie Page (Natasha Wightman) , a former prisoner .

Evey is told she will be executed unless she reveals V 's location . When she says she would rather die , she is released and finds herself in V 's home . It turns out that V was the one who had " captured " her at Gordon 's home , and staged her imprisonment and torture to free her from her fears . The note was real , passed from Valerie to V when he was imprisoned . He also informs her that Deitrich had been executed when the Quran was found in his home . While Evey initially hates V for what he did to her , she realises she has become a stronger person . She leaves him ,

promising to return before November 5 .

Finch learns V is the result of human experimentation and is murdering the people who detained him . Finch searches for the true identity of V , tracing him to a bioweapons program at a detention centre for " social deviants " and political dissidents in Larkhill concentration camp . Finch meets William Rookwood , who tells him that the program , directed by then @-@ Undersecretary Adam Sutler (John Hurt) , resulted in the creation of the " St. Mary 's Virus " and its release in a false flag terrorist attack . The deaths of over 100 @,@ 000 people and the resulting fear enabled the Norsefire Party to win the next election and turn the country into a totalitarian state under Sutler 's rule as High Chancellor . Finch later discovers the man he met was V in disguise , and Finch initially disbelieves his story .

As November 5 nears , V distributes thousands of Guy Fawkes masks and the population questions Party rule . On the eve of November 5 , Evey visits V , who shows her an explosive @-@ laden train in the abandoned London Underground , set to destroy Parliament . He leaves it to Evey to decide whether to use it . V meets Party Leader Creedy (Tim Pigott @-@ Smith) , with whom he made a deal to surrender in exchange for Sutler 's execution . After Creedy executes Sutler , V reneges on his deal and kills Creedy and his men . Mortally wounded , he returns to Evey and tells her he loves her before dying .

As Evey places V 's body aboard the train she is found by Finch . Disillusioned by the Party 's regime , Finch allows Evey to send the train . Thousands of unarmed Londoners wearing Guy Fawkes masks march towards Parliament . As Creedy and Sutler are both dead , the military receives no orders , and allows the crowd to pass . Parliament is destroyed as Finch asks Evey for V 's identity , to which she replies , " He was all of us . "

= = Cast = =

Hugo Weaving as V :

A charismatic and skilled freedom fighter who was the unwilling subject of experimentation by Norsefire . James Purefoy was originally cast as V , but left six weeks into filming , citing difficulties wearing the mask for the entire film . He was replaced by Weaving , who had previously worked with Joel Silver and the Wachowskis on the Matrix series .

Natalie Portman as Evey Hammond :

Director James McTeigue first met Portman on the set of Star Wars : Episode II ? Attack of the Clones , where he worked as assistant director . In preparing for the role , Portman worked with dialectologist Barbara Berkery in order to perform with an English accent . She also studied films such as The Weather Underground and read the autobiography of Menachem Begin . Portman received top billing for the film . Portman 's role in the film has parallels to her role as Mathilda Lando in the film Léon . According to Portman : " the relationship between V and Evey has a complication [like] the relationship in that film . " Portman also had her head shaved on screen during a scene where her character is tortured .

Stephen Rea as Eric Finch :

Finch is the lead inspector in the V investigation , who , during his investigation , uncovers an unspeakable government crime . When asked whether the politics attracted him to the film , Rea replied " Well , I don 't think it would be very interesting if it was just comic @-@ book stuff . The politics of it are what gives it its dimension and momentum , and of course I was interested in the politics . Why wouldn 't I be ? "

John Hurt as High Chancellor Adam Sutler :

A former Conservative Member of Parliament and Under @-@ Secretary for Defence , Chancellor Sutler is the founder of Norsefire and is Britain 's dictator . Hurt played a contrary role in another dystopian film : Winston Smith , a victim of the state in the film adaptation of Nineteen Eighty @-@ Four .

Stephen Fry portrays Gordon Deitrich , a closeted homosexual and talk / comedy show host . When asked in an interview what he liked about the role , Fry replied " Being beaten up ! I hadn 't been beaten up in a movie before and I was very excited by the idea of being clubbed to death . "

Also included in the cast are Tim Pigott-Smith as Peter Creedy , Norsefire 's Party leader and the head of Britain 's secret police (the " Finger ") ; Rupert Graves as Dominic Stone , Inspector Finch 's lieutenant ; Roger Allam as Lewis Prothero , a propagandist for Norsefire ; John Standing as Anthony James Lilliman , a corrupt bishop at Westminster Abbey ; and Sinéad Cusack as Dr. Delia Surridge , the former head physician at the Larkhill Detention Centre , now a coroner . Natasha Wightman portrays Valerie Page , a lesbian imprisoned for her sexuality . Imogen Poots portrays Valerie as a child .

= = Themes = =

= = = Modern fears of totalitarianism = = =

The filmmakers added topical references relevant to a 2006 audience . According to the Los Angeles Times , " With a wealth of new , real @-@ life parallels to draw from in the areas of government surveillance , torture , fear mongering and media manipulation , not to mention corporate corruption and religious hypocrisy , you can 't really blame the filmmakers for having a field day referencing current events . " There are also references to an avian flu pandemic , as well as pervasive use of biometric identification and signal @-@ intelligence gathering and analysis by the regime .

Film critics , political commentators and other members of the media have also noted the film 's numerous references to events surrounding the George W. Bush administration in the United States . These include the hoods and sacks worn by the prisoners in Larkhill that have been seen as a reference to the Abu Ghraib torture and prisoner abuse . The Homeland Security Advisory System and rendition are also referenced . One of the forbidden items in Gordon 's secret basement is a protest poster with a mixed U.S. ? U.K. flag with a swastika and the title " Coalition of the Willing , To Power " which combines the " Coalition of the Willing " with Friedrich Nietzsche 's concept of Will to Power .

Despite the America @-@ specific references , the filmmakers have always referred to the film as adding dialogue to a set of issues much broader than the U.S. administration . When James McTeigue was asked whether or not BTN was based on Fox News Channel , McTeigue replied , " Yes . But not just Fox . Everyone is complicit in this kind of stuff . It could just as well been the Britain 's Sky News Channel , also a part of News Corp. "

= = Production and release = =

= = = Development = = =

The film was made by many of the same filmmakers involved in The Matrix series . In 1988 , producer Joel Silver acquired the rights to two of Alan Moore 's works : V for Vendetta and Watchmen . After the release and relative success of Road House , writer Hilary Henkin was brought on to flesh out the project with an initial draft ? one that bears little , if any , relation to the finished product , with the inclusion of overtly satirical and surrealistic elements not present in the graphic novel , as well as the removal of much of the novel 's ambiguity , especially in regard to V 's identity . The Wachowskis were fans of V for Vendetta and in the mid @-@ 1990s , before working on The Matrix , wrote a draft screenplay that closely followed the graphic novel . During the post @-@ production of the second and third The Matrix films , they revisited the screenplay and offered the director 's role to James McTeigue . All three were intrigued by the original story 's themes and found them to be relevant to the current political landscape . Upon revisiting the screenplay , the Wachowskis set about making revisions to condense and modernise the story , while at the same time attempting to preserve its integrity and themes . James McTeigue cites the film The Battle of Algiers as his principal influence in preparing to film V for Vendetta .

Moore explicitly disassociated himself from the film due to his lack of involvement in its writing or directing , as well as due to a continuing series of disputes over film adaptations of his work . He ended cooperation with his publisher , DC Comics , after its corporate parent , Warner Bros. , failed to retract statements about Moore 's supposed endorsement of the film . Moore said that the script contained plot holes and that it ran contrary to the theme of his original work , which was to place two political extremes (fascism and anarchism) against one another . He argues his work had been recast as a story about " current American neo @-@ conservatism vs. current American liberalism " . Per his wishes , Moore 's name does not appear in the film 's closing credits . Co @-@ creator and illustrator David Lloyd supports the film adaptation , commenting that the script is very good but that Moore would only ever be truly happy with a complete book @-@ to @-@ screen adaptation .

= = = Filming = = =

V for Vendetta was filmed in London , United Kingdom , and in Potsdam , Germany , at Babelsberg Studios . Much of the film was shot on sound stages and indoor sets , with location work done in Berlin for three scenes : the Norsefire rally flashback , Larkhill , and Bishop Lilliman 's bedroom . The scenes that took place in the abandoned London Underground were filmed at the disused Aldwych tube station . Filming began in early March 2005 and principal photography officially wrapped in early June 2005 . V for Vendetta is the final film shot by cinematographer Adrian Biddle , who died of a heart attack on December 7 , 2005 .

To film the final scene at Westminster , the area from Trafalgar Square and Whitehall up to Parliament and Big Ben had to be closed for three nights from midnight until 5 am . This was the first time the security @-@ sensitive area (home to 10 Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence) had ever been closed to accommodate filming . Prime Minister (at the time of filming) Tony Blair 's son , Euan , worked on the film 's production and is said (according to an interview with Stephen Fry) to have helped the filmmakers obtain the unparalleled filming access . This drew criticism of Blair from MP David Davis due to the film 's content . However , the filmmakers denied Euan Blair 's involvement in the deal , stating that access was acquired through nine months of negotiations with fourteen different government departments and agencies .

= = = Post @-@ production = = =

The film was designed to have a future @-@ retro look , with heavy use of grey tones to give a dreary , stagnant feel to totalitarian London . The largest set created for the film was the Shadow Gallery , which was made to feel like a cross between a crypt and an undercroft . The Gallery is V 's home as well as the place where he stores various artefacts forbidden by the government . Some of the works of art displayed in the gallery include The Arnolfini Portrait by Jan van Eyck , Bacchus and Ariadne by Titian , a Mildred Pierce poster , St. Sebastian by Andrea Mantegna , The Lady of Shalott by John William Waterhouse and statues by Giacometti . One of the major challenges in the film was how to bring V to life from under an expressionless mask . Thus , considerable effort was made to bring together lighting , acting , and Weaving 's voice to create the proper mood for the situation . Since the mask muffled Weaving 's voice , his entire dialogue was re @-@ recorded in post @-@ production .

= = = Promotion = = =

The cast and filmmakers attended several press conferences that allowed them to address issues surrounding the film , including its authenticity , Alan Moore 's reaction to it and its intended political message . The film was intended to be a departure from some of Moore 's original themes . In the words of Hugo Weaving : " Alan Moore was writing about something which happened some time ago . It was a response to living in Thatcherite Britain ... This is a response to the world in which we live today . So I think that the film and the graphic novel are two separate entities . " Regarding the film 's controversial political content , the filmmakers have said that the film is intended more to raise

questions and add to a dialogue already present in society , rather than provide answers or tell viewers what to think .

= = = Release = = =

The film adopts extensive imagery from the 1605 Gunpowder Plot , in which a group of Catholic conspirators plotted to destroy the then Houses of Parliament in order to spark a revolution in England . The film was originally scheduled for release on the weekend of November 5 , 2005 , the Plot 's 400th anniversary , with the tag line " Remember , remember the 5th of November " , taken from a traditional British rhyme memorialising the event . However , the marketing angle lost much of its value when the release date was pushed back to March 17 , 2006 . Many have speculated that the delay was caused by the London tube bombing on the July 7 and the failed July 21 bombing . The filmmakers have denied this , saying that the delays were due to the need for more time to finish the visual effects production . V for Vendetta had its first major premiere on February 13 at the Berlin Film Festival . It opened for general release on March 17 , 2006 in 3 @, @ 365 cinemas in the United States , the United Kingdom and six other countries .

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial = = =

By December 2006 , V for Vendetta had grossed \$ 132 @, @ 511 @, @ 035 , of which \$ 70 @, @ 511 @, @ 035 was from the United States . The film led the U.S. box office on its opening day , taking in an estimated \$ 8 @, @ 742 @, @ 504 , and remained the number one film for the remainder of the weekend , taking in an estimated \$ 25 @, @ 642 @, @ 340 . Its closest rival , Failure to Launch , took in \$ 15 @, @ 604 @, @ 892 . The film debuted at number one in the Philippines , Singapore , South Korea , Sweden and Taiwan . V for Vendetta also opened in 56 IMAX cinemas in North America , grossing \$ 1 @. @ 36 million during the opening three days .

= = = Critical = = =

Ebert and Roeper gave the film a " two thumbs up " rating . Roger Ebert stated that V for Vendetta " almost always has something going on that is actually interesting , inviting us to decode the character and plot and apply the message where we will " . Margaret Pomeranz and David Stratton from At the Movies stated that despite the problem of never seeing Weaving 's face , there was good acting and an interesting plot , adding that the film is also disturbing , with scenes reminiscent of Nazi Germany . Jonathan Ross from the BBC blasted the film , calling it a " woeful , depressing failure " and stating that the " cast of notable and familiar talents such as John Hurt and Stephen Rea stand little chance amid the wreckage of the Wachowski siblings ' dismal script and its particularly poor dialogue . " Sean Burns of Philadelphia Weekly gave the film a ' D ' , criticizing the film 's treatment of its political message as being " fairly dim , adolescent stuff , " as well as expressing dislike for the " barely decorated sets with television @-@ standard overlit shadow @-@ free cinematography by the late Adrian Biddle . The film is a visual insult . " On Alan Moore removing his name from the project , Burns says " it 's not hard to see why , " as well as criticising Portman 's performance : " Portman still seems to believe that standing around with your mouth hanging open constitutes a performance . " Harry Guerin from the Irish TV network RTE states the film " works as a political thriller , adventure and social commentary and it deserves to be seen by audiences who would otherwise avoid any / all of the three " . He added that the film will become " a cult favourite whose reputation will only be enhanced with age . " Andy Jacobs for the BBC gave the film two stars out of five , remarking that it is " a bit of a mess ... it rarely thrills or engages as a story . "

V for Vendetta received few awards , although at the 2007 Saturn Awards Natalie Portman won the

Best Actress award . Rotten Tomatoes gives the film a 73 % " Certified Fresh " approval rating . The film was nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , Long Form in 2007 . V was included on Fandomania 's list of The 100 Greatest Fictional Characters . Empire magazine (in 2008) named the film the 418th greatest movie of all time .

= = = Political = = =

V for Vendetta deals with issues of homosexuality , criticism of religion , totalitarianism , Islamophobia and terrorism . Its controversial story line and themes have been the target of both criticism and praise from sociopolitical groups .

On April 17 , 2006 the New York Metro Alliance of Anarchists organised a protest against DC Comics and Time Warner , accusing it of watering down the story 's original message in favour of violence and special effects . David Graeber , an anarchist scholar and former professor at Yale University , was not upset by the film . " I thought the message of anarchy got out in spite of Hollywood . " However , Graeber went on to state : " Anarchy is about creating communities and democratic decision making . That 's what is absent from Hollywood 's interpretation . "

Film critic Richard Roeper dismissed right @-@ wing Christian criticism of the film on the television show Ebert and Roeper , saying that V 's terrorist label is applied in the film " by someone who 's essentially Hitler , a dictator . "

LGBT commentators have praised the film for its positive depiction of homosexuals . Sarah Warn of AfterEllen.com called the film " one of the most pro @-@ gay ever " . Warn went on to praise the central role of the character Valerie " not just because it is beautifully acted and well @-@ written , but because it is so utterly unexpected [in a Hollywood film] . "

David Walsh from the World Socialist Web Site criticises V 's actions as " antidemocratic , " calling the film an example of " the bankruptcy of anarcho @-@ terrorist ideology ; " Walsh writes that because the people have not played any part in the revolution , they will be unable to produce a " new , liberated society . "

Clay Duke , the perpetrator of the 2010 Panama City school board shootings , was reportedly obsessed with the film V for Vendetta . Prior to the shootings and his eventual suicide , Duke spray @-@ painted a red V inside a red circle , a supposed allusion to his fascination with the graphic novel .

The film was broadcast on China 's national TV station , China Central Television (CCTV) on December 16 , 2012 completely uncensored , surprising many viewers . While many believed that the government had banned the film , the State Administration of Radio , Film and Television stated that it was not aware of a ban ; CCTV makes its own decisions on whether to censor foreign films . Liu Shanying , a political scientist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences who used to work for CCTV , speculated that the showing indicated that Chinese film censorship might be loosened .

= = Differences between the film and graphic novel = =

The film 's story was adapted from Alan Moore and David Lloyd 's graphic novel V for Vendetta ; this was originally published between 1982 and 1985 in the British comic anthology Warrior , and then reprinted and completed by DC . Moore 's comics were later compiled into a graphic novel and published again in the United States under DC 's Vertigo imprint and in the United Kingdom under Titan Books .

There are several fundamental differences between the film and the original source material . For example , the comic is set in the 1990s , while the film is set sometime between 2028 and 2038 : Alan Moore 's original story was created as a response to British Thatcherism in the early ' 80s and was set as a conflict between a fascist state and anarchism , while the film 's story has been changed by the Wachowski Brothers to fit a modern political context . Alan Moore , however , charged that , in doing so , the story has turned into an American @-@ centric conflict between liberalism and neo @-@ conservatism , and abandons the original anarchist @-@ fascist themes . Moore states " There wasn 't a mention of anarchy as far as I could see . The fascism had been

completely defanged . I mean , I think that any references to racial purity had been excised , whereas actually , fascists are quite big on racial purity . " Furthermore , in the original story , Moore attempted to maintain moral ambiguity , and not to portray the fascists as caricatures , but as realistic , rounded characters . The time limitations of a film meant that the story had to omit or streamline some of the characters , details , and plotlines from the original story . Chiefly , the original graphic novel has the fascists elected legally and kept in power through the general apathy of the public , whereas the film introduces the " St. Mary 's virus " , a biological weapon engineered and released by the Norsefire Party as a means of clandestinely gaining control over their own country .

Many of the characters from the graphic novel underwent significant changes for the film . V is characterized in the film as a romantic freedom fighter who shows concern over the loss of innocent life . However , in the graphic novel , he is portrayed as ruthless , willing to kill anyone who gets in his way . Evey Hammond 's transformation as V 's protégée is also much more drastic in the novel than in the film . At the beginning of the film , she is already a confident woman with a hint of rebellion in her ; in the graphic novel , she starts off as an insecure , desperate young woman forced into prostitution . V and Evey 's relationship , though not as obvious in the book , ends in the film with pledges of love . In the graphic novel 's finale , she not only carries out V 's plans as she does in the film , but also clearly takes on V 's identity . In the film , Inspector Finch sympathizes with V , but , in the graphic novel , he is determined to stop V and goes as far as taking LSD to enter into a criminal 's state of mind . Gordon , a very minor character in both adaptations , is also drastically changed . In the novel , Gordon is a small @-@ time criminal who takes Evey into his home after V abandons her on the street . The two share a brief romance before Gordon is killed by a Scottish gang . In the film , however , Gordon is a well @-@ mannered colleague of Evey 's , and is later revealed to be gay . He is arrested by fingermen for broadcasting a political parody on his TV program , and is later executed when a Quran is found in his possession .

= = Marketing = =

= = = Home media = = =

V for Vendetta was released on DVD in the US on August 1 , 2006 in three formats : a single @-@ disc wide @-@ screen version , a single @-@ disc full @-@ screen version , and a two @-@ disc wide @-@ screen special edition . DVD sales were successful , selling 1 @,@ 412 @,@ 865 DVD units in the first week of release which translated to \$ 27 @,@ 683 @,@ 818 in revenue . By the end of 2006 , 3 @,@ 086 @,@ 073 DVD units had been sold , bringing in slightly more than its production cost of \$ 58 @,@ 342 @,@ 597 . The single disc versions contain a short (15 : 56) behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurette titled " Freedom ! Forever ! Making V for Vendetta " and the film 's theatrical trailer , whereas the two @-@ disc special edition contains three additional documentaries , and several extra features for collectors . On the second disc of the special edition , a short Easter egg clip of Natalie Portman on Saturday Night Live can be viewed by selecting the picture of wings on the second page of the menu . The film has also been released on the HD DVD high definition format , which features a unique ' in @-@ film experience ' created exclusively for the disc . Warner Bros. later released the video on Blu @-@ Ray , on May 20 , 2008 . The film also saw release on Sony 's PSP UMD format .

= = = Soundtrack = = =

The V for Vendetta soundtrack was released by Astralwerks Records on March 21 , 2006 . The original scores from the film 's composer , Dario Marianelli , make up most of the tracks on the album . The soundtrack also features three vocals played during the film : " Cry Me a River " by Julie London , a cover of The Velvet Underground song , " I Found a Reason " by Cat Power and " Bird Gerhl " by Antony and the Johnsons . As mentioned in the film , these songs are samples of the 872

blacklisted tracks on V 's Wurlitzer jukebox that V " reclaimed " from the Ministry of Objectionable Materials . The climax of Tchaikovsky 's 1812 Overture appears at the end of the track " Knives and Bullets (and Cannons too) " . The Overture 's finale is played at key parts at the beginning and end of the film .

Three songs were played during the ending credits which were not included on the V for Vendetta soundtrack . The first was " Street Fighting Man " by the Rolling Stones . The second was a special version of Ethan Stoller 's " BKAB " . In keeping with revolutionary tone of the film , excerpts from " On Black Power " (also in " A Declaration of Independence ") by black nationalist leader Malcolm X , and from " Address to the Women of America " by feminist writer Gloria Steinem were added to the song . Gloria Steinem can be heard saying : " This is no simple reform ... It really is a revolution . Sex and race , because they are easy and visible differences , have been the primary ways of organising human beings into superior and inferior groups and into the cheap labour on which this system still depends . " The final song was " Out of Sight " by Spiritualized .

Also in the film were segments from two of Antonio Carlos Jobim 's classic bossa nova songs , " The Girl From Ipanema " and " Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars " . These songs were played during the " breakfast scenes " with V and Deitrich and were one of the ways used to tie the two characters together . Beethoven 's Symphony No.5 also plays an important role in the film , with the first four notes of the first movement signifying the letter " V " in Morse code . Gordon Deitrich 's Benny Hill @-@ styled comedy sketch of Chancellor Sutler includes the " Yakety Sax " theme . Inspector Finch 's alarm clock begins the morning of November 4 with the song " Long Black Train " by Richard Hawley , which contains the foreshadowing lyrics " Ride the long black train ... take me home black train . "

== = Books = = =

The original graphic novel by Moore and Lloyd was re @-@ released as a hardback collection in October 2005 to tie into the film 's original release date of November 5 , 2005 . The film renewed interest in Alan Moore 's original story , and sales of the original graphic novel rose dramatically in the United States .

A novelisation of the film , written by Steve Moore and based on the Wachowski Brothers ' script , was published by Pocket Star on January 31 , 2006 . Spencer Lamm , who has worked with the Wachowskis , created a " behind @-@ the @-@ scenes " book . Titled V for Vendetta : From Script to Film , it was published by Universe on August 22 , 2006 .

== = Other = = =

As well as promotional items created to publicise the film (which included a shoulder bag and bust of " V " 's Guy Fawkes mask) , replicas of the mask and action figures were released . Figures released by NECA include a 12 @-@ inch (30 cm) action figure which speaks phrases from the film , a 12 @-@ inch resin statue and a seven @-@ inch (17 cm) figure .

== = Cultural influence = =

The ideology of the hero of the film has greatly influenced the ideological group called Anonymous , which adopts the typical mask as its symbol .

In 2007 Italian comedian and activist Beppe Grillo , on the occasion of V @-@ Day and V2 @-@ Day (a political campaign of public mobilisation in Italy to prevent the nomination as Parliamentary candidates of recipients of criminal convictions and other issues) , has reused the graphic symbol of the " V " revising the ideology of Moore 's work . The same " V " is also contained in the symbol of the 5 Star Movement , founded in 2009 by the same Grillo .

French rapper Keny Arkana used the symbol " V " for her song " V pour Vérités " , a hymn to collective awakening and for an uprising against a sick system .