



2009  
ICAS

WRITING

Amy Jackson  
Orewa College  
New Zealand

Write a review of a book or television program.

"Remember, remember the fifth of November."

The opening lines of the Wachowski ~~bro~~ brothers latest thriller, V for Vendetta, calls forth images of the ancient conspiracy of Guy Fawkes, back in some forgotten century. However, Vendetta is not a ~~reimagining~~ <sup>retelling</sup> of this old tale - it is a story of our future, not our past; <sup>set in</sup> a dystopian world where freedom of speech has been obliterated and anyone that is different is quickly ~~vanished~~ <sup>and</sup> efficiently "vanished" ~~by the police~~ <sup>to</sup> camps where cruel ~~tortures~~ <sup>and</sup> government-sanctioned tortures are visited upon them in the name of science. Into this totalitarian ~~state~~ <sup>and masked</sup> comes the mysterious V, a caped crusader without gadgets or superpowers - his only weapon is the idea he represents. Freedom. ~~And how better~~ And what better way to free his people than by blowing up the Houses of Parliament?

The film is distinctly Orwellian in tone; although adapted from a graphic novel, it echoes Orwell's frightening 1984 more than it pays homage to the superhero genre. The film

is dark and the atmosphere relentlessly foreboding; like 1984, the entire work is pervaded by fear. There are no real distinctions between good and bad, and right and wrong.

Characters have murky intentions, with V's the most complicated of all. Who is he, and where does he come from; what really lies beneath his mask?

V for Vendetta is a film that can be enjoyed on several levels. It is ~~an action film~~; There is action, suspense; even a complicated and unconventional romance aspect. It can be considered <sup>pure</sup> entertainment; but what V for Vendetta is is more than just a popcorn flick. As it builds towards its towering climax, the audience is dragged along in a current of ideas - What is the nature of justice, of freedom, of safety or patriotism? Think ~~a little~~ Think carefully about V's world, and you realize that maybe, just maybe, it is not so different from our own.