
Subject: "V" is changing...

Posted by [Wmartin\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4]](#) on Wed, 18 Sep 2013 22:10:14 GMT

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Message-ID:

Date: Thu, 7-Feb-85 16:15:21 EST

Article-I.D.: brl-tgr.8117

Posted: Thu Feb 7 16:15:21 1985

Date-Received: Sun, 10-Feb-85 04:09:43 EST

Distribution: net

Organization: USAMC ALMSA

Lines: 62

Xref: watmath net.sf-lovers:6057 net.tv:2438

Last week's episode of "V" (delayed from an originally-scheduled earlier airing, showed quite a few changes. The intro/opening credits were different, and some of the major characters are gone (including the token crazed-right-wing-CIA-madman Ham Tyler, who hadn't been killed off in the show, as far as I can recall; just brainwashed into even-more-dangerous instability). Duncan Regehr managed to get out of his guest-star slot as Charles (lizards leaving a sinking series?), and the plot had even more holes than usual (for example, someone saying that he was there to "shave Diana's body", when her human skin is only makeup), and a royal lizard wedding where Charles & Diana (do those names ring a bell?) remained in human disguise while indulging in lizardish ritual. A little bit more presence of lizards, and even a bit of speaking in native tongue, as opposed to English.

Some nice touches: "cat poison" and "rodent musk" perfume. At least one of the writers is trying to slip a few bright spots into this mess. Silly aspect: Charles' poisoning causing his makeup to fall away and accelerated decomposition. And HOW a lizard-creature could find an alien mammalian sexually attractive is beyond me; anthropomorphism runs amok! (If Lydia wanted to seduce Charles, she should have stripped off her makeup and been a lady lizard again...)

Bates is simply stated to have "died" in the opening newscast, and there is no mention of the elaborate pulse-monitor and red-dust caches which were supposed to explode and kill off the lizards if he happened to die. Since much was made of this before, we are now simply supposed to forget it ever happened? Humph! Also, anyone notice what seemed to be an abrupt and awkward cut in that opening newscast? It looks like a segment of that was dropped out at the last minute.

(Using Howard K. Smith (a real newsman) in that opening news broadcast is one of the best features of this series; a good technique for verisimilitude. Too bad the following nonsense undercuts this so much. :-)

The series never adequately explained why Bates (a corporate boss) became a political power, to such a degree that ordinary street cops used the phrase "Bates' orders" to explain whatever martial-law-type actions they were taking. If he now is so casually discarded, it is about time to modify the settings; there has been a lot of pretense of "carrying on a normal life" while under lizard control, only allusions to people being rounded up for food in other areas (remember "The Butcher of Birmingham"?) and various other aspects of a "real" war of conquest -- why haven't the humans been spewing tons of red dust into the atmosphere to renew the interdiction of the Visitor presence? Why haven't the Visitors been nuking pockets of resistance?

Another bit of evidence the writers have no idea what to do next -- they are introducing new weaponry every show, as side gimmicks, but then don't know what to do with it. Nonsense like the lizard patrol waiting for the people in the bombed-out building to surrender, giving them an endlessly-extending "5 minutes"... What do they care? Level the block and move on... The Visitors have had enough time to suck the oceans dry and fill the ships with corpsicles by now; it's getting harder to find reasons for dilly-dallying around.

Well, we'll see what happens next... I vote to put Faye Grant in a body stocking again and give her another dose of "interrogation"; that had to be one of the highlights of this mess...

Ooops! My dinner's crawling off the table...

Bye! Will

Subject: Re: "V" is changing...
Posted by [oz](#) on Wed, 18 Sep 2013 22:10:20 GMT
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Message-ID:
Date: Sat, 9-Feb-85 19:57:34 EST
Article-I.D.: rlgvax.456
Posted: Sat Feb 9 19:57:34 1985
Date-Received: Mon, 11-Feb-85 05:38:27 EST
References:
Distribution: net
Organization: CCI, Federal Sales Office
Lines: 35
Xref: watmath net.sf-lovers:6092 net.tv:2442

Here in Washtington DC (AKA "The District") we are blessed with a marvelous TV columnist "Captain Airwave." The Good Captain gives us news on what is happening in the world of TV as well as adding some of his own comments to the blurbs provided by the networks about a particular nights episode (Tonight Sam has Fraser going Snipe hunting in the woods. Now, really Sam) Be that as it may, Captain Airwaves warned us a few weeks ago that NBC (or perhaps the shows producers, I can't recall which one) had decided that there were too many people on the show so several HAD to be done away with. In the previous "new" episode (about two weeks ago) Bates was killed by Mr. Chang who was in turn killed by Kyle. Robin (a worthless character for a long time now) was sent to live with the Chicago underground (I wonder if their leader is named "Big Julie?") and is escorted there by Tyler (one of the better characters in the show, I was surprised that they had him go).

I agree with you about some of the problems of the show. The biggest problem I see with it is that they are working too hard to make each episode a complete story. By doing this they are turning into a formula series: "Aliens get new weapon that can destroy the resistance. Donovan (or some other token hunk) goes on the mothership (they might as well install a revolving door on the mothership and put out the welcome mat considering how often the resistance is on it) destroy the weapon (or kidnap the person that CAN destroy the weapon) and Diana curses them.

For reasons that I cannot explain, I still find myself watching this show. I think that part of it is that I enjoy seeing ANY Science Fiction on the tube, and the other part is that occasionally some interesting things happen.

I hope this helps get you up to date.

"Bones, while you are up, would you get me a gingerale?"

"Damnit Jim, I'm a Doctor, not a waiter!"

OZ
seismo!rlgvax!oz