

Watchmen *** spoilers ahoy! ***

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Sep 1999

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Tony Ellis — 16 Sep 1999, 16:50

The issue of morality runs so deep in Watchmen that I'm reluctant to label anyone as "evil". I certainly wouldn't call Voidt evil in the sense that Hitler was. Hitler was motivated by hatred for other races as much as by a desire to secure the future of his precious Aryans. Voidt genuinely wants to help the whole human race.

Is Voidt likeable? Interesting, certainly. As John Bishop says, he's a beefcake superhero who's actually smart. He's also a supervillain without the wasted, weedy physique. But I got the impression that behind all that he was actually a very little man. It's significant that he has to beat the crap out of the Comedian before killing him, because of course the Comedian once gave him a humiliating beating. Petty or what?

(Wow, we're -really- spoiling Watchmen for anyone who hasn't read it yet, aren't we?)

Voidt's the sort of person who -has- to save the human race in order to feel good about himself. :-)

I agree that Severian is far more of a good guy. It helps a lot, as several people have already said, that he doesn't deliberately flood the whole planet and kill everyone. He was as appalled as I was, and so never lost my sympathy. (The pancreator, on the other hand, sank massively in my estimation.)

The question of whether or not the others are tarred by keeping quiet is an interesting one. They do -try- to stop Voidt after all. Given that they couldn't, isn't it reasonable to keep quiet when speaking out would only steer Earth back on course for World War III?

On the other hand, Rorschach, in some ways the most right-wing of all the protagonists, is the one who stays true to his principles to the death. Nicely balanced, Mr Moore.

I hope Wolfe -does- read Watchmen, I'm sure he'd enjoy it.