

SZAKÁCS TIBOR DOMINIK

Angol-történelem tanárképzés
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VICTORIAN GENDER FROM HELL: VICTORIAN GENDER ROLES IN ALAN MOORE'S FROM HELL

Kulcsszavak: *neo-Victorianism; Jack the Ripper; patriarchal oppression; sexual murder; graphic novel*

Serial killers have always fascinated peoples' imaginations. One such case, maybe the most famous one, is that of the Jack the Ripper murders. Films and video games adapted the story, adding their unique twist to the mystery. One such case is Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell's *From Hell*, published between 1991 and 1998. Based on Stephen Knight's *Final Solution*, the graphic novel presents itself as a historically accurate retelling of the murders, supported by thorough research by Moore himself. Their retelling is not the usual whodunit story, allowing readers to focus on the unsung victims of both the Ripper and the age: women. Moore's approach is unique in many ways, however, the fact that the Ripper murders are retold in a comic format makes for a unique case, as the narrative and the visual elements work in tandem to illuminate the class and gender tensions of the late 19th century London, many of which were still prevalent under Margaret Thatcher's premiership – a period that immediately preceded the date of publication and inspired the graphic novel's criticism.

In this research, I rely on numerous works ranging from neo-Victorian and gender studies, including Anne McClintock's *Imperial Leather*, to scholarship studies on comics studies to argue that the medium of comics in *From Hell* contributes significantly to exploring and critiquing the gendered stereotypes that are maybe still prevalent about the Victorian period. After an introduction that tackles the medium specific features of storytelling in comic form, the first chapter of the paper focuses on how the 19th-century sensational journalism's take on the Whitechapel murders and the social changes prior to the killings that influenced the public's perception of gender relations, such as the CD Acts. In the second part of the research, I provide a medium specific close reading analysis of the graphic novel with an emphasis on how the masculinities and femininities are constructed in and through the medium of comics.