

The General

The "A, B and C" Number Two has another shot at Number Six. As a 'speed learning system', operated by somebody called only "The Professor", is the main feature of this story, Number Two is in the background. As he supervised the technology used in "A, B and C", he might well be trusted with a second chance, leaving all the hard work to the new electronic system. The character Number Twelve is said to have been around for "quite a long time" and this does not interfere with events.

Many Happy Returns

Number Six has a birthday, in March of our 'year two' and little more need be added. The Village would not have used the opening deserted place ploy until their prisoner had been given plenty of time to be devising possible escape plans, to be used if ever an opportunity arose. Number Six recalls that his London home lease "had six months left to run". This does not necessarily mean that he was taken from his home six months ago and the lease could, by now, already have expired, months ago.

Dance of the Dead and Checkmate

These two stories come next but could be regarded as 'reversible'. In the latter, the Chess Champion observes that Number Six has not yet joined the enemy (which, he says, people do "in time"). This does not prevent Number Six from having been around for a few months. It is the first 'human chess' game he has come across and his behaviour is that of a novice. In "Dance Of The Dead" the remarks that Number Six arrived "quite recently" or that he told his maid "I'm new here" are not conclusive. One can move house and still feel a newcomer in a different neighborhood for up to a year. Remember, Number Six says in Checkmate that he "used to" drink in the Hope and Anchor pub. If he was recent in the Village he might describe his pub is a way sounding more current, or recent.

Hammer into Anvil

If Number Two were the character from "Many Happy Returns" (both parts being played by Patrick Cargill), Number Six might behave differently towards him. Clearly a good deal of time has passed and Number Six knows Village procedures very well. We are now probably well into our 'year two'.

It's Your Funeral

The annual Appreciation Day has come round and so another year is up. The retiring Number Two must have held office for a while, otherwise his own



replacement would be simple, not a grand send-off. Number Six has settled in and has not even crossed swords with the outgoing Number Two.

A Change of Mind

Drastic measures are finally used, saved as a last resort. Such extreme action, if overcome by Number Six early on, would have left nothing else to try later if it failed. Winter is returning and Number Six has now been in the Village for well over a year. In the story, birds are migrating, twigs are brittle and Number Six needs a rug for warmth.

Do Not Forsake Me Oh My Darling

A letter sent from Number Six is said to have been sent "over a year ago from London". The problem here, however, arises with Janet having lost her fiancé on her birthday (in our 'year one') and finding him again once more at the time of her birthday (at least our 'year two'). A strip of film deposited at a camera shop is described as being left "just over a year ago". So Number Six was still free "over a year ago" and his abduction in summer of our 'year one' now takes us late into 'year two'.

Living in Harmony

The Village by now has to try extreme hallucinatory methods. This 'Western' cowboy scenario must have taken a very long time to set up. The escalated assault on Number Six's mind has to occur soon after the "Forsake" 'mind-swap' trial, there being no more time to lose.

The Girl Who Was Death

This children's story can be left where it is. Number Six has won a fair number of battles by now and is supremely confident. He is about to endure his greatest struggle yet, in the next story.

Once Upon a Time and Fall Out

Nobody would argue against these being the last two episodes. In "Fall Out" the President's speech tells us that Number Six has waged his one-man war for a long period of time. The last two episodes only cover a week and so when (and if) Number Six is free, his incarceration has exceeded 18 months.