



Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 2

Orson Scott Card (Writer) , Pasqual Ferry (Illustrations) , Leonardo Manco

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The untold origin of Iron Man continues! When last we saw him, young Tony Stark was nearly blown to bits. How much of him survived his initial Iron Man trial run - and where does the young genius go from here?

Collecting: *Ultimate Iron Man II* 1-5

Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 2 Details

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From Reader Review Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Brad says

Why would Orson Scott Card want his name so huge on an uninspiring book? Maybe because he created his very own version of Iron Man that isn't really connected to the other Ultimate characterizations of the character. He also doesn't have a handle on writing for comics. Pasqual Ferry's energetic art in books like Adam Strange is completely static here thanks to unimaginative grids and layouts. And the story isn't really all that interesting.

Natalie says

I didn't like the storyline, because it didn't really make sense. How did everything lead back to Howard Stark's ex-wife. Why does she suddenly want to kill her son. I mean he's psychotic, but she seemed to love him in the first volume. Also, where did she get her army? ANY WHY DOES SHE LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT EVERY TIME WE SEE HER?

Dave says

(Actually a digital edition I read, but that isn't listed here on Goodreads)

1.5/5

I was pretty generous to the first volume of this series, but ULTIMATE IRON MAN II is a pretty awful comic, aside from the art in the first four issues. While the first volume had a clear arc in detailing the early life of Ultimate Tony Stark, volume two is a pure cluster fuck of bad writing and Orson Scott Card's unsettling obsessions and fears. Rife with homophobic subtext and misogyny, the book is deeply unpleasant reading.

Andy says

I only really picked this up for completeness to see how the story which was started a long time ago finished. It's a bit of a disappointment even with the low expectations set in part one.

The story plays out like a thriller, often confusing at times due to poor plotting and OSC's lack of understanding how comics work. The characters are still sparse, Obadiah is bloody annoying and his character shifts continuously throughout becoming less a developed person, rather a stand in villain/comic relief/exposition type device.

The resolution is poorly executed and a let down with no sense of completion (bad for a stand alone series). The other big issue is the art which is much worse than the first part. Overall, not really worth it and a further reminder that these days the only Ultimate title worth reading is Spider-Man.

James DeSantis says

I probably should have read the first volume to fully understand this Iron-man. Screw it. He's never been one of my favorite superheroes and I read enough Ultimates to get this is a very different Tony Stark. Except, this Tony is really different. He's very young, his limbs grow back (Why? I dunno), and he doesn't seem all that smart. It's very hard to get used to it at first and when him and Rhodes go on a mission together to stop mysterious "war weapons" it gets overlong and boring.

What I liked: I actually dig the character designs. I like how Iron-man is bulkier, just looks cooler to me. Also thought Tony had some funny lines...some.

What I didn't like: The overcomplicated plot. Especially coming from Scott Card who's done Ender's game which I LOVED. Also waaaaay too much banter from EVERY character and not all of them work. Also the creepy dude who likes to be touched and perverted was waaaaay to try hard. Oh and fuck the ending.

Yeah this is kind of a mess. The art is pretty awesome but the rest I could have left at home. This Tony doesn't even act like the one from Ultimates. A 2/5.

Will says

Volume 1 was pretty cool, but this one should be called Ultimately Boring Iron Man II. And I'm not saying this because I recently discovered the author is a homophobic bigot jerk face. Honestly, the book stands on its own as a sucky work of mediocrity.

Chelsea says

So, somehow, this was worse than the first volume.

This was incredibly boring and when it wasn't boring, it was anger inducing. I don't understand the ideas behind the characterizations of any of these characters. Should I begin with the unnecessary gay jokes? Because there were a lot of them. The unimportance of the 2 female characters? Obadiah was just terrible and not in a "evil" way but in a "this is a serious downgrade" kind of way. I don't recognize anything about the Tony I know and love and that's odd because I actually liked Ults!Tony in Ultimates.

The only moderately good thing in this volume was the relationship between Tony and Rhodey. Everything else was just awful.

So, no, this is not a recommend at all.

Adam Graham says

After being disappointed in Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 1, I was not sure what to expect from this volume and was prepared for the worst. I was pleasantly surprised instead.

The events of the first book have Howard Stark in prison for the murder of former business rival Zedekiah Stane and Tony who has the ability to regrow vital organs and has survived a deadly explosion as Iron Man. What develops in this book is actually a pretty thrilling story. There's plenty of action, and the series has the feel of a good mystery as our heroes try to unravel the death of Zedekiah Stane and follow clues to a surprising conclusion. The character of young Obadiah Stane is definitely a scene-stealer and a pivotal character.

That's not to say the book isn't without problems. The rendering of the Iron Man armor is weak. Card continues to reference alcoholism without fully developing it. Perhaps most significantly while the end is well-written, it also mirrors the worst of modern superhero comic writing which seems to revel in perversity. It really is a creepy ending. Heroism was AWOL from this story.

So, overall, the effort was good, not great, but an improvement on the disaster that was the disjointed volume 1.

furious says

2.5 stars. this is actually the first O.S. Card i have ever read (i have Ender's Game waiting in the wings). i enjoyed it, inasmuch as there were some very interesting sci-fi concepts & some very well-developed character stuff & some AMAZING art (emphasis on "some," but more on that later)...but the plot was pretty weak sauce. and the main villain was paper thin, so the last act was kind of a letdown. i say, "kind of a letdown," but i actually mean, "an enormous letdown," because not only did the end of the story suffer, the artist apparently had deadline problems, and the final issue was drawn by someone else. someone with a style *completely* dissimilar to Pasqual Ferry. it's a five issue miniseries that doesn't even take place in the present day Ultimate Universe. why did Marvel feel the need to rush it into production/publication? the shift in artist was so jarring that i came away with a much harsher judgment of the overall work because of it.

Dan Burkard says

Great storytelling. The only problem i have with it is the last 12 pages have unfinished artwork.

Bookwraiths says

Horribly boring and predictable story. Almost everything cool Orson Scott Card did in the first story arc is completely jettisoned here. Even the artwork isn't as good as the initial volume.

Joshua says

Quit dissapointing - the first volume was decent, not great but good enough that I was still interested to read the second part, however volume 2 really lets the story down.

Overall the whole 10 issue mini series is a frustrating read because parts of it are good enough to make you feel annoyed with the parts that fall flat. It was just too inconsistent, emotionally detached, brief and in parts,

clichéd. I actually had to make myself finish the second volume.

The problem is that Tony Stark is just too weird in this series. Readers of the Ultimate universe do want the characters to vary, often dramatically from their mainstream Marvel counterparts - but not to the extent Orson does here. The greatest thing about Iron Man is the fact he has no special power and instead has to rely on his considerable intellect and resourcefulness. The Tony Stark of this story is the product of an artificially created virus which has turned his entire body into super sensitive brain tissue with basically unlimited regenerative ability. He wears special skin-coloured body armour and repeatedly loses limbs over the course of the series which promptly grow back in a few days.

Kurt says

I grabbed this book from a bargain rack even though I hadn't read the first volume because: (1) I like the Ultimate Universe in general, since it has good stories that I can loan my friends without having to brief them on decades of continuity, and (2) I love Pasqual Ferry's art. I'm not going to spend a lot of effort tracking down the first half of the story, but this half - despite some big problems - isn't that bad.

First, a reader should know that this is designed to be the second half of a story. The recap page at the beginning is good enough that I was able to follow along without much trouble, but I did mix up details about the plots and conspiracies that were developed before this book's first page.

Second, this is - in theory - an origin story for the Ultimate version of Iron Man. The character in the book, though, bears little resemblance to the guy we see in The Ultimates. We see a guy whose entire body is made of specialized regenerating nerve cells and nanotechnology (yeah, just go with it), so he can regenerate limbs like a lizard and shoot out a swarm of nanobots to deus ex machina his way out of situations. It's an odd choice, since I think if our beloved Ultimate Iron Man could do this stuff, then we would have seen it. When the weird stuff started happening, though, I decided to view this book in a vacuum, and on its own merits, it's a fine direction for the character.

The story itself is kind of a spy thriller, with some conspiracies and nuclear bombs and snarky dialogue (especially from Obadiah Stane, who I really enjoyed even though I understand why he annoys other readers). There are some surprises and double-crosses and endearing supporting cast members, as there should be in a project like this. It's light on emotion, but Iron Man has worked best in the last decade when his stories are about confidence and fun and high-tech problem-solving. So I enjoy this as an Iron Man story, despite its limitations. There are better Ultimate Universe stories out there, and better Ultimate Iron Man stories, but this one is pretty good for what it is.

Edward Cheer says

Wow... Card really can't write comics, can he? This is absolute trash. I mean, the story itself isn't too bad. Like an average 90's action-flick plot with teens as the main characters. But I just cannot find anyone compelling or interesting. Tony basically is invincible (giving me the same problem I always have in Superman comics - which is a lack of feeling the intensity of a situation). Everyone else around him just seems to work for him, or think he's so amazing, making them as interesting as the Iron Man suit. And Obadiah is probably the most annoying person ever. He is Willie from "Temple of Doom", trying incredibly hard to be more like a Joffrey from "Game of Thrones", but he just isn't an interesting villain or character. He makes dumb sarcastic comments and poop jokes all the time. And it really gets to me, as a reader, because he

keeps making me groan with every piece-of-shit line he says. Do not read this book. Ever.

Patrick says

Not as good as the first volume in my opinion. I don't like the drawing style in here. It looks too computer generated. This is a very different design of Iron Man with quite different versions of the main characters from other Iron Man comics. Be warned.
