



Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 1

Orson Scott Card (Writer), Andy Kubert (Penciler)

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International bestseller, four-time Hugo award, two-time Nebula award and World Fantasy Award winner Orson Scott Card (*Ender's Game*) comes to the Ultimate Universe. He's joined by industry legend Andy Kubert (*Marvel 1602*, *Wolverine: Origin*) to show the shocking beginning of Ultimate Iron Man! If you thought The Ultimates told you everything you needed to know about Ultimate Iron Man, think again!

Collecting: *Ultimate Iron Man* 1-5

Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Orson Scott Card (Writer) , Andy Kubert (Penciler)

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From Reader Review Ultimate Iron Man, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Caroline says

Oh, Orson Scott Card. I was curious about this, since I'd heard it reinvented the origin story of Iron Man, but wow did he take some liberties. This took away the reason I love Iron Man so much--the fact that he's just a mortal man that is using his ability to invent to do good--and turned Tony Stark into a mutant from birth.

Card does have a thing for powerful children/teenagers. It's not something I cared for, and I won't be bothering with any more of Card's Iron Man.

Kevin Richey says

Kind of strange to see Orson Scott Card's name on an Iron Man reboot series, but... it didn't help much. Not that this was bad, per se, and I have to admit I'm not an Iron Man authority or anything, but this wasn't really the Iron Man I was expecting. Firstly because it's not Iron Man -- more like Iron Boy. It starts with Iron Man's father, before Iron Man is born. Then we get his birth, his super-intelligent toddler years, and then (by the end of Vol. 2), he's maybe 12? 14? Still pretty young. And already Iron Man. With weird regeneration super powers. This is a HUGE deviation from the original Iron Man origin story, which I guess I'm not against, but the other Ultimates seem to reboot rather than re-imagine the original. Card should have just written an original comic if he wasn't interested in Iron Man. This really has nothing to do with Iron Man, other than a few obligatory references. Still, it was mostly entertaining, and I liked some of the darker elements. Quick read, but ultimately skippable.

Donna says

I only had the first volume of this comic and to be honest I didn't particularly enjoy it. It sets up an origin story for Iron Man and I enjoyed seeing him as a child/ growing up but I found the story kind of to follow- the frames jumped from one thing to another and too many of the characters looked alike so I wasn't always really sure who I was reading about.

In regards to how it fits in the larger Iron Man narrative, I've not read any other comics about Iron Man so I'm not really in a place to talk about it, but I'm not quite sure of the reason for making him a mutant and the whole genetic mutation thing they had going on here.

I didn't realise Orson Scott Card had written this and now I know I kinda regret reading it- I know separate the art from the artist and all that but I just can't support him.

Desiree Brunelle says

Iron man is a unique comic, it starts with Howard Stark basically reinventing the wheel with a technology that will allow a human to become invincible with a very beautiful color " sky blue. goes with everything." said by

Mr. Stark. Tony Stark or Tony is born into a world of war, and his mother who died giving birth to him because she was infected by the virus they were trying to create. Tony has the ability to do much more than a normal child. His brain is extraordinary and he can regenerate his body parts but his skin is blue because without the tint his body would feel as though he has 3rd degree burns all the time. Throughout Tony's life he creates an Iron Suite to help him and also help people in need. Mr. Stark's X-wife Loni steals the company out from under Howard by buying all the stock with the help of Mr. Stane to ruin Howard but he is a lot smarter than Stane thinks. In the end Howard wins part of the war but it is far from over. Stane "the only thing Howard Stark had that I wanted just left the building the rest is trash" AKA his wife and soon to be born child. All he wants is the Bio-Armor. Stane kidnaps Tony at a young age, fails to get what he wants and goes to jail then spends almost 10 years behind bars, later on gets broken out of prison but gets killed in an awful manner. Howard gets blamed for the murder but is only awaiting for conviction. Tony knows his father is innocent and blames Stane's son for it because he is evil, manipulating, and just plain sinister with no feelings towards anyone just wants Stark to be ruined.

This comic was very interesting. I loved how it was a new way to look at Iron Man and not just going off the movie's. I enjoyed this comic. I thought it has a very good plot twist, good way to tie in who Tony is and how he fits into society even though he is blue. I also enjoyed the cliffhanger at the end.

I would recommend this comic to whoever loves Iron Man, sci-fi/fantasy, and mystery.

* fun fact my mother's work Raytheon has the rights to the Iron Man outfit and created the design for the movie's.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I think a caveat of enjoying this book is suspending what you know about Tony Stark, aka Iron Man. If a reader can't do that, then that's going to be an issue in reading this graphic novel.

Orson Scott Card takes a huge departure in some ways in the evolution of Tony Stark and his becoming Iron Man. It was pretty weird and different from what I know, and I am admittedly mainly familiar with the character from movies and TV, and some research I've done into the character online. I won't go into what was changed, because it's a major spoiler. I think in some ways, it undermines the coolness of Stark as a normal man who becomes a superhero through his ingenuity and invention. That's probably my major issue with this story.

I'm not sure why they decided to take that direction with the story, but I think less experimentation with the central identity of the character would have been better.

I gave it 3 stars because it has good action, good artwork, and there were some interesting ideas, but subtracted two off because it took too many liberties with the storyline.

Dylan Magoon says

this is a great book it shows why tony stark is so smart. it is not very believable that his brain is all threw out his body. tony is defentaly a round dynamic charter because you see him grow up and change threw out the story. the art in this book was also very good it had very bright colors and helped tell the story of what was happening.

Anne says

I don't really even have the words to describe this. I knew they were going to mess with Iron Man some, but this was crazy!

How do I begin?

I guess it wasn't enough for Tony Stark to be a genius playboy with a ton of money and a kick-ass suit. No. In this version...God, where do I start?

His mother was a genetic engineer who got 'mutated monkey blood' in her mouth when she was a few months pregnant with him. It killed her, and lo and behold, little Tony somehow came into the world...with superpowers. Maybe while they are at it, they could give Batman x-ray vision. Idiots. Part of Iron Man's appeal is that he is just a regular guy with a super-powered suit! Ok. Wait. It gets better. Where was I? Oh yeah, he was born with mutated genes. Something was wrong with his skin, so he felt like he was on fire and in constant pain from the moment he was born. (Don't ask how his dying mother figured that one out just before he was born.) However, he is indestructible. Chop off a foot and it grow back, set him on fire and he will survive, smash his face in and he won't even have a bruise. The real kicker is, that his mother was only (at the most) a few months pregnant when she got infected. The infection makes her crazy, and in constant pain. Even through all this, she tells Tony's father everything that the mutant gene is doing to him in her womb, and how it will effect him after he is born. How did she know any of that stuff? She was infected accidentally, so it's not like she had something to compare it with. Grrrr. It made no sense! I'm a geeky comic book fan, so I can swallow a lot of gamma-radiated, radioactive spider bitten, green power ring carrying , adamantium clawed, Amazon princess, super-craziness! This was just stupid. Again, wait. It gets even better.

His father was working on some kind of body armor that you paint on yourself, when his wife was infected by the mutant monkey. The drawback to this stuff was that, after a few hours, it burned through the skin. Somehow, he knew that if he put this stuff on baby Tony when he is first born it would keep him from being in pain. How does he know? No idea, but there's more. Wait for it...wait for it... It turns your skin BLUE. Why? I got nothin'. So for the first 7 or 8 years of his life, Tony is blue. Oh, and bald. He's bald because this blue paint eats not only skin, but hair. WTF?! At some point, Tony invents his own version of this paint that lets him look normal and grow hair. Okaaay. So what was the point? No idea. Still, there's more.

The monkey gene also made him super-duper smart. I know what you're thinking. He was already smart, right? Well, they couldn't leave well enough alone...again. Get this, his brain tissue is spread out over his entire body! It's in his feet, his elbows, his ass, all over. He is one giant man-size brain. Think on that for a minute. Just let it marinate. Now, before you ask, they did make a joke about his brain being in his butt. Har-dee-har-har.

There were manymanymany more things I hated about Ultimate Iron Man, but I don't think there is enough room for me to keep ranting. Bottom line, don't waste your time or money on this piece of crap. The plot is disjointed and weird, the characters are unbelievable, and nothing even remotely resembles any kind of Iron

Man I've ever seen.

Bookwraiths says

Interesting take on Tony Stark and his life. Certainly, it is a bit different than the normal Tony, but I thought it fit in really well with the Ultimate Universe, especially the Tony/Iron Man portrayed in The Ultimates.

Liko Natera says

I was attracted by the hype behind this ominous "Orson Scott Card scripted" premise but was I disappointed by reading a character that had absolutely nothing to do with what I allowed myself to expect even if THIS Tony Stark was the "ULTIMATE" version of Iron Man.

I found myself not encouraged to finish this due to unlikeable characters, unrealistic circumstances and even weak dialogue. I really wanted to like this. I even started reading it with a very open mind and hoping I would eventually love it but You can not argue with boredom. There are lots of better options out there to be wasting your valuable time on this.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

Ugh.

"Let's start a new universe!" Marvel editorial declared, "and let's do something super interesting with Tony!"

"I know!" shouted an underling, "let's get Orson Scott Card to write something super science fiction-y that's interesting for Tony as a character!"

"I have done it," Orson Scott Card says months later. "I have given Tony a super neat regeneration ability."

"Great!" says the editor.

"And I included Rhodes."

"Fantastic! We love that guy!" says the underling.

"And he and Tony first become friends," says Card, "when Tony tries to defend Rhodes, Rhodes tells Tony he doesn't know what it's like to be black, and Tony assures him he knows black people like fried chicken and watermelon."

"GENIUS!" screams the editor.

"AMAZING!" shouts the underling. "We've already made Captain America SUPER DOUBLE RACIST for this universe, so another character only being CASUALLY racist is SUPER DIFFERENT."

"And I fridged Maria Stark."

"HOW EDGY!!!!" Yell the editor and underling.

"And Tony is still clearly going to be an alcoholic because it's the only interesting thing about him, clearly," says Card.

"We've done it!" shouts the editor. "We've really done something special this time!"

"I'm just so happy," the underling says, trying not to cry from glee. "I feel like we've just done something so SPECIAL and NEW here."

Dave says

Putting aside my general dislike of Orson Scott Card as a person, his ULTIMATE IRON MAN is solid enough. It certainly isn't the traditional Iron Man origin and was understandably rendered non-canon a while later, but taken on its own it is ok.

Adam Graham says

I give this 2-stars because really it's only one half of the story. But given Card's reputation, this book is all ready a bit of disappointment

If starts off really slow. This book collects Issues 1-5 of the Ultimate Iron Man story line. As Card is writing in Marvel's ultimate world, he's not bound by the back story established in Marvel's regular (616) continuity.

He made a key change in giving Tony Stark powers from birth that come with a natural blue skin stone as a result of experiments done by his mother Maria just before she died. I'm not at all closed off to making Tony Stark blue in the Ultimate Marvel universe except for the fact that it really does nothing for the story.

The first four issues focus mainly on the mechanations of the adults around young Tony Stark. Only Issue 5 does a Young Adult Tony begin to emerge. Even then, Card introduces the alcoholism element, which is really a stretch and also unnecessary. Stark as an alcoholic was used in 616 to flesh the character and humanize him. It really doesn't do it here and with all the craziness in childhood, it's far from required.

Most of all, Ultimate Iron Man shows that it shares the same weakness as most modern comics in relying on shock value and gross out factor rather than compelling stories. In this Ultimate universe, Tony Stark and Obadiah Stane are students at a school for gifted children where Obadiah seduces classmates to suicide. No one commits murder with a simple shot to the head, poison, or knife, murder has to be a ritualistic affair.

There is some emergence of Tony as a bit of a hero towards the end of the volume but so far it's not looking good.

Chris says

The main problem everyone seems to have with Card's interpretation of Iron Man is that it isn't the same Iron Man they're used to. But that is the whole point of the Ultimate Universe. The classic characters are supposed to be re-imagined for a modern audience, and Card does this better than any other author in the Ultimate universe. Where other characters get minor changes to their origin story or what have you from their authors Card is the only one who actually creates an entire new version of the character.

Chelsea says

This series reads like Card looked at 616's Iron Man and said "Let's really *ruin* this."

Where to start? Where to start?

I suppose here: if the only likable character in your series is notoriously abusive, drunken father Howard Stark, you've made a huge mistake. To be fair, he's not abusive in this universe but it's still a garbage series. Howard Stark is a semi broke inventor that invented some bacterial armor that turns people blue but protects them from blows. Zedediah Stane wants to steal it? I think? Howard was married to a woman that helped Zedediah screw Howard over. He leaves her for Maria who dies in childbirth. Howard then raises a blue Tony and tries to keep him safe from the Stane organization that wants to steal the formula.

So, this series has very little to do with Tony. Sure, it all sort of revolves around him but the larger character is Howard Stark here. Anyway, at a certain point, Tony meets Rhodey and I don't know who these children are but they're certainly not my sons. Tony is spouting racist bullshit as that really shitty type of humor where white guys think "If we both acknowledge the stereotypes, it's like we're laughing at them together, right?" Wrong. Rhodey decides to thank Tony protecting him by throwing him violently into some rocks and calling him "freak boy". It's all just really terrible. There's a random girl that decides to befriend them for reasons unknown to me. None of it makes any sense.

I wondered how it could get worse than Ultimates and Card showed me. Boy, he got me good. So, it's not a recommend. It's not even a "hey, if you're bored?" recommend. This is a, hey, if you need firewood and you have nothing else to burn but a copy of this is lying around, go right ahead and toss it into the fire because you will get no other use out of it.

2 stars.

Noah Soudrette says

This is one of the worst comics I've ever read. Here's why: Tony Stark's mom becomes infected with a virus that causes cellular regeneration in humans. She gives birth to Tony, who's skin constantly regenerates. This means his skin is always raw and he is in intense pain. Because of this, his father coats him in a liquid armor that turns him blue and makes him bald. Oh, and all his flesh contains neural tissue, so his entire body is his brain. OH! and if you hurt him he can regenerate.

So, if you've forgotten that I'm describing *Iron man*, I wouldn't be surprised. I know Orson Scott Card is supposed to be a good writer, but this is utter shite.
