



Iron Man: Extremis

Warren Ellis (Writer), Adi Granov (Artist)

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It's the beginning of a new era for Iron Man, and he must face up to a new era of terrifying technologies that threaten to overwhelm fragile mankind! He must find out what Extremis is - and, more importantly, he must figure out who has unleashed it and what its emergence means for the world.

Collecting: *Iron Man* 1-6

Iron Man: Extremis Details

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From Reader Review Iron Man: Extremis for online ebook

Jonathan Terrington says

After my visit to the U.S.A, I may have brought back a combined total of 12 (or so) newly purchased novels and graphic novels. There was about a 50/50 split. The reason was that of course there are so many more comic book stores in America than Australia (and they are such cool places) and also because the Harvard Bookstore is also an amazing location... Either way that was my weak attempt at a segue into mentioning that I did buy this *Extremis* graphic novel while overseas. And it was completely worth it.

If Superman: Birthright is the best Superman story I have ever read then *Extremis* is the best Iron Man story I have ever read. Ignore the fact that it was partly inspirational for the whole Iron Man 3 movie concept; ignore the fact that it has some pretty grand artwork; ignore the fact that I just loved how it delved into the psychology of Iron Man and Tony Stark being one and the same. It was a combination of factors which lead to me liking this work on the whole.

The storyline of *Extremis* basically follows the idea of one man being turned into more than a man through biological upgrading. This 'superfreak' becomes (as you do) a man with a terrorist style agenda. I mean if I became a meta human that's what I'd do first of all...not. Anyway, the main point of this *Extremis* enhanced individual seems to be to contrast with Iron Man (a man who made himself more than human through a suit rather than biologically) - oh and he also exists to provide the main conflict of the plot in regards to power and responsibility. Either way there is an interesting contrast between biology and artificial technology created in the narrative of this graphic story.

And I'll stop right there because right now, any thoughts I have are caught at the very edge of my thinking and it's remarkably frustrating to try and grasp at them (not to mention that my laptop is running on 10 percent of it's power). But if you do want a great Iron Man story to read, my bet would be to go read *Extremis*. Maybe even read it in an extreme place or something...

Ariya says

"You're the nightmare version of me who couldn't see the future. Don't know how to use the tool." The line gives me chills. The plot is well-designed, short but gripping and so intense! It started with a high impression on Bleeding Edge Armor in MCU Infinity War and now I came to read more about nanotechnology armor Tony developed though his suit and ended up with a dark tale: cyborg (sort of) Tony merging into the suit to fight the terrorist. It's so delightful seeing a story, especially sci-fi dealing with non-human issue very well. A human with flesh and blood is overrated. If you want to move on and shed some lights for a better world, you have to become something else. That's terrifying and also thrilling for Tony's character arc. It makes me want to read about the comic version of Tony more.

Nicolo Yu says

These six issues that comprise the opening story arc on Warren Ellis and Adi Granov's re-launch of *Iron*

Man became the bible for Jon Favreau's two Iron Man movies. Ellis set out to re-establish Tony Stark as the chief technologist of Marvel Comics' twenty-first century and do this without being too fantastic but also grounded in reality. This is helped by the realistic computer generated art of Adi Granov.

Incidentally, Granov also served as a designer of the Iron Man film, so much of the images here are familiar and almost iconic because of the impact the movie made to pop culture.

When Iron Man first came out lumbering in his first bulky suit of armor in the pages of *Tales of Suspense* in the Sixties in a story crafted by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, the armored avenger was the pinnacle of medical and military technology at that time. A man with a mechanical heart suited in armor that was more powerful than many countries' entire armies. He was also a product of the time, a Cold War player and instrumental to his country's technological superiority over Communist Russia.

A lot of what made Iron Man relevant then ceased even before the dawn of the twenty-first. Communism had already fallen in its mightiest bastion, medical science has caught up to Stark's injury, allowing him to live again without his mechanical heart, and the world has continued to experience relative peace. So Ellis reinvents Iron Man, essentially pushing Stark into the next generation of human and machine interface; rewriting his human blueprint in over to vault over the wall humanity has become in order to become a faster and better Iron Man. The new enemy is terrorism, external and internal, an enemy that doesn't use conventional tactics but guerilla warfare on a global scale and an improved Iron Man would be better equipped to combat this threat. If there is one thing that remains unchanged, is that military spending still fuels innovation. Communism may be dead, but capitalism unfettered is a whole new ballgame.

This is the best story to begin reading the new Iron Man. Start with this one and continue with the other Ellis Iron Man stories and the other writers that followed him. The movie made Iron Man a superstar, but these six issues made him relevant again.

Alejandro says

Extremely good story!

This TPB edition collects the comic book issues #1-6 of "Iron Man", along with a special cover to tie-in with the first live-action movie of "Iron Man".

Creative Team

Writer: Warren Ellis

Illustrator: Adi Granov

REBOOTING IRON MAN

...I always wanted to be more. – Test pilot for the future.

Extremis is the kickin' point where the creative team of Warren Ellis and Adi Granov defined the comic book character of Iron Man for a new generation. Ellis' smart writing "updated" the technological topics used in the comic, along with Granov's computer-enhanced artwork was the right choice for a character that it's about being in the vanguard of technology.

Just think that this storyline is a year before of *Civil War*, helping to readers to realize that Tony Stark is more than just a man in an armor suit. Accessing to the brilliant mind of Tony Stark along with his nightmares and his hopes, but the more important what allows him to watch himself in the mirror.

Nowadays, Iron Man aka Tony Stark is one of the most popular characters in Marvel Universe thanks to the success of the live-action movies, but back then, when *Extremis* was published, even considering of being adapted into several animated series, he was hardly known by the masses, and in any case, he was to the audience...

...just a man in an armor.

But hardly Tony Stark is just that, he is one of the most complicated characters that Stan Lee ever created. Tony was introduced as a weapons manufacturer right in the middle of the Vietnam War, when the movement anti-militaristic was in its highest peak, where you couldn't think that a character such like that could endure. However, Stan knew better, Stan was as visionary as Tony Stark, choosing a character in direct conflict with audience as the hero of the story.

Tony Stark is a weapons' maker, womanizer and alcoholic, **BUT** he is also one of the most brilliant minds in the planet with a clear desire to bring the future to the humanity. His gifts and skills making him a hero, his defects making a human being, the merge of all, making one heck of character to read about.

In *Extremis*, Tony's background is "updated" to link with Afghanistan War and Al Qaeda, but keeping the core of the same intentions made by Stan, back then in the 60's.

Also, Ellis' expertise about cutting-edge science-fiction is able to keep ahead the Iron Man suit to avoid to feel "outdated" in comparison with real current technology.

GO TO EXTREMIS

He's a biological combat machine... and I'm just a man in an iron suit.

Extremis is set before that Tony would make public his identity as Iron Man.

Futurepharm Corporation developed a revolutionary substance called "Extremis" with qualities able to bring men to the next evolutionary step. Dr. Maya Hansen and Dr. Aldrich Killian were responsibles for the breakthrough formula.

"Extremis" fell in the power of an angry man with his own retaliation agenda against US Government, so Maya calls for help to Tony Stark, whom she met him, years before in a convention.

The most advanced mobile technology against the most advanced biological evolution.

Iron Man will have his hands full with this threat and soon enough he will realize that he doesn't have the upper hand in this conflict.

Aaron says

I can totally see why Jon Favreau wanted to base the first (and also the third) Iron Man movie off of this book. It's approached about as realistically as possible, with some fantastic, grounded character work for Tony Stark, and big, cool, tech-centered leaps forward for Iron Man. The Iron Man origin story in the first Iron Man is almost exactly the same as the one here, along with the same strong parallels to the War on Terror and our roles therein.

Beyond the similarities to the films, this is just a flat-out good Iron Man story. The enemy is a fairly random everyman, rather than a big, suped-up monster or some kind of Super Brain, which lends the story a groundedness that Iron Man can sometimes lack. There's a lot of weight-of-the-world kind of stuff with Tony Stark worrying about his culpability in wars, but it never reaches a point of feeling too burdensome. It just informs his decisions, as it should

One of my few gripes with this story is with the technology and bionics set up in it. Ellis goes through such pains to write a realistic, modern story here, that I was a little disappointed that the huge advances in tech (and I'm talking mind-numbing, MASSIVE advances), are given barely any explanation. They're just kind of stated as being possible, and then they happen. I'd be okay with this if they didn't then rely heavily on those same advances to further the plot along AGAIN, and in so doing create a variation on a technology that is just flat impossible based on what we were told about the first iteration. Look, this is basically impossible to describe without spoilers, but just trust that the technology is used as basically a literal deus ex machina instead of as a thoughtful use of technology that could potentially exist.

In any case, like New Avengers, which started right around the same time as this series, Extremis is probably most notable for fully bringing Iron Man into the 21st Century. It changed the armor, it changed the character of Tony Stark, and laid a solid, modern foundation for later writers to build upon. Matt Fraction owes a lot to Extremis for allowing him to do the incredible things he did with the series further down the line. To sound like the back of a book jacket, this is a must-read for Iron Man fans for sure.

Anne says

4.5 stars

So why am I reviewing a comic book that came out years ago?

Well, there's this movie that came out a while ago about a guy in a metal suit. *You may not have heard about it, 'cause I don't think it did very well at the box office...*

Ok. Seriously.

Because Warren Ellis' Extremis is the plot that the new Iron Man 3 movie is loosely based on.

For those of you who don't know, Ellis is considered almost god-like to many comic book fans. I've been incredibly unfortunate when it comes to getting my hands on his stuff, so Extremis is one of the few books that I've read by him. In fact, aside from a few of his Astonishing X-Men titles, this is it. But from the scant amount of material I've been able to read, I have to admit that I'm going to have to agree with my nerdy friends.

In case you were wondering, I am not a nerd. I only read comic books so my boys will think I'm cool. Really. Really!

Anyway, this was awesome! I loved the plot, which featured an extremist hillbilly who gets hold of a vial of experimental super-serum. Of course, nothing good ever happens when my fellow rednecks are introduced to sci-fi quality goods.

In the south we know not to give anyone with a trucker hat access to dangerous chemicals. Obviously this is not a well known fact in other parts of the country. And you say we're stupid...

Although to be fair, maybe he cleaned up a bit before his meeting with the evil scientists?

So Extremis is the name of the serum invented by a friend of Tony's, and she comes to him for help when it's stolen from her lab. The guy who has swallowed this concoction is an unstable man, who from the looks of it grew up in one of those freaky families that horde guns and canned vegetables in preparation for '**The Revolution**'. Apparently they took things a bit too far and it didn't end well for them. He saw his entire family gunned down by government agents when he was a child, and it left a nasty taste in his mouth.

Taking the serum changed him from the inside out, turning him into a super-soldier. Only not a cute and cuddly one like Captain America. He spews black tar stuff, shoots flames, and has Hulk-like strength. So to say Iron Man's battle with him didn't go well would be an understatement. By the time this guy is done with Tony he's half dead, and the only thing that might possibly save his life is...you guessed it...a dose of Extremis. And this is the decision that ushers in a whole new Iron Man. Instead of Tony just being a guy with a weaponized suit of armor, he's now a part of that suit. Very cool.

I thought the art was great, but if you're not a fan of the hyper-slick CGI artwork, you may not like it as much as I did. Personal preferences, etc...

If you're just a curious fan of the movies and not a regular graphic novel reader, I think this would be a good place to dip your toes in the water. Who knows? After you get a taste, you might find yourself standing inside your local comic book store trying to act like you're just picking up a few books for 'your kids'.

Not that I've ever done that...

This review can also be seen at

Crystal Starr Light says

Very impressed. A perfect place for someone new to Iron Man (or has only seen the movie) to start. It's thoughtful and interesting with extremely well drawn action scenes.

Thank you to the one who recommended this to me!

Sam Quixote says

A destructive new chemical compound called Extremis that gives the user superhuman powers is set loose onto a domestic terrorist with an agenda to bring down Washington. Cue Tony Stark, flying in to save the day! But even Iron Man isn't able to deal with this threat and must make a life altering choice. We also get the Iron Man origin story here that was used in the Iron Man film (with a few subtle tweaks).

I love Warren Ellis' writing whether it's his weird, original material or more mainstream projects like this book with Marvel. He always writes a very interesting, very fun script and "Extremis" is no exception. Tony Stark's intelligent, humourous nature is put across nicely as are moral arguments for scientists whose work can be used for both good and evil. Much was made of Adi Granov's art but I found it to be a bit bland. Iron Man looks good but the colours are very muted and the humans all look computer generated rather than natural. It wasn't terrible artwork but it was a long way from the brilliance I had been led to expect with this book.

"Extremis" was a great jumping off point for the Iron Man movie series and I think the producers would have done better if they'd chosen the hyper-powerful Timothy-McVey-type in this book than Jeff Bridges' giant robot-suited villain. It just seems like Ellis' villain is more edgy and interesting. The origin story here was also well handled, with Stark visiting Afghanistan and being taken prisoner by the Taliban. There's also a great throwback to the first issue of Iron Man, design-wise.

Overall, a very satisfying, well written superhero comic that I definitely recommend to fans both of the genre but also to those who aren't so that they can see why people enjoy these stories.

Katherine says

Yeah.. Milujme ho, uctívejme ho. :)

Je to milááášek!

Mike says

This is a story that redefines Iron Man for me for the 21st century. I've re-read this story multiple times, and every time it gives me chills and makes me respect Tony Stark a little more.

Moreso, it makes me respect Ellis as a writer more each time. This is a very tight, compelling read that wastes no time on filler panels, just keeping us sprinting alongside the characters trying to keep up.

Granov brings a very different technique to the visuals - balanced precariously between hyper-realistic and fluidly just-out-of-focus. It was jarring to see such clean visuals the first time I read this, but I've since found it is a great way to keep me focused on the core action & storyline.

Bookdragon Sean says

This really wasn't what I was expecting. The recent Iron man movies depict an entirely different character. Robert Downy Jr's Tony Stark is cocky, annoying and a little repulsive. The Iron man in here is cocky, introspective and completely compelling. I'm glad of it too because it meant the entire plot was character driven.

>The character 4.5/5- Tony Stark knows exactly what he is: he knows that his inventions have caused countless deaths. Thankfully, he isn't in denial about the simple truth. He sees himself for what he is. However, to offset such corruption, he is also a superhero. But that's not overly important. What matters is that Tony Stark wants to change the world; he wants to improve the human race through the development of technology rather than war machines.

So he is very aware of himself, and his potential to help others. But he needs money. That means to get money he needs to sell weapons. It's kind of ironic. In order to help the world, he must also create more chaos. Therefore, he isn't completely good. On a morality scale I think he is distinctively neutral. He's prepared to kill too. Those that are terrorists deserve no mercy in his eyes. He will do what's necessary without a second thought, which makes him stand out when compared to the other avengers. His battle with his doppelgänger delivered this, which brings me onto my next point.

>The Artwork 4/5- This was great; it really helped to deliver the speed of the action. There were entire spreads without captions, which made the fights feel brutal and quick:

I love the effects. Some of it felt realistic, and almost of a cinematic quality. It's full of life. It's by far some of the best action scene renditions I've seen in a comic so far. It came across with bloody efficiency.

>The Story 4/5- The plot was intense. Tony is fighting an enraged terrorist who has stolen a biochemical formula similar to Captain America's "super soldier serum." So the stakes were rather high. He initially defeats Iron man with absolute ease but Iron man comes to even the scales with some of his own serum and some armour upgrades. As the action ensues, Tony takes one good hard look at himself and realises who he is; he sees the nature of what is happening, and how he is being tested. He learns what he needs to do, and what he needs to become. This was a great. I actually want to read more.

Final Verdict-4/5

Jayanth says

My first comic book and I liked it. I'm all hyped up for next month's Infinity War movie. Some of the Avengers are going to bite the dust and I'm quite positive Iron Man is one of them, I mean, how the fuck can a human battle and survive Thanos with his Infinity stones.

I'm totally unaware of how the Marvel comic book universe is setup, but it looks like *Extremis* does a redo of Tony Stark's character arc I think, because it seems everyone is under the assumption that Iron Man is a robot and not a machine that Tony Stark suits up in and does all the work himself. So understandably, the public still have a negative opinion about Tony even though Iron Man has already teamed up with Avengers to save the world by this point. So it's kinda weird for me to get my head around how the comic book universe works. This story is apparently set 1 year before *Civil War*.

Coming to the comic itself, it was good. I mean, a lot of the dialogue and plot is cheesy and over the top, but I guess that's a norm in superhero comics, I'll probably find out because I'm going to be reading some comics that cover the events preceding the upcoming MCU's Infinity War. Tony Stark's character has a lot of emotional depth in this comic and it's so good to see how he tries to undo what he and his company has done in terms of weapons. A lot of external and internal conflict, all captivatingly illustrated. The art is awesome, I will need more time and comics to get used to the comic book Marvel superheros and the plots. It's overwhelming, the amount of comics out there for each plot and superhero.

Kemper says

Being a genius billionaire superhero isn't all fun and games apparently. Sometimes there are people who want to question your ethics just because you've got a past as an arms manufacturer, and then there's always the chance you'll get the ever loving crap kicked out of you when some bad guys get their hands on a new bio-weapon.

This is one of the best Iron Man stories I've read. It came out a few years before the first movie, and the films would use several of it's ideas and overall tone. The third movie in particular uses the basic story elements. It also brilliantly set up a phase of Tony Stark in the comics for Civil War and its aftermath through Matt Fraction's great run on *Invincible Iron Man*.

Aaron says

Tony Stark is called by his old friend Maya Hansen for help. Her boss, Aldrich Killian, just committed suicide due to his purposeful release of a version of the super-soldier serum known as Extremis. A domestic terrorist, Mallen, has taken it and undergone a frightening transformation, going on a rampage and killing dozens. Stark confronts Mallen as Iron Man and things do not go well, leaving Tony severely injured. Realizing he has reached his limit with his current technology, Tony reprograms Extremis and takes it himself.

There is a lot going on in this deceptively simple story, one which resets Tony Stark's vision and mission and resolves the central paradox of his character. How can he be a weapons manufacturer and still claim to be Iron Man for the benefit of mankind? He can't. Tony is shown struggling with his conscience as a weapons dealer, facilitating death, when he really wants to create positive change and prevent death as Iron Man. Tony doubles down on his commitment to his futurist persona and takes Extremis, changing inside of a techno-organic cocoon and internalizing the Iron Man suit inside of his own bones. It's really this insane transformation that drives this story and has resonated in a major way since then in both the comics and film versions of Iron Man. All three Iron Man movies have major components of this arc in them, with IM3 being very prominent, but none of them capture the shocking brutality and desperation that Tony goes through in

this tight story. Adi Granov's smooth, computerized designs and graphic action scenes fit perfectly. I'll be surprised if I find a better Iron Man arc than this one.

Terence says

Tony Stark has reached his technological limit on how to improve his suit.

Meanwhile a man has been dosed with an experimental technology that works similarly to the super soldier serum. Unfortunately this man is not a good man.

Extremis is on the loose and it's devastatingly effective.

It seems like everyone wants to make a new Captain America of sorts. The goal is bigger, faster, stronger, and more resilient than an ordinary man. It seems as though Maya Hansen has done it. In actuality her technological breakthrough is even better than Dr. Erskine was able to accomplish with the super soldier serum. Unfortunately it ends up in the *wrong* hands. The man who got it didn't have an Uncle Ben to give him the perfect speech or the moral fortitude to resist using his strength for his own gain. He was raised by extremists and he is extreme indeed.

I know they based Iron Man 3 off of this story, but whoever did just didn't get it. This story could have been copied panel for panel and it would have blown the atrocious Iron Man 3 out of the water. In case anyone is wondering I consider Iron Man 3 the worst movie in the MCU *by far*. I don't understand how this story could turn into the mess that was Iron Man 3.

Extremis was an innovative and intriguing story.
