



Avengers: Time Runs Out, Vol. 1

Jonathan Hickman , Jim Cheung (Illustrator) , Stefano Caselli (Illustrator)

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Avengers: Time Runs Out, Vol. 1 Details

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From Reader Review Avengers: Time Runs Out, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Kemper says

Captain America is seriously **pissed off** in this. I haven't seen an old man this angry since that time the local Cracker Barrel ran out of hashbrown casserole.

Cap's got good reason to be grumpy though. He's hunting some of his best friends down for their role in destroying alternate Earths to save our own, the Avengers are in shambles, the world government is cutting deals with super-villains, and he's finally starting to look like his real age.

The shape of Hickman's run is really starting to emerge, and he's doing a lot of very cool things here. The underlying problem of how to deal with the incursions of other Earths is a great moral dilemma as well as a threat, and he's doing a lot of great character stuff. I especially liked how he's turning Sunspot into someone I actually enjoy reading about after thinking he was just spoiled brat for years. The subplot that Roberto would just use his family fortune to buy out evil A.I.M. out was brilliant and hilarious.

Jeff says

There comes a time

When we heed a certain call

When the world(s) must come together as one

Yeppers, Mikey Jackson (et al)!

And in the Marvel Universe we're going to be able to have *only* one universe/one world and it's happening a lot faster than those egghead bastards, the Illuminati had foreseen. Everyone has ideas on how this whole multiverse mash up should be resolved and the Avengers titles have become a little fractured as a result. But give credit to Jonathon Hickman (et al), he does a pretty decent job weaving the disparate storylines contained here into a fairly seamless whole.

In other words, it's not too muddled.

Steve Rogers (formerly Captain America, formerly Nomad, formerly Cap Wolf) is now Old Man Rogers. Somehow he's now his actual age (90 something) not the dog years/super serum age. Aside from eating prunes every day, he's also pretty angry at the original Illuminati for playing him for a sucker by having Dr. Strange hypnotize him ("When you wake up, at the sound of a bell, you'll meow like a kitten"), so he wants to have those smarty pants jerks arrested. "That's for keeping this whole universe implosion thingy a secret! Rotting in a designated S.H.I.E.L.D. pen is too good for you, you bunch of Mensa rejects." Although his real response was probably, "F\$#@ you".

Ring-a-ling "Meow" "Here's a saucer of milk, Cap Kitty!"

Namor, that bastard, wants to take a more pro-active approach and he enlists a bunch of villains (Thanos, Maximus the Mad, Terrax, Black Swan, et al), calling themselves the Cabal. The Cabal travel to alternate

universes and take matters into their own hands and start wiping them out. Namor is getting kind of queasy with this because the Cabal is starting to enjoy themselves, so he turns to Dr. Doom for help. I'm paraphrasing Doom's answer here, but it's essentially: "Bite me, fish boy. Doom says, Shove it!!"

You have other groups who have a vague clue as to what's going on trying to do something as well. My advice: Ask Franklin Richards to whip up an alternate universe (or two). Pronto!

"We are the World. We are the..." (insert screeching record skipping noise here)

Andrew says

Eight months have passed since the Earth - shattering (ha ha) events of New Avengers Vol. 4. In the meantime in-between time, the Illuminati are in hiding, Wakanda has been destroyed, the Avengers have split in two, and the Cabal had gotten U.N. approval (!) to keep blowing up planets to their hearts' content. This volume is 90% table-setting for the rest of the "Time Runs Out" story arc, but it's all enjoyable table-setting. Sunspot, Smasher, and Cannonball are the most funny, human, and humane of Hickman's Avengers, so it's fun to spend time with them. There's also a hilariously awkward dinner scene between Namor and Dr. Doom (Doom's scheming! Doom's always scheming!). Along the way, Hickman makes some great points about how easy it is to ignore the evils that benefit us personally, and about how nobody is as special as they think they are. Even Reed Richards, Mr. Fantastic.

Robert says

Well...that was different.

If you're looking for persons of impressive anatomy in tight costumes punching evil-doers in the face, this is probably not the comic compendium for you. If, however, you have enjoyed the author's work on Avengers and New Avengers and want to see where all this was heading, and you don't mind heady meditations on expediency, trust, and a whole lot of pseudo-science, as well as some distinctive and visually appealing character-driven art, then go for it!

And, oh yeah- I wasn't sure I'd be OK with Old Man Steve Rogers, and I hate how those smartypants Illuminati seem to be trolling him non-stop...but I guess we'll see who gets the last laugh in Vol. 2!

Sud666 says

Avengers: Time Runs Out takes place after the events of Original Sin. I am relatively familiar with the events of Fear Itself, and somewhat familiar with Original Sin. But, it seems I shall have to go back and re-read them. This was a slightly confusing tale. It seems that the multiverse is coalescing into one (reminds me of the DC Infinite Crisis). The Avengers and something called the multiverse Avengers are integrated into SHIELD and trying to stop the Illuminati and the Cabal from destroying universes. At least I think. I just read this rather large volume and am still trying to figure this all out. I am debating whether to halt and see what I have missed, since I seem to have missed quite a bit. Thor for example is missing an arm and has an

axe, Captain America is black (is that the Falcon?), Steve Rogers looks like he's 70 years old. I mean I know he's been around since WW2, but in this he LOOKS like it. Oh and he runs SHIELD now. So if this seems familiar to you, then you are one up on me. So bearing in mind my ignorance I decided that this would be a good story (not great) if I knew what the Hell was happening. I will see if the upcoming Volumes shed more light on this. The writing is not bad. The art is good. If this were a stand alone, I might not like it as much since it requires some background. But I will not fault the writers for assuming I would have aforementioned background before starting this graphic novel. May I humbly suggest you do the same?

Anne says

Whew! *One* more volume down, and I'm closer than ever to finishing my quest to get through all of the Avengers stuff, and *finally* being able to pick up Secret Wars.
Yes. I know I'm woefully behind on my comic book reading...

Ok, the point *is*, I'm almost there! And, as an added bonus, this volume includes not only the **regular** Avengers issues, it also has New Avengers issues in it. Which is kinda great, because I thought I was going to have to go back and read that title separately.

gets up, does a goofy really cool dance

sits back down

Anyway. This was a pretty decent volume, but I'm not entirely sold on Hickman's vision. Kinda crossing my fingers that everything starts to come together a bit more towards the end.
Still. There were some very cool stand-out moments for me.

I don't wanna ruin anything for those of you who haven't read this yet, but I think most of you know enough about the main storyline that none of what I say next will be a spoiler...hopefully.

The title of the volume itself lets you know that the countdown has begun, and as the story progresses you can see the tension ratchet up as the stakes get higher and higher. It looks like some of these guys might not make it out of this event alive!

Dum, dum, duuuuum...

Yeah, yeah...that's the point of this whole debacle, so it's not *exactly* a surprising turn of events. But my curiosity is getting the better of me, and I just *have* to know how this all turns out!

Oh, and I have to admit that Hickman had the wool totally pulled over my eyes for one part of the storyline. Maybe I'm stupid, but I didn't see this coming:

(view spoiler)

So. Lots of fighting between heroes & friends, lots of mind-bendy stuff, and lots of weird characters that I'm not quite sure I care about all that much.

And now...on to the next volume!

I should probably mention I'm reading this all on Marvel Unlimited, so it's not costing me a fortune. Not sure if I would recommend buying any of these, unless you just like to collect the stuff.

Michael Church says

This one is starting to grow on me. It's a combination of Avengers and New Avengers. Considering I was only reading one of those, I have something of a handicap going in only knowing half of the story. That said, there was also apparently a time jump in there that could've thrown me for a loop anyway.

I still like the concept and I like that there are so many different approaches to it. Honestly, I picked the Illuminati series because of the Infinity Gems, but considering they haven't been around since something like Vol 2, the team has become the main focus for me. They're all fragmented and there are new members I had no idea would be getting involved. It's honestly a little odd to have the Avengers infighting again (Team A thinks Team B is wrong and will stop at anything to defeat them! Team B knows they are right! And Team C is out in the Savage Land trying to figure out what actually happened!)

I'm really excited to see how everything plays out. They've finally started trying to get to the root of the problem. Honestly, I got a little tired of just running into all of these different cosmic entities and groups that apparently had some huge stake in the incursions without knowing what it actually was. That said, I have a sinking feeling that more of them than not will turn out to be regular run of the mill villains with no real depth.

There is a lot of very self important talking that goes on, too. Hickman is trying VERY hard to make a book that seems meaningful. It may turn out to be, but at this point it seems like a log of bluster. I am enjoying this. And it's one of those big stories that will actually justify a coming event. Secret Wars is going to be an outcome of this that seems to really fit with what's happened and I'm interested to see how everything plays out. Off to a decent start and eager to keep going.

Ran says

I read this volume back in January. I promptly put it down and forgot about it. Trying to verbally explain

what the hell Hickman's doing with *Avengers*, *New Avengers*, and *Infinity* is exhausting, especially when your audience lacks visual diagrams and general interest in comics.

Maybe I need new friends

But I picked it back up six months later for a re-try. Maybe I wasn't ... engaged enough in January? Maybe my opinion on the story (whatever the hell that story might be) would be more forgiving? Maybe, maybe.

In short, it hasn't. But thank goodness for those diagrams otherwise I would have lost the bare threads of this *thing* entirely. I understand that basically Hickman is weaving together disparate stories inside and outside of *Avengers*, but I think I just don't like it. It's not entirely fair, but ... I hate this story. The more I read in Hickmanverse, the more I'm not looking forward to Secret Wars.

Mike says

Finally, after some laughably mediocre lead-in comics, I'm here to read The Good Stuff. The resolution to nearly all of Jonathan Hickman's career at Marvel - tying together every crazy-assed idea he's committed to the glossy page. (((please don't suck, please don't suck)))

Hickman does great jump-ahead, and this book is no exception. Rather than all the tedium of incremental decisions and action, we just get to the meaty changed-state where many of the players have split up, taken on new challenges and had kids?!?

[That's Izzy post-partum? In the immortal words of my fellow Shallow Comics Reader Anne, ROWR!]

Or grew a Thor beard?

[Hyperion is going native in the Savage Land - next it'll be a barbed wire tattoo on his bicep]

And got new B&W costumes!

These days though, who would've expected (view spoiler)? That's the world as it should be in normal times, but not how it's been lately. And somehow I prefer the lately world to the world-in-balance. Which says something unnatural about me I suspect. Hell, I'm the guy who likes Maximus more and more - he's seeming the only sane one in the crowd, and I guess that means they're coming to lock me in a rubber room.

At least Captain Britain knows the score with these douchebag heroes:

[You can trust him, he's got a non-hipster beard]

I sure do like an arrogant Hank McCoy too:

[Grandpa Rogers just involuntarily soiled his leather pantaloons]

And apparently Mike Deodato **really** likes to make sure Captain Marvel has maximum curves:

Y'know what though? The most compelling thing about this is all the in-the-shadows action that's going on - all of our favourite heroes and villains getting covered in shades of grey, trying to figure out each other while they all run around staving off the inevitable.

The **tone** of this book is like some 70's espionage flick, where everyone was still reeling from the implications that their God-president was not only fallible but inevitably a pawn in the big world game. Feels a little like the Bourne universe too - almost no one to trust, no solid clue who's really to blame for all the shit.

Sesana says

It is very probably all my fault that I didn't like this more. I haven't kept up on Hickman's work, much less everything that was intentionally leading towards this exact point. So I'm behind. I didn't really know where we were going in, and I didn't really know everybody who was involved. I've read just enough Marvel books that I had a vague sense of what, exactly, the coming catastrophe was. But I had to catch up as I read, and that's my fault. Maybe I should have read all those other books, or at least read some decent summaries online before I began. If you're starting out in my position, I would highly suggest that you do what I should have done.

All that said, I was not nearly as confused as I probably should have been. I'm fairly sure that I was able to catch up on the most important things, though who knows what nuances I'm actually missing. I may not know all of the involved characters well, but I know enough of them that I can basically follow the action. So even starting way behind, I felt like I was able to keep up with what is actually a fairly complex story.

Marvel has really been selling the line that Hickman has been building up to this story for years, and actually? I can't say that I'm convinced that he hasn't. It may be a slight exaggeration, but he's obviously put in an incredible amount of work in laying out this story. This may actually be why Hickman's Avengers haven't really worked for me to this point. I was reading them as I would, say, the average run on X-Men, but this is something totally different. Maybe in a few years, I'll go back and read all of Hickman's Avengers work beginning to end, with no breaks. I'd bet good money that it will hold up a lot better for me.

There's a long way to go before this resolves, and who knows if it will pan out. But I'm more than willing to stick around and see how this all goes.

Joseph says

I honestly don't know how I feel about all of this.

Back-handed shenanigans, heroes working for SHIELD, worlds dying in order save "ours," it's all iffy to me.

At least in this volume, Hickman gives some suspense and drama. I don't quite know what all is going on, or

how this is being addressed in the non-Avengers books, so that might explain it.

Still, we know there is an endgame in sight: Secret Wars. Going to be interesting going forward.

Charlos says

Prelude to Secret Wars!

Which would be good if I had been reading the books up to this point, and knew what was going on. But I didn't and don't, so I'm not invested in what's going on here. Maybe it will be more meaningful on the other end?

Michael Hicks says

Overall, I've been hugely impressed with Jonathan Hickman's run on *Avengers*. For epic, brainy, complex and complicated storytelling in comics, few do it better than Hickman. Throughout his run on both *Avengers* and *New Avengers*, he's been telling a massive, multi-year, multi-title sci-fi story on a cosmic scale.

The multiverse is collapsing, and a strange sight is appearing in the sky - a second Earth. These incursion events, in which two Earth's occupy the same space, guarantees death. Either both Earth's will perish, or one must be sacrificed to save the other. This is a moral quandary unlike any other threat previously faced by Earth's Mightiest Heroes, and a splinter faction of the Marvel Universe's biggest brains have formed a secret council, the Illuminati, to develop a weapon capable of destroying the alternate Earth's invading our reality.

For two years worth of monthly comics, Hickman has been leading the Avengers toward their final end-game. Following a cataclysmic decision by the Illuminati, *Time Runs Out, Volume 1* jumps the story forward in time by eight months. The Avengers are now operating under the control of S.H.I.E.L.D, and the Illuminati, led by Reed Richards, are on the run, and Tony Stark is MIA.

As the first book in a four-volume cycle that's meant to put a big old pin in Hickman's run (and set the stage for his grand finale, *Secret Wars*), there's a lot of building to be done in this collection. By jumping readers forward in time and scattering characters to the wind, there's an immediate tension, and a good deal of confusion, as to what's happened in the missing time and where this is all headed. And because so much of this title is about laying that initial groundwork for the story to follow, it's not completely satisfying on its own. This is far from a stand-alone read in terms of the Time Runs Out arc, but readers jumping on board Hickman's run with this particular volume would be woefully lost. It's been a while since I've read the previous *Avengers* issues, and even I was a little bit lost. Again, though, some of that is due to the time displacement and the nature of the story.

Now, onto volume two...

Cheese says

I love what Hickman is cooking up here. I think he might be onto a winner.

It's reminds me of civil war.

Aildiin says

Took me a little while to catch up as this takes place 8 month after the last Avengers/New Avengers book but once I was immersed this was a fun read.

I think at this point it's fair to say that Hickman run on Avengers is my favorite Avengers run ever....
