



Avengers, Volume 5: Adapt or Die

Jonathan Hickman (Writer), Esad Ribic (Artist), Salvador Larroca (Artist)

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In the wake of *Infinity*, Captain America and Iron Man plan for the next version of the Avengers. But they soon discover that a runaway planet is on a collision course with Earth! Can a visitor from the future help save the day? Then: It worked for the X-Men. Would we be so crass as to do it again? Yes, yes we would! It's a blast from the past as Marvel introduces the All-New Avengers! But as the Science War overtakes the world(s), what is the secret behind this time-tossed team? When the answers are revealed, you'll wish they remained hidden! As Bruce Banner puts together the pieces and confronts Iron Man, the collision of the Avengers and the New Avengers is imminent!

Collecting: *Avengers* 24-28

Avengers, Volume 5: Adapt or Die Details

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From Reader Review Avengers, Volume 5: Adapt or Die for online ebook

GrilledCheeseSamurai says

Meh. Probably a 2.5 if I could.

I suppose *Infinity* is a pretty hard story to follow up. This volume did nothing for me.

Blah, blah, blah-fucking-blah.

Realistically, I was thinking that since *Infinity* was over I would just give this series a rest until *Secret Wars* starts up in the spring; Especially with how lackluster the majority of the issues in this one were. That last issue though, it hooked me - the tension between Banner and Stark made for some very interesting story telling. So now I have to keep pushing on.

I suppose I owe the Avengers that much since they consistently save the world I live on.

Thanks for that by the way...

J'aime says

After a fun break for Infinity, Hickman is back to building his Incursion story. Everything dies, blah blah. Since all the Earths of every universe are eventually going to collide, it was only a matter of time before we met some evil Avengers. In this case, the meddling of A.I.M. is what brings them to Earth 616. A.I.M. is also revealed to be tied to the Mapmakers – a powerful race that Black Swan mentions.

This volume was a muddled mess. In addition to the two Avengers teams going head to head, we have a time traveler from the future (how is there a future if everything dies?) here to warn Tony Stark about a rogue planet about to collide with Earth. Meh. What makes this planet so dire when all the universes are colliding anyway?

Overall, the only thing that made this volume worth reading was seeing Banner figure out that something was up and his introduction to the Illuminati. The incursion storyline is just not that compelling since our heroes can do nothing but talk about it.

Anne says

I liked the story in this one *much* better than I have for the previous volumes. Somehow it seemed less *vague* and *trippy*, and more like a real superhero story.<--Just my opinion!

For those of you who felt that Marvel hasn't showcased A.I.M. enough in its comics, *this* volume should make you happy. Plenty of action with the cool scientists in beekeeper outfits!
In fact, it's their meddling that brings the main storyline to a head.

Ever wonder if *all* of the Avengers in the multiverse are good guys? Or, more importantly, if some of them never updated their costumes?

No? Just me?

K. Whatever.

I don't want to spoil anything, so I can't say much, but there are some fantastic scenes toward the end between Tony & Bruce that are not to be missed.

Seriously. Don't miss it.

Anyway, in this particular volume, it seems like Hickman is going somewhere coherent with the plot, instead of kinda-sorta-maybe hinting at some Big Event that was in the works. Sure, we all know what he was up to *now*, but if I had read it back in the day, I probably wouldn't have put the whole Secret Wars thing together.

Ok. One more volume down, and seventy-bjillion left to go. Bring it on, Hickman!

Jesse A says

This series keeps getting stronger and is obviously building to epicness.

Andrew says

"Heroes fight evil versions of themselves" is just about the oldest story in the superhero book. Of course, this being Hickman, he ups the civilian casualty rate considerably. I get that "even heroes can't save us!" is a recurring theme in his run, but seriously...his Avengers are starting to seem really incompetent. It feels like every issue they allow at least 200 civilians to get obliterated. If I was S.H.I.E.L.D. I'd seriously consider looking to hire a new team of super-powered freaks...

Anyways, this silly plot springs from the A.I.M. storyline from previous volumes of Avengers, but its main purpose is to serve as a bridge between this title and Hickman's New Avengers. The final issue here, where [REDACTED] finds out about the Illuminati's existence and uses the evil version of [REDACTED] to confront [REDACTED] over it, makes the whole thing worthwhile. It possesses a sense of tension and purpose that the preceding issues lack. It also won't make a lick of sense if you haven't read at least the first volume of New Avengers, so get on that if you haven't already.

ART NOTE: Esad Ribic is the best. Salvador Larocca is better here than in previous things I've read.

Jason says

I'm a bit of a sucker for alternate reality stories. So I enjoyed this one. Post-Infinity Avengers are less meander-y than the overwhelming majority of Hickman's run. His stories can get too big and abstract with no end in sight. This one at least had more contained and focused sub stories. The larger narrative continues to grow.

Travis Duke says

playing catch up on this series has backfired because I already read Secret wars. Oh well I still enjoyed the story. Hickman does a fine job at setting up for an epic earth colliding event. Salvatore Larroca is a great artist, I love his attention to detail and crisp line work. AIM is back at it and messing with science they shouldn't be. Tony is keeping secrets and this doesn't surprise anyone including Banner. The multiverse is in trouble and its gonna take everything to save it, or ya know.... it will all just fail.

Chelsea says

Do yourself a favor. Don't read this.

Derek says

This is a great story, but a bit all over the place.

Jeff says

F@%king A.I.M. scientists!

Instead of screwing around in the multiverse, you'd think they could do something that could benefit humanity – like coming up with a watermelon flavor that doesn't taste or smell like unwashed armpits.

Amiright, Anne?!?

In the meantime, over at Avengers Tower, the Avengers are having a barbeque; Thor is the barbeque master (and I'm sure he didn't forget to bring plates, utensils, napkins, etc.):

Mmm. Fimbulvinter pie....

But the cookout gets interrupted by word that a planet's going to smash into the Earth. *sigh*

"Hey Spider-Woman, are you going to finish that burger?"

Back to A.I.M.: 'Cause they're geniuses they've ended up bringing in the original Avengers from another universe.

Random citizen to other-universe Thor: "Thor can my wife take a picture with you?"

Other-universe Thor (raises hammer and obliterates random citizen – and most of the gawkers): Verily, I don't doeth selfies, bitches. Kneel before me for I am a freaking GOD."

Memo to A.I.M. scientists – These Avengers are evil. Do something.

They send in a squad of "explorers", but they don't do a very good job of cleaning up their mess.

A dead Henry Pym...Oh, look over there, is that something shiny on the ground?

The bestest part of the evil Avengers is that Banner isn't a smarty-pant doctor, but just some sociopath. He's remote controlled by the other Avengers, who each take turns pointing him at random targets. Whoopee!

The real and angry Bruce Banner gets wind of the "universes colliding" plotline in Hickman's New Avengers title and has a face-to-face with Tony Stark. Does he turn green and make a collage of Stark's innards on meeting room table or is the situation resolved amicably?

Bottom line: Not as dreary and mind-numbing as Mr. Pseudo-science-boy Hickman's other Avenger's work, but you can take your fun wherever you can.

Daily life at A.I.M. (Hey, they're a sovereign nation, so bite me!)

Anthony says

It starts off really good, with the part drawn by Esad Ribic, but when it gets into the adaptoids storyline line, it drops a little. But then it ends pretty great. It's not a very consistent volume from Hickman, and it did have me worried that the quality of his Avengers was beginning to slip. But when you get to the end, and you see what he was planning all along it all makes sense. There's pay off. Both of his Avengers titles are also starting to spill into each other, which is pretty exciting.

I'm also not very keen on Salvador Larroca as an artist. His work on Iron Man with Fraction was fine, and I tolerated it because the stories were often good enough to look past it, but even on THE AVENGERS, he's a little boring. His stuff just doesn't jump off the page much and excite me. I want Opena back, please.

Kemper says

That's better.

This is the first collection of this Hickman run that I enjoyed for the most part. It mainly featured characters I recognize, it's got a cool big threat of a rogue planet hitting Earth, there's a kick ass scene of Bruce Banner struggling mightily to keep his cool while confronting Tony Stark about some sneaky shenanigans he's been up to, Thor grills up a whole bunch of meat, and we get some evil Avengers from an alternate dimension. If they would have had goatees I would have given this another star.

You can see the whole collapsing multiverse threat that will lead into *Secret Wars* building up, and that's the main reason I'm interested. Hickman is good at doing stories about the dark side of science in a way that's both wacky and terrifying like in *The Manhattan Projects*, and here he makes great use of AIM as a group of villainous scientists who use murder as one form of peer review.

Mike says

[evil Avengers (hide spoiler)]

Nicolo Yu says

This is an important arc in Hickman's Avengers run as it moves away from the Infinity crossover fallout and begins the inevitable march to the last issue of the run. Hickman's overall Avengers story in both *Avengers* and *New Avengers* starts to converge.

As a story on its own merits, it is a satisfying read, specially when one can read all issues in one sitting. I find the experience reading as a trade better than waiting for the biweekly issues. The story is nothing extraordinary but I do love the prelude chapter to this story-line, a standalone story which pushed a lot of buttons, all of them good.

The prelude chapter, of which the cover to the issue was made the cover of the trade is your typically Hickman story; high science and a Franklin Richards appearance. I am starting to think that the future Franklin Richards is an avatar of sorts for Hickman the writer. That issue was pretty good. Tony being a Stark and Thor manning the grill. This was indeed a satisfying read.

Joseph says

In this collection, the Avengers/A.I.M./S.H.I.E.L.D all come across the ~~Crime Syndicate of America from Earth-3~~ some bad Avengers from a parallel world. The highlight is a sociopathic Bruce Banner who finds his way into some padded cell the Earth-616 Bruce Banner has set up as a hiding place. "Our" Banner figures out the other guy's deal and belts him, then heads off to Avengers Tower and confronts Tony Stark on what

is going on with the Illuminati and the new Avengers team Tony and Cap are assembling.

This confrontation is in the last issue and makes the entire book worth reading. The stuff with A.I.M., et al., is actually kinda boring and also involves some kind of planetoid that has been hurled through time and space at Earth. A ridiculous and complicated device is used to somehow trap this planetoid in the same time/space, um, space of this Earth, ostensibly to be used as a weapon by Stark. It really sucked that there was no drama about this planetoid. Almost a month is skipped between it's discovery and elimination as a threat, three pages or so later. It isn't until the Banner/Stark showdown that the reader really feels there is something of urgency happening in the background. This makes it hard to read the preceding part of the story. With the previous Incursions that have happened, for no one else to know about it seems rather silly to me.

Anyway, I guess this is a 2.5/5 read for me. I really want Hickman to make me feel concerned about Earth-616 and the coming Incursion, like he does (usually) over in New Avengers. For now, though, it's on the back burner and I can't understand why our intrepid heroes would allow that. *shrugs*
