



Upgrade Soul

Ezra Clayton Daniels

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Upgrade Soul

Ezra Claytan Daniels

Upgrade Soul Ezra Claytan Daniels

For their 45th anniversary, Hank and Molly Nonnar decide to undergo an experimental rejuvenation procedure, but their hopes for youth are dashed when the couple is faced with the results: severely disfigured yet intellectually and physically superior duplicates of themselves. Can the original Hank and Molly coexist in the same world as their clones?

In *Upgrade Soul*, McDuffie Award-winning creator Ezra Claytan Daniels asks probing questions about what shapes our identity-Is it the capability of our minds or the physicality of our bodies? Is a newer, better version of yourself still you? This page-turning graphic novel follows the lives of Hank and Molly as they discover the harsh truths.

Upgrade Soul Details

Date : Published September 18th 2018 by Lion Forge

ISBN : 9781549302923

Author : Ezra Claytan Daniels

Format : Paperback 272 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Science Fiction, Fiction

 [Download Upgrade Soul ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Upgrade Soul ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Upgrade Soul Ezra Claytan Daniels

From Reader Review Upgrade Soul for online ebook

Rebecca says

Poised somewhere between science fiction and horror, this is a terrific graphic novel about an interracial elderly couple – Molly, a research scientist, and Hank, who longs to revive his father’s comic book series featuring a black hero, Slane – who offer themselves up as benefactors and guinea pigs for an experimental procedure to upload their memories to physically improved clones. Things go awry, of course, forcing everyone involved to rethink the nature of memory and loss and consider what importance appearance versus disfigurement has. The book is long enough to have the strong story line and characters that would appeal to a fiction reader who’s new to graphic novels. (It only took me so long to get through because I was reading it on my computer screen and kept forgetting to open up the file in ADE.)

Sara says

Note: I received an Advance Reading Copy of this book through NetGalley for an honest review.

I've been trying to read more graphic novels/comics lately, because I know they contain some great stories. I just have a hard time focussing on both image and text and tend to forget the images after a while. But I keep trying, and some works make it really easy. *Upgrade Soul* by Ezra Clayton Daniels (story and art) is one of those works.

Hank and Molly Nonnar, a writer and a scientist support scientific research. When they are approached with the opportunity to back a project and to be test-subjects themselves, they are intrigued. The project promises rejuvenation with the added benefit of fixing all the defects life has thrown at them over time such as arthritis and diabetes. However, something goes wrong during the procedure, and they weren't told the whole story, which leaves them weak and old, with clones that are superior in every way except physical appearance. That leaves them and the scientists to figure out how to continue, who they are and what they want for the future.

I was initially drawn to this book because of the science fiction element in the story of a longevity experiment. But what grabbed me was the humanity, the emotional consequences of what has happened and the solutions for the future. I don't want to give anything away, but all I can say, read this. It is touching, it is great, it shows human character (both good and bad, but most importantly, real). Five out of five stars.

David Schaafsma says

A two volume science fiction story about an older couple who elect to go through a procedure to extend their lives, and of course it goes wrong, they become these weird blobby creatures, where cloning is also involved. So it's sci fi, but also a kind of futuristic horror. Of course as you get older many of the social media ads are about miracle drugs to help extend your life, live forever. And billions of dollars are spent annually on plastic surgery, skin care, and so on. Either way, some kind of constant change in who you are is inevitable.

So is love possible as you change (uh, yes)? Is love even possible even if your newly cloned self is very, very different? What is the source of truly meaningful relationships? Is it found in physicality, chemistry, or in other kinds of connections/commitments? In the soul, maybe? These are perennial and not new sci fi/AI questions, but Daniels' characters are interesting and unique. We meet others--besides the older couple--

seeking the treatment, one who has been physically disfigured? Is it different in this case to seek an "upgrade"? Worth checking out.

Amerie says

Whew. My heart still hurts.

Laura says

What is life? What is a soul? What is a clone?

All of these questions and more are asked in this book about a couple trying to gain another go-round on the wheel of life, by having their souls put into new bodies, that in theory, will be better, younger, and stronger than their current ones.

However, it doesn't quite work out that way.

Not only do their new bodies not grow the way they are supposed to, but their old bodies are still alive and kicking.

Very disturbing graphic novel on the nature of what makes you, well, you. Both the clone as the original want their lives. Who deserves it? And is it ok to get a new life, in a body that is considered hideous?

Thanks to Netgalley for making this book available for an honest review.

Maia says

This comic pulls no punches. It's a complicated and emotional story of human scientific daring and utter folly. The lead characters are Hank and Molly Nonnar, a couple who have been married for 45 years. Molly is a doctor and researcher, and Hank is an author who writes novels about the popular sci-fi character his father invented in the 1950s. A big movie deal gives him the funds to begin investing in a ground-breaking, but under-tested, experiment: a way to rejuvenate and improve the body at the cellular level. Hank and Molly sign up as the first human test subjects, and the results are stranger and more devastating than either could ever have imagined. Gorgeously drawn and luminously colored.

Jane says

Updated (Sept. 19/18) Apparently this book has now been optioned to be turned into a film. I would definitely check that out -- I think it's likely that the things I found confusing could be better explained in a film version.

Upgrade Soul has an interesting premise: an elderly couple decide to undergo an experimental treatment but it goes very wrong, leaving them disfigured and questioning whether they made the right decision.

I'm not entirely sure how to rate this book. On the one hand, the story was unique and the idea was interesting. On the other hand, the frequent flashbacks and art style left me confused at times. I didn't want to race through this, but I also didn't want to abandon it. So a middle of the road ranking from me with a 2.5 rounded up to 3 stars.

Thank you to NetGalley and Diamond Book Distributors for providing me with a DRC of this book.

Diane Hernandez says

Upgrade Soul is a thought-provoking new graphic novel about the nature of humanity and the dangers of technology.

Hank and Molly are rich and elderly. They decide to do an experimental medical treatment that promises to make them young and healthy again. Problems occur. Ethical questions arise. What does it mean to be human? Is it the mind or the body that defines humanity? What is the impact of the changes brought on by aging? The unexpected turns of the plot are the best part of Upgrade Soul. To avoid spoilers, I won't say more.

Wow, I adored this philosophical graphic novel! It makes the reader think about many profound issues that resonate long after the novel is finished. It also won a Dwayne McDuffie Award for Diversity in Comics. Upgrade Soul is highly recommended. 5 stars!

Thanks to the publisher, Lion Forge, and NetGalley for an advanced copy.

Ana says

Upgrade Soul is a thought-provoking take on risky 'medical' experimenting, on being your 'best,' strongest self, and the search for eternal youth via some key ethical issues in a way that I haven't seen done before. For someone who studies identity, selfhood, and the comics medium, this graphic novel was nothing short of impressive.

Molly and Hank. Manuela and Henry. Originals and clones, more different than they are alike. The aftermath of their failed procedure is interspaced with flashbacks, which makes it easier for the reader to digest the very heavy subject matter. As one of the characters says at some point, "there's some seriously screwed up stuff going on here." More than the overall screwed-up-ness, there are some shocking turns the story takes.

The art style with the brightly washed panels reminded me of the 80s horror/sci-fi comics and the overall atmosphere and pacing resemble that of a psychological thriller. The lettering, however, made it difficult for me to read, even on a big screen. I am curious to see it in print.

Thanks to NetGalley, Diamond Book Distributors, Lion Forge & the author for the opportunity to read a digital ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Samantha Colwell says

This is, without a doubt, the best graphic novel I've ever had the pleasure of reading. It was sharp, intelligent, horrifying and graphic. The phrase "I couldn't put it down" hardly does it justice. I'm a sucker for any media which doesn't pander to an audience; books that presume the audience is intelligent, rather than treating us like spoon to mouth consumers. Ruminating on the implications of Daniels work is going to be my favorite part of finishing the novel--the thought experiment carries on.

Hank and Molly are undergoing a very dangerous procedure to cleanse their cells. A scientific breakthrough makes it possible for their youth to be reintroduced, the longevity of their already long-lived lives to renew, with ever improving mental faculties and physical abilities. What would you be if you had more time to live, were as fit as any athlete, and could remember every memory in your personal history like it happened yesterday?

Like all brave experiments, this one goes awry. Kenny, the sheepish scientist in charge of the transformation, leaves out one particularly important aspect of the rejuvenation process: Hank and Molly's bodies aren't the ones renewing. They're being cloned. As the experiment continues, only one set of Hank and Molly can survive, but which will it be?

So.Much. Humanity. In such a small volume. I wish that there was more already, and yet the story completes itself to a perfect crescendo. You won't believe how engrossed you can be in a graphic novel until you read this.

Michelle Morrell says

A tale of aging and self, science and society. And who doesn't love science gone bad?

Kathrin says

This book was provided to me by NetGalley and Diamond Book Distributors. All opinions are my own. Pub Date 18th Sep 2018.

A cell rejuvenation experiment has unanticipated consequences and leaves us with quite a moral dilemma. Too be honest, the art work here was not very appealing to me, but I thought the premises of the story was really innovative and smart. Especially the different behavior of the two clones relative to their originals was very interesting along with the thoughts on ethics in research.

Melanie (Perpetually Reading) says

Daniel's graphic novel, "Upgrade Soul" uses beautiful graphics and dialogue to create an engaging story that's hard not to talk about.

This story features an elderly couple, Molly and Hank, who undergo a advanced, untested procedure to get new, younger bodies. However, they soon learn that the whole operation is not what it seems. It begs the

question, if our consciousness was a collection of our thoughts, memories, and experiences, can we just "upload" them into a new body? If we do, are we who we were before?

I loved how the story cuts back and forth between the past and present. The structure not only gives the reader a thorough background of why Molly and Hank decided on undergoing this risky procedure, but also that this whole situation could've been avoided. It made me want to reach over, pat them on the back and tell them that everything just looks greener on the other side.

It was very refreshing to have such a straightforward path through this story. Daniels does a great job presenting a difficult and complicated idea in a easy to understand form, and I appreciated the fact that I didn't have to think too hard while I was reading. I was able to enjoy the ride, and reflect on it myself afterwards.

In all, this novel was a solid 5-star read, and I'd love to see more of Daniel's work in the future.

Kayla (onthefritz) says

An older couple volunteers for an experimental procedure, one that is promised to genetically purify the body's contaminants to produce an upgraded self, one with higher potential. This procedure isn't all it seemed to be, and unfortunately goes wrong.

My mind is simply blown. This comic is what science fiction is all about. It surprised me, made me question things, and provoked all types of emotions. This story sucked me in and had me captivated the entire time. If you like sci-fi, this is a must read!!

Barbara (The Bibliophage) says

Ezra Clayton Daniels is both author and illustrator of the new graphic novel, Upgrade Soul. In it, Hank and Molly decide to undergo an experimental procedure to regain their youth.

Daniels tells how this long-married couple makes such a momentous decision. He shows what kind of people they are, and also how they came to have the money to invest in such a thing. To do so, he uses both present-day images and flashbacks.

As you might imagine, the process doesn't go quite as planned. The "medical" team might not be quite as qualified as Hank and Molly thought. The process might not be quite as proven. And if it had been, the novel wouldn't have been so thought-provoking.

Conceptually, Daniels discusses some pretty intense topics. Lots of graphic novels have death as one of their themes. But not often as such a realistic impulse to spurn death and regain youth. Since my husband signed up last week for Medicare, thoughts about aging are very much on my mind. So Upgrade Soul was a good match for an evening's reading.

Hank, Molly, and their caregivers also confront the question of identity, and what it means to be a person. If personhood includes the ability to both live and die, as well as think and feel, then the experimental results do indeed have a soul. Or do they? Are they just an extension of Hank's and Molly's souls? Heavy stuff, actually.

Musician and lyricist Tori Amos puts it this way, “I think you have to know who you are. Get to know the monster that lives in your soul, dive deep into your soul and explore it.”

Daniels conjures brightly washed images, alternately stark and almost shocking. He draws Hank and Molly with empathy and care. They’ve remained in my mind’s eye even after finishing the novel.

My conclusions:

Upgrade Soul is a compelling story, and worth an evening’s time. I appreciate Daniels’ ability to discuss the process of aging and the desire to reverse time. He takes an innovative and intelligent approach to both topics. At the same time, he creates a suspenseful story.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to NetGalley, Lion Forge, Diamond Book Distributors, and the author for the opportunity to read a digital ARC in exchange for this honest review. Anticipated publication date is September 18, 2018.

Originally published on my blog, TheBibliophage.com.
