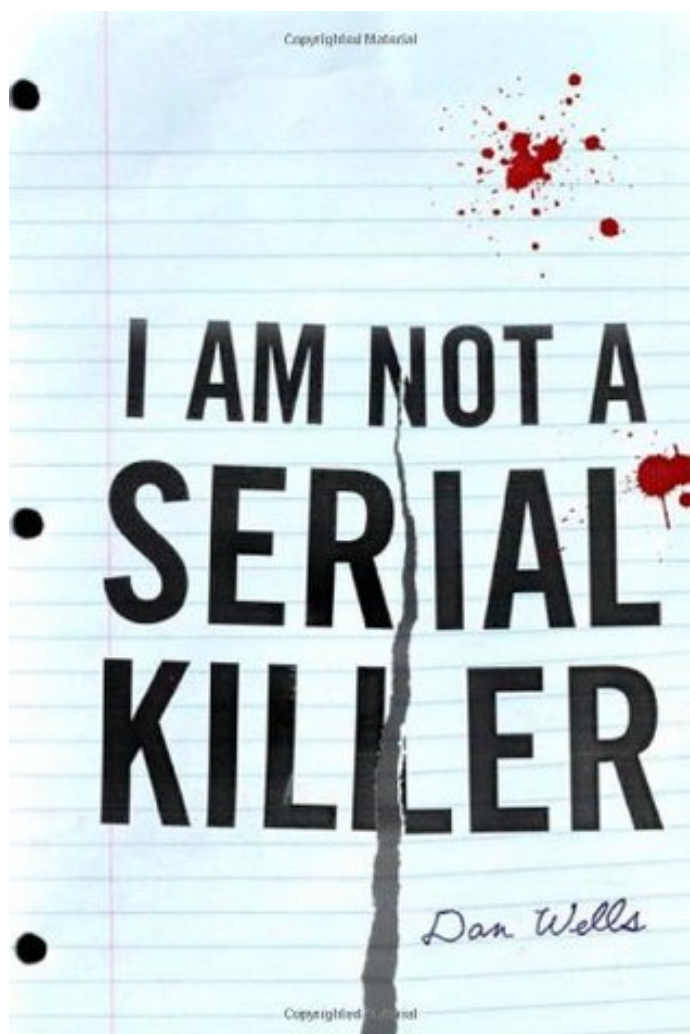

Dan Wells

I Am Not A Serial Killer (John Cleaver #1)



Title: I Am Not A Serial Killer (John Cleaver #1)

Author: Dan Wells

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Description

John Wayne Cleaver is dangerous, and he knows it.

He's spent his life doing his best not to live up to his potential.

He's obsessed with serial killers, but really doesn't want to become one. So for his own sake, and the safety of those around him, he lives by rigid rules he's written for himself, practicing normal life as if it were a private religion that could save him from damnation.

Dead bodies are normal to John. He likes them, actually. They don't demand or expect the empathy he's unable to offer. Perhaps that's what gives him the objectivity to recognize that there's something different about the body the police have just found behind the Wash-n-Dry Laundromat---and to appreciate what that difference means.

Now, for the first time, John has to confront a danger outside himself, a threat he can't control, a menace to everything and everyone he would love, if only he could.

Insightful reviews

Kemper: Ever since Hannibal Lector flirted with Clarice Starling by telling her about his favorite recipes, it seems like every other thriller features some kind of deranged but brilliant serial killer. It's gotten beyond boring, but occasionally some writer will manage to come up with a fresh perspective on the genre. Jeff Lindsay's *Dexter* series put a unique twist on the notion of the serial killer. (Or at least he did until he wrote the utterly crappy *Dexter in the Dark*.) Now Dan Wells is taking a new approach to the concept.

John Wayne Cleaver is a teen-age boy who lives with his mother at the funeral home she runs with her twin sister. John has had a history of bed wetting, killing small animals and starting fires, and he's very fond of helping prepare the dead bodies for funerals. He's also obsessed with serial killers, and his reading about them has made him realize that he's already showing all the classic signs of becoming one.

John sets strict rules for himself to keep from becoming a killer, but he's still considered an outcast and a freak by his classmates. He also has to see a therapist who he tells about his efforts to not engage in mass murder. However, when a string of grisly murders occur that terrify the town, John can barely contain his excitement that a serial killer is operating nearby. However, John will find out that this killer is worse than even his deranged mind can imagine.

The first third of his book had me completely intrigued. I loved the notion of someone fighting against their own inclinations. John has so fully accepted the idea that he is a serial killer, that he never stops to question why he'd work so hard to avoid becoming one if he truly is a sociopath.

However, the book takes a wild turn that I didn't really enjoy. Plus, I could never get entirely over the similarities to the *Dexter* series.

It's a quick read and the first in a planned trilogy. It was good enough I'll check out the second volume, but I was far more interested in John's psychology than the plot.

Jess: Truthfully, I'm not sure *what* to rate this! John Cleaver (the MC) is so fascinating, but he's not always likable. But he's not supposed to be. And the writing is so good that I'm not sure what to rate it: a 3, 4, or a 5. (3 because I usually like my characters more likable, 4 for plot, and tension, 5 because the writing is amazing.)

I'm not really sure who I'd recommend this to. It's dark and disturbing, but the most disturbing thing is just how much I enjoyed it.

Don't get me wrong, I like John a lot as a narrator. He has a very dark inside, but he's desperately trying to do the right thing. (Maybe I'm just a sucker for stories with a moral struggle or something.) He has a macabre sense of humor, but it fits right in.

Overall, probably the most well-written book I've read in a long time. I will for sure read the next one...assuming John doesn't give in. (Dan Wells, you have no idea how upset I'll be if he does!!!!!!)

Oh, a quick warning: it has some supernatural elements to it. I didn't get that so when a certain scene happened it took a bit to process the action.

So if you like darker books, I'd highly recommend this.

A few of my favorite quotes "You are always in control of your own destiny, and you are always the one who makes your own choices--no one else."

and the quote that really sums up the whole book for me, "So when a cowboy kills somebody you don't even blink, because it happens every day. But when a clown kills somebody, that's new--that's something you've never seen before. Here's someone you thought was good, and he's doing something so terrible that normal human emotion can't even deal with it--and then he turns around and does something good again. That's fascinating, Mom."

Just like this book.

Matthew: I ripped through this in a couple of sittings.. solid.. entertaining.. but nothing that blew my mind. I did like seeing inside the mind of a serial killer, but I found myself wanting more elaboration and story building in stages building up to the ending.

3.5 out of 5 stars.

Stephen: My response whilst a 3rd of ways during the publication "IT" occurred used to be anything like... For these of you that experience learn the book, you recognize precisely what I'm conversing about. For everybody else, permit me clarify as most sensible I will with none spoilers. Our tale starts off in a small city with a superb creation to John Wayne Cleaver. John is 15 years previous boy who's captivated with serial killers. This obsession is the result of he himself having some of the characteristics and features of a serial killer and suffering desperately opposed to his internal "urges." John has determined that by means of studying how those humans act and what drives them, he can be sure what activities to prevent as a way to preserve from killing anyone...Sounds lovely brilliant to me, yet nonetheless I have by no means killed anyone....well, apart from foodstuff and that does not count. Uh...sorry approximately that, simply kidding..heh...heh...Anyway, to aid John in his quest to not dedicate heinous butchery, he has built strict ideas that he follows for you to try to be (or a minimum of

concerning the twist. Very unexpected. Video evaluate up tomorrow...hopefully :)

Jenny (adultishbooks): as soon as the twist happened, I misplaced all interest. It bought completely ridiculous and that i could not purchase into the tale anymore. It was once borderline painful to finish. Why provide it 2 stars? the nature of John Cleaver was once great. A sociopathic child attempting to be general is a storyline I dig and the start used to be strong. As anyone additionally enthusiastic about serial killers, I would've enjoyed extra of that. John's personality did job my memory of Dexter even though and to be honest, Dexter is a extra complicated and likable character. I listened to this as an audiobook and it may be pointed out that the narrator absolutely did not healthy with how I imagined John sounding. the guy narrating it used to be most likely in his 40s and doubtless does a few saying for motorcross activities at the side.

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