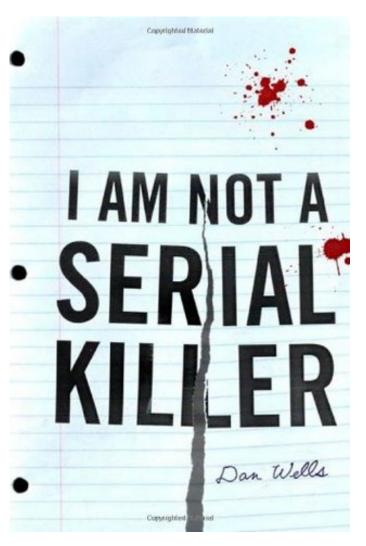
Dan Wells

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 fit 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 alway 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 results 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

appear) normal. For example, if a person makes John indignant he'll praise them. If he reveals himself staring at someone, even unintentionally, he'll make himself keep away from that individual for one week to prevent "stalking" them. those have been very attention-grabbing and this a part of the publication was once excellent. Now, for these of you that learn or watch Dexter, comparisons to that sequence are either actual and appropriate. except their age, the one major distinction among the characters is that John has no longer but killed. except that the similarities are definitely there. They either have "routines" they stick with to be normal. They either "work" round useless our bodies (Dexter is a blood-splatter analyst whereas John's family members are the neighborhood morticians) and so they either fight with "their internal monster." Regardless, i used to be totally loving the publication as John (like Dexter) is an engaging personality and the descriptions of his day-by-day exercises and his fight opposed to his internal monster have been rather well done. as well as studying approximately John, the vital plot of the e-book contains the invention that a precise serial killer is at the free in John's small town. it appears a few madman is killing older males and stealing components in their body. Of course, John is involved and starts attempting to determine who the killer is and the way he's picking his victims.Okay, let's simply pause and take a second to understand how we bought to date as the street is gonna get beautiful tough ahead....Ready to continue....Okay, so as much as this point, every thing concerning the ebook was once excellent. As i ended the 1st a hundred pages my score was once sitting in excessive four celebrity and perhaps even five big name territory and that i was once simply as chuffed as i'll be....AND THEN...ON web page 121...EVERYTHING CHANGED....BECAUSE....IT HAPPENED...and the ebook completely: This was once a whole complete STOP,WTF simply occurred second for me that left me shocked and bewildered. It was once just like the "infamous" finish of the motion picture The Crying Game, other than that whereas that was once stunning and excellent...this was once simply stunning and painful. Very, very painful... Well, neither I nor the publication ever relatively recovered from IT. IT kinda took the wind out of my sails. Now the remainder of the ebook was once now not terrible and there have been a few attention-grabbing parts within the remainder of the book. Unfortunately, after IT i used to be primarily disengaged from the narrative. I simply felt....empty... So, total the publication was once strong however it might have been nice if IT had no longer happened. Unfortunately, IT did occur and whilst IT happened, IT kinda ruined it for me...Oh good shIT happens!!!P.S. For these of you who've asked to understand what IT is, the following you go...(view spoiler)[The serial killer unfastened within the city seems to be a DEMON which comes thoroughly out of left box because the ebook used to be analyzing like a immediately YA crime mystery (hide spoiler)]["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"] >["br"]br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

Priscilla: Very nice, Mr. Dan Wells. Very nice, indeed. First Impressions: 1. sluggish at first, yet after a hundred *BAM*! What i might wish to name a 'double faucet twist'. now not one, yet twists within the span of two pages! 2. i actually loved the remedy periods among John and Dr. Neblin. 3. The plot used to be a basic 'good'. The twist made issues extra interesting. 4. booklet specializes in personality research of John's character. VERY interesting, interpreting from the brain of a sociopath. occasionally though, he makes particularly silly decisions. Very lifelike character, 'normal' teenage boy with leisure pursuits that may make others consider hugely uncomfortable. you actually would not recognize John's a sociopath. 5. I discovered much approximately serial killers. Very good, and varied read! i am nonetheless lovely floored

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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