



# Mr. Monster

*Dan Wells*

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## **Mr. Monster** Dan Wells

In *I Am Not a Serial Killer*, John Wayne Cleaver saved his town from a murderer even more appalling than the serial killers he obsessively studies.

But it turns out even demons have friends, and the disappearance of one has brought another to Clayton County. Soon there are new victims for John to work on at the mortuary and a new mystery to solve. But John has tasted death, and the dark nature he used as a weapon---the terrifying persona he calls “Mr. Monster”---might now be using him.

No one in Clayton is safe unless John can vanquish two nightmarish adversaries: the unknown demon he must hunt and the inner demon he can never escape.

In this sequel to his brilliant debut, Dan Wells ups the ante with a thriller that is just as gripping and even more intense. He apologizes in advance for the nightmares.

## **Mr. Monster Details**

Date : Published March 4th 2010 by Headline

ISBN : 9780755348824

Author : Dan Wells

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Horror, Young Adult, Thriller, Fantasy, Mystery, Fiction, Paranormal

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## From Reader Review Mr. Monster for online ebook

### Mike (the Paladin) says

This book is a bit hard to rate...and review.

\*\*\*Please note\*\*\*:

I AM ASSUMING YOU HAVE READ I Am Not A Serial Killer which is the first volume of this "story". THERE WILL BE SPOILERS FOR THAT BOOK HERE.

I find many things about this/these book(s) interesting and well done. I also find a lot about (especially this one) objectionable. The books attempt to walk the lines between slasher/horror/urban fantasy. The first book follows John as he struggles with his own "verging" sociopathy. He has always been fascinated by death (of course since he has grown up working on corpses in a mortuary...). Then a serial killer goes to work in his town. John (quick description of first book) sets out to track down the killer in an attempt to find a way to feed his sociopathy, without killing his mother or someone else...and he does it.

At that point the book takes a hard turn into a different kind of horror (serial killer stories can be their own kind of horror). John discovers that the killer isn't human. His neighbor is what John dubs a demon...John has killed a demon, which melts into a disgusting goo.

This book picks up with John and his mother (who knows some of John's struggle and is the only other person to have seen the "demon") trying to live their lives. Things are hard for John, he may be slipping more. It doesn't help that mom is trying her best to deny what happened. John holds himself together by living according to a strict set of rules...never hurt an animal, never hurt a person, avoid confrontation, etc.

The book has a lot of positives. While the general plot idea isn't new the idea of using a budding sociopath/psychopath who is constantly struggling not to lose control as a protagonist is pretty new. The story is good I found it absorbing. I will at least consider following up (later) with the next book.

Unfortunately the book also has a LOT (in my opinion) of negatives. It takes off very slowly. This is a short book and at that it's a bit too long. Too much pointless detail (as opposed to relevant detail), too long setting up the story, we get a lot of "what's gone before". More than we really needed I think.

We also get a lot of pointless "gross out". There is one long passage describing an embalming that has nothing to do with the story. I assume it's supposed to be helping us see MORE of John's struggle. But it really doesn't. It simply gives an excuse to tell us how morticians go about keeping the eye sockets from sinking in...how they embalm the body cavity...how to use a trocar...what to do with all the bagged organs...on and on and on. Okay maybe that gave us some info...but we get another embalming later of a victim that tells us a lot of the same things. I skipped and skimmed a lot of this one.

I won't mention anything that will tip the plot or be a spoiler, but I found a lot negatives about this book and almost rated it much lower. Some of the things that bothered me may not bother others (though that kind of worries me. I feel almost the same way about the Dexter books. I only read the first of those...I can't get into long loving descriptions of graphic murders etc.)...

So, pretty good story...3 stars, barely.

\*\*\*\*\* SPOILER BELOW LINE \*\*\*\*\*

Throughout the book we get descriptions of John's dreams of killing the girl he likes...slowly and graphically. This book rests a lot on what I called above "the Gross out factor". I don't care for it, it puts me off and I considered not completing the book.

The plot revolves around ancient beings who are still around. For some reason most of these old beings who were thought of as deities or demons seem also to be fairly cold blooded and homicidal. So the "demon killer" motif is fairly interesting. For me a lot will depend on how much gore I'm willing to put up with.

As I said, I skipped and skimmed a lot of this book.

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## Mary ♥ says

4.5/5 stars

**Humans aren't defined by death, and they're not defined by what they lack. They're defined by their connections.**

One of the greatest series I got my hands in for 2018 was the I'm Not A Serial Killer series, for a variety of reasons. When I picked the second book up, I was hoping for one thing. Surpass the first, if possible. And it did it, in one of the best ways ever. The second book showed us John's struggles with his mental illness, his life as a teenager and the supernatural murders surrounding his town even more, and it completely drew me in and stole my breath.

The plot was fast and sharp like a knife's edge, and the new villain was cunning and sadistic in a way I could not comprehend. John was even more eager to fight with his inner demons, and his character development was one of the best I have read in a long time, and I was immensely glad I did. I could smell blood and danger in the air as I was turning the pages, and Dan Wells' writing gave me exclusive insights in the minds of a teenage sociopath, a wicked demon, a girl who started to fall in love and a variety of other unique characters.

One of the things I mostly love about these books is the complexity in which emotions are portrayed, and this book dealt with that in a very special way. Everything was connected with strong threads of thoughts and feelings, and everything could be changed in the exact same ways. It was so complicated and full of suspense, and I absolutely enjoyed every single minute of it. I wanted it to be a little bit faster, but I understand why the action took a while to pick up, and I appreciate it.

Overall, it was a great read, and I totally recommend the series for something gory, deliciously creepy but also meaningful, badass and dotted with a mixture of supernatural elements, horror and mystery ♥ Also, I really hope the new year gifts you happiness, health, and many many books and motivation ♥

Keep being unique ♥

~Mary♥

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### **Kaisa says**

I can't help but love these books.

Already with the first book, I knew that I'd enjoy whatever Dan Wells threw at me, but seriously, these books are like crack to me now.

I love John Cleaver because he's a sociopath with morals. That kind of main character is hard to beat.

The only negative thing I have to say is that I'm not pleased with the end. It felt too abrupt and inconclusive. Of course, it's not the last book in the series, so it's not supposed to be completely conclusive, but what I mean is that I wanted more out of Brooke than what I got. I wanted more out of the stranger in the walls. (Seriously, this author had me caring about two female characters that were hardly in the book. (Radha and Wall-Woman) That is talent, my friends)

Really, the only reason I'm bitching is that I want these books to be longer.. Because they're so awesome.

I can't bring myself to read the last book just yet. I don't want it to end.

Please don't let it end.

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### **María says**

La verdad es que no sé que decir sobre este libro ya que no me sorprende ni positivamente ni negativamente. No creo que sea una mala historia, pero sí es cierto que me da la sensación de que el autor se va un poco por las ramas a veces. Me hubiera gustado que se centrara más en la acción ya que la parte final se me ha hecho súper corta en comparación con el resto del libro.

Otra de las cosas que me fallan sobre la saga/trilogía (creo que hay más de 3 libros) de John Cleaver es que se descubre enseguida quien es el asesino y no me intriga mucho.

Tampoco me llega a convencer el hecho de que haya elementos sobrenaturales en la novela, ya que me cuesta mucho más meterme en la novela.

No logro conectar con el protagonista por mucho que lo intente (supongo que debería considerarlo algo bueno xD jajaja y creo que esto ya lo dije en la reseña del primer libro) y esto también dificulta que me llegue a enganchar el libro.

Aunque parece que sólo le saco fallos al libro, creo que realmente está bien, pero supongo que me hubiera interesado más si fuera destinado para un público más adulto y si se quitara todo lo sobrenatural.

Tanto el primer libro como este me han gustado lo mismo xD, pero espero que el tercero me guste más.

Le voy a dar 3.5 estrellas.

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### **Guille says**

Retomé este libro después de que pase bastante tiempo y amé!

Creo que es más fuerte que el primero porque el señor monstruo está más vivo que nunca, así que ALERTA a los sensibles, por momentos se me revolvió el estomago.

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Daaaaamn el final, eso si que fue tenso. Creo que es de las cosas más creepies que leí en la vida.

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### **Leandro Cassetta says**

4.5/5 Me encanto y mucho más que el primero. Pero el problema es que no lo sentí muy memorable!

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### **Emm<sup>2</sup> says**

*This review and other odd-shaped monsters on Blood Red Velvet.*

About a year ago I made the chance discovery of Wells' other novel, *The Hollow City*, which I have honestly not been able to find an equal of in its unique concoction of genres. A novel with zero flaws in my eyes. So of course what had I to do but to read literally everything else Wells had written? And absolutely \*zero\* of his books have been a disappointment, or even below a solid four-out-of-five stars.

I've read all of the John Cleaver series I can get my pseudo-human claws on. While they all have their own unique personality, none of them outdo *Mr. Monster*.

Massively addictive and perfecting on the blend of dark comedy, mystery and psychological horror the first established, it's nothing short of awesome.

Creeping distress as another string of murders crop up in Clayton, this time even more calculated and evil in nature. I have to say, what practically forces this novel to stand out as a horror work is the scenes in the killer's house towards the finale. As I don't know where to begin without spoiling the trauma for you, it seems like an innocent house but only as far as the foyer. The further into the house they go, the madder and bloodier it gets. And for those who have had the pleasure to read this already, did you notice some of the minute details in the scene where John first sees the kitchen..? \*shudder\*

Darker, grimier and more stylish than the book before, *Mr. Monster* is what really establishes the John Cleaver series as one of the best mysteries I've ever had the good fortune to discover.

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### **[Name Redacted] says**

FIRST READ: Aug. 10 - 13, 2012

SECOND READ: Sep. 4 - 7, 2015

THIRD READ: Oct. 27 - 28, 2017

Once again, wow.

I blazed through this one over the course of a weekend -- it would have been a single day but I had to visit a local Scandinavian festival with friends and then finish my slideshow for tomorrow's lesson.

This volume is even darker, even more gruesome than the first, as John's "heroic" actions from *I Am Not A Serial Killer* take on a twisted life of their own. The darkness within John is getting stronger and hungrier even as strives to be as "normal" humanly possible. He tries dating, he tries going to school events, but he

also finds himself rationalizing the breaking of his all-important rules -- at first in small ways, and then in larger ways. I was reminded throughout of Peter Gabriel's "Digging In The Dirt":

*Something in me, dark and sticky  
All the time it's getting strong  
No way of dealing with this feeling  
Can't go on like this too long*

*This time you've gone too far  
This time you've gone too far  
This time you've gone too far  
I told you...*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5fOvc...>

Like the previous volume, this book contains one of those "Oh-good-gravy-why-do-the-publishers-insist-on-marketing-this-as-YA?" moments that occurs within the narrative but is somehow tangential to it, making it all the more horrifying and all the more stunning. As with the same sort of moment in the previous novel, I simply didn't see this one coming and actually had to walk away from the book for a couple hours to get my bearings. Dan Wells certainly knows how to craft a story, and the man definitely knows how to bring you into the world of the protagonist without forcing you to feel that you ARE the protagonist. Which is good, because Wells does not glorify or romanticize sociopathy and psychopathy -- John is not a character any halfway-sane person would ever want to be or be around and his heroism is either accidental or part of a larger overcompensation. Every time he "wins" he's actually losing, even when he doesn't notice it at first.

And, as with the previous novel (and the film "The Aviator", actually) there were several scenes which led me to feel all the more acutely my own disorders -- a frightening sort of feeling, as though something had been rubbed raw.

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## **Annalisa says**

"Trust me, from one sociopath to another: if you don't understand the reason for something, it's always love."

What fascinated me in *I Am Not A Serial Killer* is learning about antisocial personality disorder, discovering the world of morticians, and more than anything rooting for a boy struggling with his sociopathic tendencies and his need to be good. But none of that was fascinating for me here.

When it wasn't repetitive or bland (all those "oh my gosh"es and first dates screamed Mormon author), it was darker. The embalming scene in here wasn't about getting the right liquid into veins, but about a real decomposing body that grossed me out a little. The sociopathic struggles were about pyromania and harming animals that made me question whether John should be locked up. And this villain carried out some truly sick and squeamish tortures, but he was the kind of villain I expected in the first one.

I was starting to question why I liked John Wayne Cleaver or his adventures, and once again, I wasn't sure I bought into the leap into the supernatural, but wouldn't you know, by the end I wanted to root for John again and I was happy with the turn of events, and more than anything, there was a great hook introducing a pattern for the series. And now I kind of want to know about John's next big adventure. I was so sure I was done with the series, but you had to hook me in the end, didn't you, Wells? And now I want to keep reading.

## Rachel Aranda says

Mr. Monster is different from its predecessor, I am Not a Serial Killer, as it gives me a good kind of mixed feelings. With I am Not a Serial Killer, I felt like I was on a wild ride where I didn't know what to expect. In Mr. Monster, Mr. Wells takes us on a wild ride where we don't know which aspect of John Wayne Cleaver's personalities we're dealing with as both are wide awake and fighting for control of his psyche. A good example of me feeling dual feelings is when John goes on his first date. We saw John date a girl we were introduced to in the first book that he actually likes. His mom wants him to date her because it will help him be more normal while his best friend is like "Dude. The second prettiest girl in school is hot for you... You go for it!" This part of the story made me happy yet concerned for him; it has always been a struggle for him to balance his desires and thoughts so adding a stressor like dating to someone who doesn't feel like others do is hard. Trying to find another serial killer from another realm while dating is down right nerve wracking (for anybody). I feel the differences made this book stand out on its own and I was overall happy to not be disappointed in this sequel to this series.

If I'm honest though the book wasn't perfect as there were a few errors that an editor should have caught. For example, on page 247 there was a mistype in a sentence. The sentence I'm talking about is "He took my by the arm and pulled me toward the stairs." This is the beginning sentence in the 5th paragraph so it'll probably be the most noticeable to readers. Hopefully the next book doesn't have these issues.

I give this book a 4.75 because of the errors but have rounded to 5 because I feel the story is strong enough to make up for those mistakes.

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## Erin says

Mr. Monster, the sequel to I Am Not a Serial Killer by Dan Wells, was scarily addicting. It's a story about a sixteen-year-old sociopath, at war with himself over giving into his darker urges or doing right and acting normal. And while this sounds creepy and weird, the mystery of the story and the development of John's character make for a fascinating read. Also, it's impossible to put down.

Continuing a few months after I Am Not a Serial Killer, Mr. Monster delves even deeper into John's sociopathic tendencies. He let out the monster inside him to battle the demon-serial killer in the first book, and now that monster doesn't want to go back into his cage. The book is both a journey through the mystery, and also a roller coaster ride on John's emotions and actions. Will he give in? Will Mr. Monster take control, leaving John in the back seat?

With so many characters' destinies riding on John's actions, particularly the women in his life, this book was frightening at times. You're terrified of John and what he might do, and at the same time inevitably drawn to him, wanting him to succeed and do the right thing. You almost enter a love-hate relationship with the two sides of his personality. While John is human and somewhat normal, Mr. Monster also has attractive, while definitely creepy, qualities. And you can't completely hate the monster inside him, because you know it will be crucial in saving John's life, and those around him.

The only bad part about this book: waiting for the next one.

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## Alexis Steven says

“Es una gran sorpresa darte cuenta de que las únicas personas con las que te puedes identificar son asesinos psicópatas.”

Esta secuela pudo haberse ganado las cinco estrellas fácilmente, pero tiene un inicio más bien torpe, lo cual arruina las cosas un poco. Sin embargo, luego **toma un rumbo inesperado que no puedo más que alabar**, yo al leer la sinopsis imaginé algo similar que el primer libro, un nuevo asesino perseguido por un sociópata, bueno, por John, pero no, es algo más calculado y mucho más adictivo. Me gustó mucho y me sorprendió favorablemente, lo cual me provoca recomendarlo, sin duda si ya leyeron el primer libro no se pueden quedar sin leer esta secuela, es igual de bueno que el primero, tal vez mejor

Es maravillosa la forma en que el autor construye esta historia poniéndonos en la piel de un sociópata diagnosticado, es algo que no encuentras en cualquier libro, ya que no diario se lee una historia narrada por alguien perturbado. **Es especial e inolvidable. Los traumas del protagonista son también los del lector.**

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## Gus says

**Esta reseña NO contiene spoilers.**

Bien hecho, Dan Wells. MUY bien hecho.

No soy el señor monstruo es la segunda parte de No soy un serial killer y OH GOD, QUÉ SEGUNDA PARTE. Como es lógico, no puedo decir mucho porque #spoilers, pero si quieren saber mi opinión, continúen leyendo.

### PERSONAJES

Sin dudas puedo afirmar que el fuerte de esta saga son los personajes. Dan Wells hace un trabajo increíble al construir a cada uno de ellos, pero John se roba el escenario por mucho. Lo que vale la pena destacar es la psicología de este personaje y la manera en que su mente se desarrolla y se va distorsionando lentamente en su lucha contra el Señor Monstruo. Ver cómo de a poco John es traicionado por su propia conciencia es algo muy interesante, al igual que observar la forma en que intenta mantenerse a raya y controlarse a sí mismo para no hacer nada malo.

Los personajes secundarios también son un aporte muy bien logrado. Dan puede ir de crear a un psicópata, a presentarte dos páginas después a un adolescente común y corriente, y que aún así ambos sean creíbles y reales.

### WORLD BUILDING

No sabía si incluir la construcción del mundo a la reseña o no porque en realidad todo está ambientado en nuestro mundo. Finalmente decidí hacerlo, porque si bien tenemos a personajes reales en escenarios reales, también contamos con cierto aspecto extraño (que conocerán si leyeron el primer libro) que convierte al corriente pueblo de Clayton en algo extraordinario. Si bien lo que vimos hasta este punto es solo un pequeño porcentaje de lo que se nos presentará a continuación, creo que de momento Dan fue capaz de establecer unas bases muy fuertes para su mundo y que dejan entender vagamente hacia dónde quiere llevarnos con todo esto. Y dejenme decirles, **estoy emocionado porque así sea.**

### ESCRITURA

Otro punto positivo. Dan Wells, estrellita dorada y trofeo por escritura **ADICTIVA**.

Leí este libro en menos de 24hs. Puede ser que a algunos no les sorprenda, pero eso en mí es extraño. Fue cuestión de tomar este libro y a partir de ese momento no poder soltarlo ni dejar de pensar en él. El autor tiene la capacidad de crear ese factor de suspenso e intriga que impide que dejes el libro y provoque la muy

peligrosa frase de "Un capítulo más"

Cuando leí Partials del mismo autor, sentí que no aportaba nada que me hiciera querer leer sin descanso. Los capítulos eran largos y aburridos, y las páginas tardaban años en pasar. Es por eso que estoy tan encantado y sorprendido con estos libros. Porque luego de haber perdido cierta esperanza de que los libros de Dan me gusten, la saga de John Cleaver llegó y me demostró que estaba equivocado. Eso para mí tiene un gran, GRAN mérito.

#### EXPECTATIVAS

¿Qué espero de No quiero matarte? Bueno, primero que nada comprarlo \*cuak\*

Mis expectativas a estas alturas son considerablemente altas. Juzgando por lo que vi en estos dos primeros libros, estoy convencido de que esta saga no va a hacer más que mejorar. Estoy muy emocionado por leer qué es lo que pasa a continuación y qué tiene en mente Dan Wells para el destino de estos personajes. Espero también que sigamos viendo escenas crudas y explícitas, porque eso hace a esta saga tan única y diferente. Pero principalmente, estoy ansioso por conocer más profundamente a John y por saber qué hay en su cabeza. Como dije, la psicología de este personaje me parece el punto principal y más atractivo de estos libros, así que me emociona ver cómo eso va a desarrollarse próximamente.

#### CONCLUSIÓN

No soy el señor monstruo es una segunda parte muy fuerte. En mi opinión superó al primero con creces y me mostró un lado de la literatura juvenil más sangrienta, explícita y adulta que ciertamente me sorprendió.

Planeo sin dudas continuar con los siguientes libros, así que esperen las respectivas reseñas próximamente.

Se preguntarán, sin embargo, por qué no le di 5 estrellas. Un solo motivo.

Creo que en varias ocasiones los personajes tenían diálogos bastante problemáticos y cuestionables. Se tocan temas muy sensibles en varias partes del libro y creo que no siempre se hace de la mejor manera, lo cual puede llegar a ofender o chocar a más de una persona.

Es por eso que les daría a estos libros un *trigger warning*. No es para todo el mundo.

En conclusión, esta fue una novela que me sorprendió y me gustó bastante. Les recomiendo esta saga si buscan algo que sea capaz de dejarles los pelos de punta. Se los aseguro, pasa en más de una ocasión.

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## **Amar says**

Iako mi je prvi dio za dlaku bio bolji, kvalitativno su u istom rangu. Zaista fantastičan nastavak.

Dok smo u prvom dijelu imali cat and mouse game, u ovom dijelu se više bavimo samim Johnom, njegovim mračnim mislima (iako je duboko dole jako dobra osoba) i kako Mr. Mosnter polako počinje vladati nad njim, iako se John bori protiv toga. Kada se u Clayton pojavljuje novi ubojica, to ne ide baš u korist samog Johna, nego više njegovoj sociopatskoj strani, Monesteru. Priča li? malo na neki mix Supernaturala i Dextera, što možda mnogima može zasmetati, ali meni baš godi. Kraj knjige običava veoma dobar 3. dio.

4.5\*

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## **Miranda Reads says**

*It's a pretty big shock to realise that the only people you can identify with are psychopathic killers.*

We continue the story of **quasi-serial killer John Wayne Cleaver**, who despite bearing the name of two

serial killers and a murder weapon, is determinedly *not* going to give in to impulse to become a murderer...though he may **bend the rules for some truly monstrous people**.

The demon from the first story? **He had friends**. And one of those friends just came knocking at the door. As the disappearances mount, John **knows he must deal with the creature**.

But how can he be expected to fight a demon? He has no idea what the creature looks like or how it can kill...but with every plot to kill the monster, he comes closer to **unleashing a true monster** - himself.

This sequel holds its ground. John is equal parts **adorable and disturbing** - and I just love his mother's obsession with keeping him **grounded and normal**. It's so sweet to see how much she cares and wants him to live a happy life (minus the whole wanting-to-kill-people thing).

*Love this series and can't wait for it to continue!*

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