



# Partials (Partials Sequence Book 1)

By Dan Wells

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## Partials (Partials Sequence Book 1) By Dan Wells

For fans of *The Hunger Games*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Blade Runner* comes the first book in the Partials Sequence, a fast-paced, action-packed, and riveting sci-fi teen series, by acclaimed author Dan Wells.

Humanity is all but extinguished after a war with Partials—engineered organic beings identical to humans—has decimated the population. Reduced to only tens of thousands by a weaponized virus to which only a fraction of humanity is immune, the survivors in North America have huddled together on Long Island. But sixteen-year-old Kira is determined to find a solution. As she tries desperately to save what is left of her race, she discovers that the survival of both humans and Partials rests in her attempts to answer questions about the war's origin that she never knew to ask.

Playing on our curiosity of and fascination with the complete collapse of civilization, *Partials* is, at its heart, a story of survival, one that explores the individual narratives and complex relationships of those left behind, both humans and Partials alike—and of the way in which the concept of what is right and wrong in this world is greatly dependent on one's own point of view.

Supports the Common Core State Standards

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## **Partials (Partials Sequence Book 1) By Dan Wells Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

### Robison Wells Interviews His Brother, Dan Wells

**Dan Wells** is the acclaimed author of the John Cleaver series: *I Am Not a Serial Killer*, *Mr. Monster*, and *I Don't Want to Kill You*. He has been nominated for both the Hugo and the Campbell Award and has won two Parsec Awards for his podcast *Writing Excuses*. Robison Wells, Dan's younger brother, is the author of *Variant*, which *Publishers Weekly* called "a chilling, masterful debut" in a starred review, and its sequel, *Feedback* (available Fall 2012). Here, Robison interviews his brother about *Partials*, Dan's pulse-pounding first book in his post-apocalyptic series that questions the very concept of what it means to be human.

**Robison:** Dan is my brother, exactly 13 months older than me. He and I shared a room our entire childhood, took the same classes, even dated the same girls. Dan got me into writing about twelve years ago, and ever since we've critiqued each other's work, brainstormed new ideas, and told each other how terrible he is. So, with such a long background together, I'm particularly interested to see if I can learn anything new in this interview.

I've read so much of your writing over the years, from your poem about turkeys in the fifth grade to your first epic fantasy to your literary farce to your horror, and now your YA post-apocalyptic *Partials*. Is there anything you've written that I'd be surprised to hear about?

**Dan:** I wrote some *Rifts* fan fiction in high school—I don't know if you knew about that. I actually reused a part of it for *Partials*.

**Robison:** What part?

**Dan:** I won't say, but it's in the first third.

**Robison:** You've written in all these different genres: Is it because you're still looking for the perfect fit? Or are you just interested in writing lots of different things?

**Dan:** Almost every book I write is a new genre, or a weird combination of genres, because I like to branch out and try new things. I never would have imagined that I'd write a horror series, but that was the first book I published. I never would have found that character, or the audience that loves him, if I'd forced myself to stick to one thing.

**Robison:** How was the transition from supernatural to sci-fi?

**Dan:** Not too bad, since I see them as very connected—the only real difference between fantasy and SF is the explanation of where the weird stuff comes from. SF ended up being a lot harder, in some ways, because I had to make those explanations scientifically sound. In my horror series I could just say, "It's a monster!" With SF I had to do a ton of research into genetics, biology, and the science of decay.

**Robison:** How did you do your research?

**Dan:** A lot of my research started online, including Wikipedia—people make fun of it as a research tool, and

I admit that it's a terrible place to end your research, but it's a fantastic place to start. From there I found more detailed websites, and eventually some great connections to books. One of the most useful books I read was *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman, about what would happen to the things we leave behind if we suddenly weren't there to take care of them. It's a very detailed combination of scientific research and thought experiment.

In *Partials*, the apocalypse wasn't a bomb or a war or anything physically destructive, just a disease: We died, but all our stuff is still just sitting there. It was a fun situation to study, and a blast to depict in a book.

**Robison:** So, having done all that research, what tips would you give for surviving an apocalyptic pandemic? Let's assume you're immune to the virus.

**Dan:** I don't know how you're going to work that out, but there you go. Once you have that taken care of, you live in a combination of paradise and medieval squalor. You will have no electricity or running water, but almost everything else will be free. Canned food can last for a decade or more before going bad, so you can live at a subsistence level just by scavenging the local stores.

**Robison:** Why do you think your society of survivors ended up being organized and civil and less Mad Max-ish?

**Dan:** A big part of it is the scarcity issue. Mad Max and similar apocalyptic scenarios start with the premise that everything is destroyed. The survivors have to fight tooth and nail for what little resources are left. In *Partials*, everything you could ever want is just there for the taking.

**Robison:** What books/movies/music/TV influenced *Partials*?

**Dan:** Some of the influences are obvious, like *Battlestar Galactica* and *Children of Men*. Others are harder to spot. I listened to a steady diet of protest songs and revolutionary music while writing, stuff like "Uprising" by Muse, because they got my blood going and helped me get into the main character's fiery personality. And some of my influences didn't really end up in the book, though I still count them—things like *Mad Max* and *A Canticle for Leibowitz* that inspired my love of post-apocalyptic stories, but which didn't really apply in this case.

The biggest influence may have been our own history and current events. *Partials* is, at times, a very angry book, and that's a reflection of my own feelings about a lot of the stuff I see going on in the world.

**Robison:** Let's talk about that. You've said before that you think one of the reasons dystopia is so popular right now is because our world is becoming more dystopian. What current events influenced you in *Partials*?

**Dan:** For example, the story is set eleven years after a devastating catastrophe—and in 2012, my readers are also eleven years after their own devastating catastrophe. The events of 9/11 changed the way we do almost everything in this country, and to a lesser extent the rest of the world. One of the things I tried to do in the book was show that the adults, who remember what life was like before the end of the world, have a very different attitude about it than the kids who've never really known any other life.

I also tried to throw in a lot of the extreme measures our government and our culture in general have taken in response to terrorism—reduced privacy, indefinite detention, torture, and so on. I think there are arguments on both sides of all these issues, and I tried to give each side a fair shake. Kira, the main character, has very strong ideas about what's justifiable and what's not, and just because she's the main character doesn't mean she's always right. If anyone's actually "right" at all.

**Robison:** So, on a happier note, why do you think I'm so awesome?

**Dan:** Because you take after your brother.

From [Booklist](#)

In the last half of the twenty-first century, there are very few humans left in the United States. The Partials, genetically engineered humanlike creatures built to fight the U.S.'s wars, attacked their overlords with a deadly virus. Kira, a medical intern, wants desperately to figure out how to save babies who are dying from the virus they're infected with at birth, and comes up with a plan. Persuading her friends, including boyfriend Marcus, that all they need to do is kidnap a Partial and figure out why it's immune to the virus, she leads them on a harrowing mission—several, actually. A Partial is obtained, but the result reveals far more questions than answers. This book does several things very well. The Long Island setting, along with the configuration of Kira's struggling society, is fully realized, and the many twists and turns keep readers intriguingly off-balance. But some trimming, especially of the medical discoveries, would have helped maintain the momentum. Kira is a bold heroine with lofty goals, and readers will willingly follow her to the sequel, where things are sure to tilt again. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** The publisher is putting lots of push behind this one, with an extensive marketing campaign that includes social media outreach, exclusive digital content, and plenty more, so expect it to pop up on your radar. Grades 8-12. --Ilene Cooper

Review

"A thrilling sci-fi adrenaline rush, with one of the most compelling and frightening visions of Earth's future I've seen yet. I couldn't put it down." (Pittacus Lore, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *I Am Number Four*)

"Wells creates a compelling, fantastically complex post-apocalyptic landscape, adding thought-provoking twists to a classic story of humanity creating its own doom...With broad cross-genre appeal and an engaging balance of thematic depth and rip-roaring action, this winner will leave readers clamoring for sequels." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

"A dark, wild ride." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Readers who enjoy headstrong feminist leads making their way . . . in the not-too-distant future will find plenty to like in *Partials*." (Los Angeles Times)

"Mr. Wells has recombined familiar dystopian elements, added original ones and thrown in dashes of dry wit to create a sprawling, action-packed medical thriller full of big ideas and exciting reversals." (Wall Street Journal)

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Marvin Gamez:**

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#### **Joel Wall:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that concern was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And you also know that little person just like reading or as reading through become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the point. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update about something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims Partials (Partials Sequence Book 1).

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