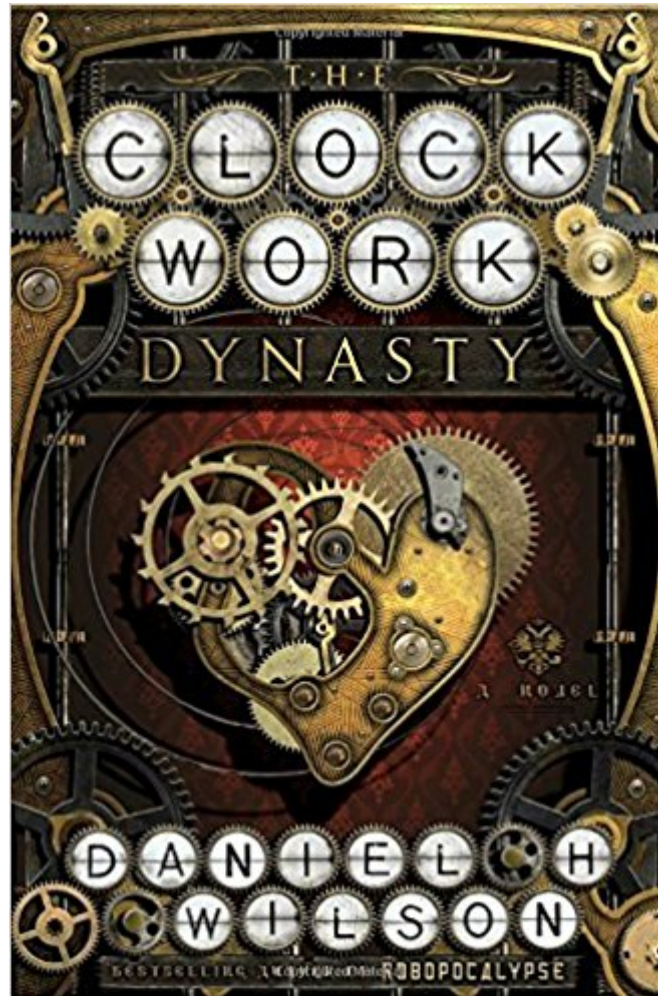




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# The Clockwork Dynasty: A Novel



## Synopsis

An ingenious new thriller that weaves a path through history, following a race of human-like machines that have been hiding among us for untold centuries, written by the New York Times bestselling author of *Robopocalypse*. Present day: When a young anthropologist specializing in ancient technology uncovers a terrible secret concealed in the workings of a three-hundred-year-old mechanical doll, she is thrown into a hidden world that lurks just under the surface of our own. With her career and her life at stake, June Stefanov will ally with a remarkable traveler who exposes her to a reality she never imagined, as they embark on an around-the-world adventure and discover breathtaking secrets of the past. | Russia, 1725: In the depths of the Kremlin, the tsar's loyal mechanic brings to life two astonishingly humanlike mechanical beings. Peter and Elena are a brother and sister fallen out of time, possessed with uncanny power, and destined to serve great empires. Struggling to blend into pre-Victorian society, they are pulled into a legendary war that has raged for centuries. The *Clockwork Dynasty* seamlessly interweaves past and present, exploring a race of beings designed to live by ironclad principles, yet constantly searching for meaning. As June plunges deeper into their world, her choices will ultimately determine their survival or extermination. Richly-imagined and heart-pounding, Daniel H. Wilson's novel expertly draws on his robotics and science background, combining exquisitely drawn characters with visionary technology and riveting action.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Clockwork Dynasty" is my new favorite secret history novel! It's like some fantastic hybrid of "Highlander" and "The Terminator"--or maybe a cross between "I, Robot" and "The Difference Engine", with a dash of "Blade Runner" for good measure. It reads like classic steampunk on steroids. In other words, it's totally bad ass and you're going to love it." --Ernest Cline, "The New York Times" bestselling author of "Ready Player One"

Daniel H. Wilson is one of the foremost prophets of the near future. . . In "The Clockwork Dynasty", the irrepressibly readable Wilson has retreated to pseudo-vampiric sentient robots. I say retreated because he's dealing with the past and present, rather than the future -- though his rewriting of the past is no less radical than his speculative work. . . The plot is driven by a human protagonist, June Stefanov. She represents human history and continues Wilson's excellent run of female lead characters -- a distinction not to be sniffed at in male-written robot sci-fi." --The Los Angeles Review of Books

"This bold adventure is a stew of cult-classic concepts -- the automat reflect the Immortals in the "Highlander" franchise, while the ancient and deadly Elena is reminiscent of child vampire Claudia in "Interview with the Vampire". It may wear its influences on its sleeve but it's also a welcome treat for steampunk and fantasy fans. A thrilling mix of influences, much like Sylvain Neuvel's "Sleeping Giants" and HBO's "Westworld", that creates a captivating scenario begging for many sequels." --Kirkus (starred review)

"Brilliantly conceived and executed . . . this is science fiction at its best -- thoughtful, challenging, beautifully written and astonishing." --Booklist (starred review)

"The Clockwork Dynasty" is a hybrid: engrossing historical fiction starring ancient androids and mile-a-minute present-day action thriller . . . June's mad dash to flee a secret society bent on taking her knowledge and her life evokes the best moments of Dan Brown." --Shelf Awareness

"New York Times bestselling author Daniel H. Wilson delivers a fascinating new thriller that takes us on a journey to the past discovering human-like machines that have lived among us for centuries." --Library Journal

"Wilson has a great knack for pace and engaging action; it's a book that is very difficult to put down. It's an exceptional piece of speculative fiction, set in a world that I would very much like to visit again. Steampunk and other genre fiction fans should give it a whirl." --The Maine Edge

"What Wilson does as well as any writer alive is create self-contained and fully realized worlds -- the cinematic stuff of dreams and stardust, mixed with the dirt of actual living. He does so with sensitivity, intelligence and a gift for near-baroque detail." --Willamette Weekly

"With hints of Highlander, a touch of The Terminator, shards of Edward Scissorhands, and a dusting of Doctor Zhivago, Wilson's latest introduces an autonomous race of ancient androids not so different from ourselves. It's a thoroughly engaging read that traps you in its grinding narrative cogs and lingers long after the final page has turned." --SyFy Wire

In "The Clockwork Dynasty", Daniel Wilson,

the king of the robothriller, mixes robots, history and non-stop action to create a thoroughly original plot. Think The Terminator meets Indiana Jones with a crash course in history thrown in. A thoroughly enjoyable read."--Phillip Margolin, New York Times bestselling author of Violent Crimes

"With The Clockwork Dynasty, Daniel H. Wilson has created a ripping, pulsing whirlwind of a world: a sweeping tale of forgotten secrets and wars, of empires and those who topple them, of identities given and taken away, of robots who seem to know better than we just what it means to be human. This is Wilson's most adventurous, romantic, utterly thrilling work, and it's not to be missed."--Jason Gurley, author of Eleanor

"The Clockwork Dynasty is bravely imagined and satisfyingly executed. Wilson has woven a brilliant fictional world into history, making this book a great read for lovers of historical fiction as well as fantasy and sci-fi."--Bookpage

"In the spirit of some of my personal favorites (He, She, and It and The Golem and the Jinni), The Clockwork Dynasty imagines a world where 'artificial intelligence' is something altogether different, and where the meaning of 'human' has become more than flesh and bone."--Veronica Belmont, host of The Sword and Laser

"Action-packed and uniquely imagined with robots--and history!--like you've never seen before, The Clockwork Dynasty is a thrilling ride from start to finish." --John Joseph Adams, series editor of Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy

DANIEL H. WILSON is the bestselling author of Robopocalypse, Robogenesis, and Amped, among others. He was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and earned a B.S. in computer science from the University of Tulsa and a Ph.D. in robotics from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and two children.

Daniel Wilson's writing is full of depth. It was an interesting look into the future, given the author's knowledge of robotics.

I've been fascinated by the idea of artificial life and robots for decades now so if a story, television show, or movie has those types of characters or subjects, I like to check them out. Daniel Wilson's creations, automat, are a merger of machine and magic making this novel more fantasy than science fiction, the creatures more golem than robot. The technical details about the automat are revealed over the course of the story not in a tech dump (I hate reading those paragraphs in science fiction). But it isn't the tech that makes them interesting but the experiences of Peter, our main automat character whose first-person account are set in the past beginning in 1709 and ending in 1942. Peter has one "present day" chapter which feels a bit off since most of the "today" chapters are

first-person from June, a specialist who has a deep interest in ancient machines begun when she was a child at the knee of her grandfather. I don't want to reveal too much of the plot but I felt it was well-paced and the character development made sense. I felt a good deal of empathy for June immediately, feeling a connection to Peter took more pages but that makes sense because he, automat, is not human. The novel is a self-contained story but it could easily be expanded if Wilson and readership are interested enough. There is some sexual content and some violence, the violence is more graphically written so consider that before you buy it.

One of the coolest and engrossing books I've read in awhile. Literally, after reading the first chapter I was sucked in and had me staying up till 3 am to finish it. This book covers so many genres from sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, historical fiction and horror-it has something for everyone. Every other chapter is from the past and does such a perfect job filling in the blanks for the chapters in the present time. It was ultimately a look through history, and what might be hiding among us today. Also, this cover is seriously one of the most beautiful I've ever seen. I read this on my kindle-but I am for sure buying a hardback version. Last few pages had left me wanting more; however, the author has said this is a standalone for now which broke my heart. (please don't let this be the case) I could definitely see this story as a movie too! This just felt so unique-the characters (I love hated a few) and story line. I will have a book hangover for awhile. I received a copy of this book through NetGalley for an honest opinion. My thanks to Daniel H. Wilson and Doubleday Books for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Robots seem to be the way of our future, but they've also been an integral part of our past, too. Daniel H. Wilson's *The Clockwork Dynasty* explores a world where automatons have become nearly indistinguishable from humans. June is fascinated by machinery, spurred into studying mechanical dolls and automatons after her grandfather gave her a relic from a World War II angel to protect and keep secret when she was a young girl. While examining a three hundred year old mechanical doll that was a gift to Tsar Peter, June learns the term avtomat, which is what these living machines call themselves. Learning their name draws June unknowingly into a war between these machines over the relic she wears around her neck. Saved from being killed at the hands of one avtomat by another called Peter, June works with Peter to find the vessel for the relic she carries in an effort to end the centuries-long war. Alternating between June's experiences in current time with those of Peter throughout the centuries of his long life, the story intricately unfolds details in its portrayal of the hidden world of avtomats. I found it a bit annoying

that there were things about Peter that were reiterated without adding meaning or anything new to his character, such as what his Word is and what it means, and describing in detail his rather unique dagger. Spanning across thousands of years, the continued presence of automats didn't seem too far-fetched and is quite an exciting prospect to consider given the contemporary growing dependence upon robotics and artificial intelligence.

I am assuming that this novel will have a sequel. Will not it? I mean.. It has to have a sequel! It just has. Because I will be thinking about it for many days to come and... I just would like more of June and Peter and Elena... And all the automats...Yes. I loved this novel. First of all I shouldn't judge it by the cover, but I did. I saw the cover and I wanted it, even before I read synopsis. Guilty as charged here. But the cover is just so pretty. Ohhhh...And then the story. I love the steampunk like characters and I loved the story. It is really great read with historical twists. This novel shifts between Russia, during the times of Tsar Peter ( 1725) and present times. There are also chapters going way back to Chinese era. This is a story of centuries of automats living among humans, about the war between each other. This is also a story of friendship, loyalty and trust. The story is captivating and characters so engaging . Even automats are scary real. If you love this kind of stories, this is definitely a book for you. Synopsis: June loves ancient technology and is trying to learn and discover about this topic as much as she can. She has no idea that her obsession will lead her to actually meeting a real ancient technological invention. She gets more than she asked for. Peter is an automat who was created to obey Tsar Peter. He lives through centuries and has a big task to complete. Peter's and June's path meet and it is not a coincidence. Can June trust this extraordinary creature? Can Peter use help of June? Get your copy today, to see what happens.

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