



## Scarpetta

*Patricia Cornwell*

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Kay Scarpetta acepta una misión en Nueva York, donde la policía ha requerido su presencia en el hospital penal psiquiátrico para que examine a un herido. El paciente, Oscar Bane, aquejado de enanismo, se niega a ser reconocido por ningún otro médico. Cuando Kay comienza a examinarlo, Bane le cuenta una historia absolutamente rocambolesca. ¿Acaso Bane es un acosador obsesionado con Scarpetta? ¿O quizás su relato paranoico es verdad, y es él a quien a espían, persiguen y acosan? Lo único que Scarpetta sabe con certeza es que una mujer ha sido torturada y asesinada... y que a esta muerte violenta la seguirán otras. Poco a poco, emerge una inexplicable y horrible certeza: quienquiera que esté cometiendo los crímenes sabe en todo momento dónde está su presa.

## Scarpetta Details

Date : Published September 19th 2012 by B de Books (first published 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Patricia Cornwell

Format : Kindle Edition 671 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Thriller

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## From Reader Review Scarpetta for online ebook

### Jamie says

I expected a lot more from Ms Cornwell, who's writing I usually love. This book didn't have the same excitement, punch or intruige that the Scarpetta series usually offers. I usually finish the Scarpetta books in a matter of days (which is unusual for me becasue I'm not an exceptionally fast reader) because they are riddled with excitement, mystery and fast-moving plot. Sadly this one is an exception to that rule. I was only able to muddle through about 50 pages before becoming bored and slightly irritated. It seemed more to do with the character herself, her fame and media scandal, than the cases she works. The reason I as a read like her in the first place is because her traits, personality and uniqueness come out organically via the situations she finds herself in, not because they're being shoved in my face. And the business with Marino, really? That left me rolling my eyes. I didn't feel this was a good direction to go, and that it only did a disservice to the author's longtime readers and the characters themselves.

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### Bett says

I gave up on this series. Then I saw that this latest book, Scarpetta, was getting great reviews on amazon.com. I wondered, could Cornwell have redeeemed herself? I thought the last couple of books were awful, and keep in mind, I loved this series set arounf Dr. Kau Scarpetta and friends, loved each one of the main characters.

So I bought Book of the Dead and Scarpetta. I read Scarpetta first, just to see if is was as good as some people thought. Usually, I won't read books out of order in a series, especially a murder mystery series, but I had to know.

I was relieved and pleased. Scarpetta is very good, very entertainig, with Cornwell throwing around obscure technical terms. I was in heaven. It felt so good to relax and really enjoy Lucy and Kay, Benton and even Pete again.

If I have to choose something to quibble about, it may be that while die-hard fans have cerainly waited long enough to have some of these characters pull themselves together, and while I was actually surprised that Cornwell allowed some of them to do so, maybe that went a little too far. Sure everybody has longed through all these books (16) for Kay to relax and be in the moment and find happiness, for Lucy to come down off the ceiling and get real, for Pete to clean himself up and get his head out of his ass, but I found his redemption, in particular, a little rushed and unbelieveable, considering he had further to go than anyone.

After 16 long books, we fans deserve a happy ending. That's all.

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### James says

#### Book Review

3 of 5 stars to Scarpetta, the 16th book in the "Kay Scarpetta" thriller series, written in 2008 by Patricia Cornwell. In this book, Kay takes an assignment in NYC, where she's handling another crazy potential killer,

but one who claims to have a connection to her -- again. The past keeps creeping up in these novels... and sometimes it's just too unbelievable. I enjoyed the book, and it's better than the last few... but I'm being harder and harder on authors who write lengthy series. It has to be about more than putting out a book a year to make fans happy and to earn more money. I want depth. I need creativity. I want something new.

The good things about the book: lots of gore, detailed autopsy-type info, crazy loons for killers... it's a good alternative to the norm of a cozy mystery or a historical fiction novel. I like how the books take me away from reality to a place I don't believe exists, but I'm sure there are some people who deal with murderers like this every day. The other good aspect is the delving into cyber space. Given I work in technology, I love seeing all this stuff, assuming it's well done. Sometimes it's dummed down too much, sometimes it's too detailed. Can't make everyone happy all the time.

A decent book to read in the series, but still not back on track yet.

### **About Me**

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. *Note:* All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

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### **Ellen says**

I have enjoyed most of the Scarpetta books in the past, but I picked this one up with some doubt because I did not like the last one I read. I should have left it at the library. It seems that Kay has gone from researching crime to being the constant victim of psychos with nothing better to do than be mean to her. The main characters are becoming unlikeable to a man, and the side characters are poorly outlined and unbelievable. And oh yeah - gratuitous dwarves. I am within a chapter of the end and may just throw it across the room instead of finishing it. Last Scarpetta I will ever read.

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### **Anne says**

I'm not sure what motivates me to read the Scarpetta books. I know that I always want to like them much more than I actually do. I think I find the author an interesting character and her recent coming out has added to that. But I honestly have to say that her books will never rank among my favorite mysteries. It's not the writing, for there were many lovely sentences in Scarpetta. In fact, I noticed more than in previous books that she writes really well in places. It's the plotting I believe she falls down on.

This latest in the Scarpetta series is better than the last several have been - easier to follow, keeping the characters, plotlines and locations more in sync with each other. However, I'd still found it hard to stay with and ended up skimming the last 50 pages. The crime that is the center of this novel seems somehow "unworthy" of gathering all these players together to throw every resource available at solving it. The

resolutions of some dangling plot lines from earlier books are unsatisfying. I wish her characters would have a direct conversation that lasted more than a line or two and could actually get somewhere. We're always told how blunt Scarpetta can be, but I don't often see it, myself.

And there's the equally frustrating introduction of some seemingly inconsistent character behaviors - an example would be Benton suddenly having a wandering eye - and then no more about it. The author alludes to Benton and Scarpetta not having sex. Good lord, tell me more about that. Does Kay object? Not say anything at all? Have they talked about her near-rape experience? Aargh. I know it's a mystery, but I've heard Cornwell say she wanted to concentrate more on the characters in this book. I think she just dipped her toe in the water.

At least Lucy gets some action with the beautiful Jamie Berger, but there wasn't enough clarity there either. I don't know how these people get along with each other when they expect everyone to be a mindreader - including the reader. I'm not asking to be told what the characters are up to, but I do want to be shown.

Having said all of that, I still find Kay Scarpetta strangely compelling, as is Patricia Cornwell, and so I'll continue with the series if she will.

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### **Aelel says**

I had pretty much given up on the whole Scarpetta series in general, when my mother insisted I read this book and give it one more shot. The past couple of Scarpetta novels have really, really sucked. It was like watching a well-loved friend slide into some narcissistic downward spiral of insanity and drug use to the point where you don't even know them anymore. They do and say things you never thought they'd do.

Well, this book appears to be an attempt to fix the image of Scarpetta that was almost hopelessly tarnished in the last couple of books. She's finally back in a morgue rather than working in some bizarre private business with her deranged niece Lucy. Lucy has finally calmed down rather than killing people overseas. Benton, while not in law enforcement, is back working in a psychiatric hospital, rather than inexplicably faking his death. And Marino...well, he's apparently apologetic for the uncharacteristic attack on Scarpetta, and the author attempts to undo what damage she has done.

All in all, it was the most normal feeling of her books in a while, and I'm probably going to give her next book a chance. She screws this next one up, though, and I'm out.

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### **crayolaab says**

Somewhere along the way, I think I missed a Kay Scarpetta book. Either that, or it's just been so darn long since I read the latest one - I spent a good portion of this book trying to puzzle out whether I had missed a book in which some fairly significant things happened, or whether these things took place between books and I really wasn't supposed to know more details.

I really like the characters in these books, and I find forensic pathology fascinating, so I keep coming back

for more, but I have to admit something about this book didn't sit right with me. The writing style seemed more similar to The Front than prior Scarpetta novels

It was very strange to have Scarpetta intersecting so much with suspects rather than dead people, and I found it peculiar to have her be on someone else's turf rather than her own. It changes the dynamic and I don't think I like it!

Lucy's new company is an interesting concept and I did enjoy how Patricia Cornwell was able to tie together so many different characters.

I'm now inspired to start back at the beginning and read through the entire series again, just to remind myself of what these books used to be like!

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### **Vicki Kee says**

If you want to know what little people, GPS chips, snuff films, online gossip rags, veterinarians, dermatologists, CNN, a man who wears ladies Brooks Ariel running shoes, unscrupulous pet shop owners, Marilyn Monroe, and a woman whose last name is Bacardi have in common, this is the book for you. It's also a must read if you like 500-page murder mysteries (with a budding love affair thrown in) that take place and are neatly wrapped up primarily over the course of 1 to 2 days - and during a major holiday at that.

Somehow Patricia Cornwell manages to keep you a little interested and ultimately it all comes together if you can make it to the end. The plot is totally unbelievable (for example, Lucy can call up a lab several states away in the middle of the night on New Year's and fly crime scene samples to them to be analyzed and get the results back hours later), but it does make you wonder what makes Cornwell's mind tick.

It's not Cornwell's best Scarpetta book, but it's not her worst either. She tries to "redeem" one of the major supporting characters, but it didn't work for me. Why she ever wrote the character so he needed to be redeemed in the first place is inexplicable to me. I think she may have jumped the shark with this character.

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### **Kate says**

After Cornwell's last few books, plus the Amazon review "situation" from the last book, I'm not sure I can take another Scarpetta book. I barely finished Book of the Dead...so I am reluctant for this book. Of course, I've said that for the last 4 of the series, so I'm sure I'll end up reading it.

\*\*\*After trying to read\*\*\*

I had to stop. I was half way through the book, and nothing happened except talking between Benton and the NYC DA, and Marino at a new job. Kay was examining a possible murder suspect. That took 200 pages. Not worth picking the book up, IMO. Scarpetta's days of yore are LONG since past.

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### **Kay says**

It took me an entire week to read this 500 page book. I know I had an unusually busy week, but I believe that

if I had a couple of ‘can’t put down books’ I would have gotten several read. The plot was good on this book, but Cornwell seemed to concentrate on characters more than plot.

I’ve been reading the Kay Scarpetta books since she first started writing them. I used to really like the characters but it seems as through the years, they’ve turned dark. I noticed it first with Lucy in the books following the one in which her girlfriend was the villain. Next Benton’s personality seemed to change after he reappeared after everyone thought he had died. The final straw was when Pete went over to the wild side. Kay has always seemed a little on the stuffy strange side but what do you expect from a medical examiner. I find any book less entertaining when I don’t care for any of the characters and even the new ones in this book didn’t do a thing for me.

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### **Alison S says**

After feeling like I was starting to fall out of love with this series, this particular installment seemed right back on track again. Tightly plotted, with less self-indulgence and more psychological depth and nuance.

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### **Wendell says**

This is a poor (not to say pathetic) entry in the Scarpetta series, and has all the earmarks of being written by somebody from a fanfic group. It’s probably not, though, unless they’ve faithfully recreated all of Cornwell’s most irritating writerly affectations (the insistence on starting sentences with nouns that have no articles is the one I’d personally choose to throttle her for). Stylistics aside, this novel is virtually incomprehensible at the level of plot. When I finally got to the part where the baddie was revealed, I literally could neither understand nor remember how they’d deduced it was her/him (no spoilers here). Yes, the plotting is that ineptly handled. If Cornwell had made me care a little more, I might have gone back and tried to figure it out; as it was, I was just glad it was over. There are pages and pages in which you’re not sure who’s talking or you don’t know what they’re talking *\*about,\** which is quite a bit worse. Here, Lucy has been rendered irritating, bossy, and snooty in a way that (really, Patricia) makes her less compelling as a character with every page. Her “denouement” (let’s put it that way) in this novel is the most unbelievable, pointless thing I’ve every read in a Cornwell novel (and that’s saying a lot), as are the final scenes with their “resolution” of the entire plot structure (an extremely complicated -- and I mean, take notes, because you won’t follow otherwise -- set-up comes down to as banal an ending as ever you will find in crime fic). And Scarpetta herself has become cold, opaque, uncommunicative (she makes Marino look like Chatty Cathy) and impossible to like. Other characters keep telling you how kind and generous she is, but you’ll have to take their word for it. In this 16th outing, I wonder whether Cornwell has simply gotten tired of the series; she writes, in any case, as if she wishes Scarpetta would just go away. If she keeps it up, her readers certainly will.

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### **Megan Baxter says**

This is my first Patricia Cornwell, starting 16 books into the series, which is probably not optimal. Earlier books may be better. I may try them some day. I may not.

Note: The rest of this review has been withdrawn due to the changes in Goodreads policy and enforcement.

You can read why I came to this decision here.

In the meantime, you can read the entire review at Smorgasbook

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### **Bree says**

You miss a couple of these books, and suddenly Marino is a madman? Wha? This book is akin to an American eating Marmite- I'm reading it, but I'm not particularly sure why.

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### **Judy says**

Patricia Cornwell promised us she'd do better with this book. She did, but not by much. Her habit of resuscitating characters who have been left for stone-cold dead is particularly annoying. They are all weary and worn. May they rest in peace.

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