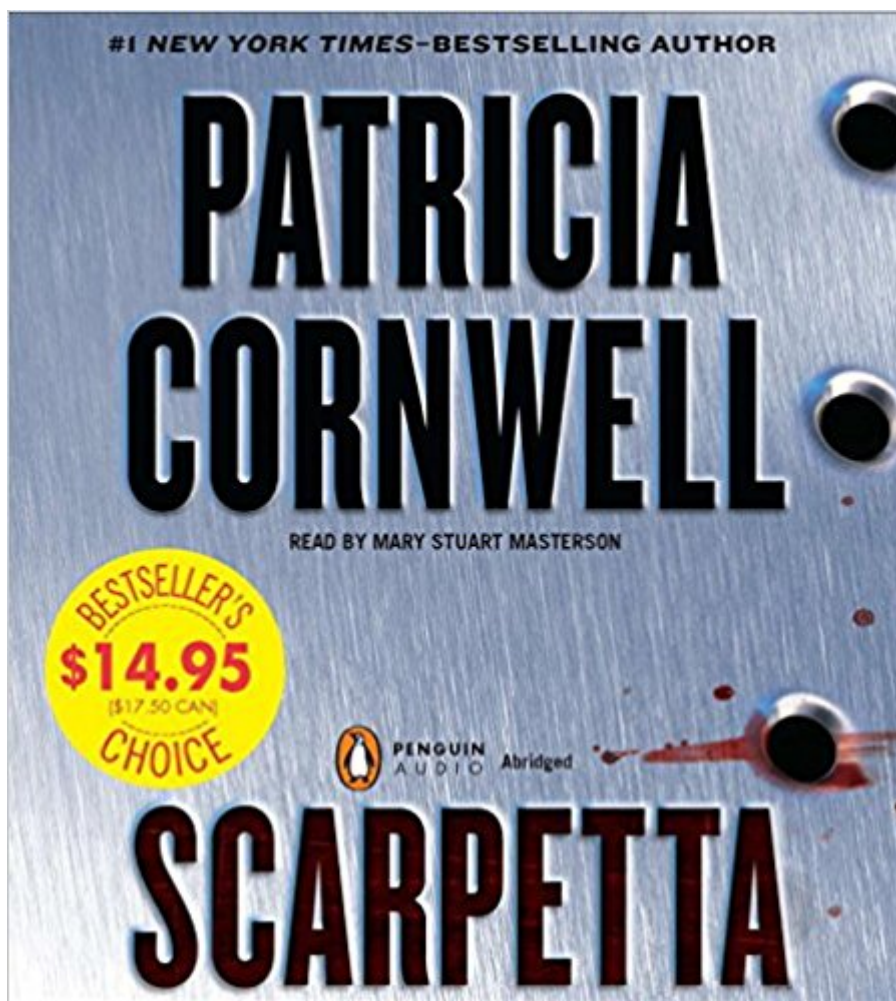


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## Scarpetta: Scarpetta (Book 16)



## Synopsis

From America's #1 bestselling crime writers comes the extraordinary new Kay Scarpetta novel. Leaving behind her private forensic pathology practice in Charleston, South Carolina, Kay Scarpetta accepts an assignment in New York City, where the NYPD has asked her to examine an injured man on Bellevue Hospital's psychiatric prison ward. The handcuffed and chained patient, Oscar Bane, has specifically asked for her, and when she literally has her gloved hands on him, he begins to talk—and the story he has to tell turns out to be one of the most bizarre she has ever heard. The injuries, he says, were sustained in the course of a murder . . . that he did not commit. Is Bane a criminally insane stalker who has fixed on Scarpetta? Or is his paranoid tale true, and it is he who is being spied on, followed and stalked by the actual killer? The one thing Scarpetta knows for certain is that a woman has been tortured and murdered—and more violent deaths will follow. Gradually, an inexplicable and horrifying truth emerges: Whoever is committing the crimes knows where his prey is at all times. Is it a person, a government? And what is the connection between the victims? In the days that follow, Scarpetta; her forensic psychologist husband, Benton Wesley; and her niece, Lucy, who has recently formed her own forensic computer investigation firm in New York, will undertake a harrowing chase through cyberspace and the all-too-real streets of the city—an odyssey that will take them at once to places they never knew, and much, much too close to home. Throughout, Cornwell delivers shocking twists and turns, and the kind of cutting-edge technology that only she can provide. Once again, she proves her exceptional ability to entertain and enthrall.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At the start of bestseller Cornwell's plodding 16th thriller to feature Dr. Kay Scarpetta (after *Book of the Dead*), the forensic pathologist who recently relocated to Belmont, Mass., with her forensic psychologist husband is called to Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital for reasons that don't become clear until she gets there. Oscar Bane, who voluntarily committed himself to Bellevue while denying he brutally murdered his girlfriend, refuses to speak to anyone except the high-profile Scarpetta. Bane, Scarpetta discovers, is obsessed with her. Meanwhile, someone masquerading as Scarpetta is lurking in cyberspace and supplying an online gossip site with dirty secrets about the doctor. For help on the murder case, Scarpetta turns to her computer whiz niece and a macho former colleague whose shocking actions in *Book of the Dead* severely damaged his relationship with Scarpetta. With a plot full of holes and frustrating red herrings, this entry falls short of the high standard set by earlier volumes in this iconic series. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Critics agreed that readers familiar with Cornwell's series will find *Scarpetta* a weak addition; novice audiences will certainly want to skip over this one and start with *Postmortem* (1990), Cornwell's award-winning debut. Although *Scarpetta* is not one of the better entries to date, the thriller contains Cornwell's meticulous attention to detail (from autopsies to investigations) and edge-of-your-seat plotting. However, reviewers cited too much backstory, overly complex twists, and only mediocre characterization. The *Rocky Mountain Newseven* accused *Scarpetta* of becoming "something of a cipher," while the *Guardian* found nothing to like at all. The bright spot? A thrilling, unpredictable ending. Copyright 2009 Bookmarks Publishing LLC --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Bestselling author Patricia Cornwell brings her readers another suspenseful thriller featuring one of her favorite characters, Dr. Kay Scarpetta. As each chapter continues, this book is impossible to put down from beginning to end!.....Since leaving behind her private forensic pathology practice in Charleston, along with all the painful memories that went with it, Dr. Kay Scarpetta accepts a position in New York City, but little did she know when the NYPD requests her help to examine a possible suspect in Bellvue's psychiatric hospital, her life was about to be drawn into one of the

most biggest and deadliest mysteries of her entire career. Specifically asking for her, and only her, Kay suspiciously examined Oscar Bane who was handcuffed and chained to the bed in the infirmary and while she proceeded collecting evidence, he began to tell her a chilling tale. The injuries he sustained to himself was due to an attack by a vicious killer who violently murdered his girlfriend, and to make matters even worse, he told Kay he was being followed for weeks by an unknown stalker. Was it true? Was Oscar telling her the truth? Or was he fixated on Kay just to get her to Bellevue for his own personal gain? All she knew with a certainty that Oscar's girlfriend Terri Bridges was brutally tortured and murdered by a twisted psychopath. When another murder occurs proving Oscar's innocence, Kay is joined by her forensic psychologist husband Benton Wesley and her niece Lucy, who just opened her own investigative firm in New York, and together they start their own investigation, but just when they thought they had the killer in their midst, they are stunned by the chilling truth. As they are joined by a friendly ally, they find themselves taking a deadly journey through cyberspace, but nothing will prepare them when they discover the shocking realization of what really happened and who was really responsible, making them all realize that danger was not only lurking nearby, but it was much closer to home than they ever thought possible!.....thank you

Patricia Cornwell's writing is so visual that the reader can see the ongoing actions very clearly. Her characters engage the reader from the beginning. Her research is in a class by itself. She wants the reader to be involved in every step of the novel. As a reader, I am never disappointed by the amount of research Ms. Cornwell incorporates into her writing which allows an even deeper dimension to her work. Her books are always worth the time it takes to read them.

Author Cornwell's often challenging formula of complaining characters, convoluted plots, and random pacing is tweaked a little in "Scarpetta", as some rare and welcome warmth is seen among the supporting cast, the plot is a little more compelling and easier to follow than recent entries, and the central character herself is presented a little more multi-dimensionally. On that last point, Dr. Kay actually jokes once or twice and even displays a sensual side. Saints preserve us! Actually, I'm one of the few readers who didn't mind the way things were before, admiring Ms. Cornwell for writing the kinds of stories she wanted to write without regard for slick readability and other lowest common denominator elements. Still, it was nice to see an injection of actual camaraderie among the central cast of Kay, Benton, Marino, and Lucy, and well as some eventual individual happiness for each. In addition to the decent central mystery (did troubled police suspect Oscar Bain brutally kill his

girlfriend or did someone else do it?), there's a subplot involving an internet gossip site that adds a little fun to the mix. A well-staged final confrontation scene and a moody, effective epilogue (set in the famous New York eatery, "Elaine's"), brings it all to a satisfying close. Another one or two like this and I might refuse to go back to the way things were before, as "Scarpetta" has shown that it's possible for this series to showcase tough, edgy stories without the central core characters hating themselves and each other.

Not having been happy with the last few novels by Cornwell, I decided to give it one more try. I was pleasantly surprised. Still not as good as her earlier works, I did find this book entertaining and interesting. The story line was good, and the character development very good. I loved the ending which made reading this book worth my while. As a side note, I did order the next book in the series, and so far, I am not nearly as enthralled. :( Enjoy this one while you can, based on reviews of the subsequent books, I don't think we will be as lucky.

The book was advertised as "Large Print." It is not Large print. The book received as a standard hardcover book. Although the condition (wear and tear) was acceptable, it was not as advertised. I bought the book for my elderly Aunt, which is of no use to her as it is NOT LARGE PRINT. Unfortunately, also not returnable. This is the first time I've ever had a problem with or it's independent sellers. This is the first time I've purchased from this seller....also the last time.

I really used to love this series, but Cornwell has completely lost touch w/, not only her audience, but reality, it seems. The characters she'd created for this series so many years ago are so caricatures of themselves. The stories are ludicrous, and I no longer give a damn about any of her characters. I will not be buying any more of her books.

I am rereading all 24 books in this series because they are just that good!

I love Patricia Cornwall books.

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