

#1

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

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CORNWELL

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**Intrigue takes Kay Scarpetta an ocean's length
away from home in this high-stakes novel
from Patricia Cornwell . . .**

Remains were all that was left of the stowaway. He arrived in Richmond's Deep Water Terminal—the ghastly cargo of a ship from Belgium. The decomposed body gave Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta no clues to its identity—or the cause of death. But an odd tattoo led her on an international search to Interpol's headquarters in Lyon, France—and on a mission that would pull her in two opposite directions: toward protecting her career or toward the truth . . .

"Brainteasing . . . one of the most savage killers of her career . . . [a] hair-raising tale with a French twist."—People

"The author's darkest and perhaps best . . . a fast-paced, first-rate thriller."—San Francisco Examiner

"When [Scarpetta's] in one of her cut-'em-up moods, you want to follow her anywhere...a series that keeps picking up velocity."—The New York Times

"The forensic sequences boom with authority; the brief action sequences explode on the page . . . A thunderhead of disquietude hangs over this compulsively readable novel, sometimes loosing storms of suspense; but to Cornwell's considerable credit, the unease arises ultimately not from the steady potential for violence, but from a more profound horror: the vulnerability of a good woman like Kay to a world beset by the corrupt, the cruel, the demonic."

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

**A LITERARY GUILD® MAIN SELECTION
A MYSTERY GUILD® MAIN SELECTION**

continued . . .

"Cornwell's latest villain is a wonderful creation . . . [Her] detail-laden descriptions of autopsies, gleaned from her work experience on the staff of a Virginia chief medical examiner, offered the same kind of unique insight Tom Clancy provides concerning high-tech weaponry . . . *Black Notice* is a pleasant step forward . . . the villain is cracker-jack, the chase is exciting . . . Good for Patricia Cornwell, and even better for her many fans."

—*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

"It is fascinating to watch Scarpetta and her supporting cast . . . become more and more themselves . . . especially in such a brilliantly paced adventure as this one."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Patricia Cornwell is back in fine form with *Black Notice*."

—*San Antonio Express-News*

"The bare outline does not do justice to the ingenuity Ms. Cornwell used in creating her story, combining her knowledge of forensic medicine, her research in law-enforcement techniques, and her skill in building tension and dread of evil . . . Ms. Cornwell's strongest suits always have been her attention to detail and her insistence on researching her books through first-hand experience. Those attributes shine in this novel."

—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"Cornwell's best novel in this series in a while . . . fans of her work should enjoy it immensely."

—*Library Journal*

"Demonstrates beyond a doubt that Patricia Cornwell still has the magic touch to produce another memorable work."

—*Midwest Book Review*

POINT OF ORIGIN

"Cornwell lights a fire under familiar characters—and sparks her hottest adventure in years."

—*People*

"Fascinating."

—*The Memphis Commercial Appeal*

"Packed with action and suspense."

—*Rocky Mountain News*

"Sears its way into the psyche . . . Ablaze with Cornwell's finest, scariest writing."

—*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"Fans will rejoice: It's classic Patricia Cornwell."

—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"Her most engrossing effort in years . . . By the time you get to the gruesome denouement, you're emotionally spent, but satisfied."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"Fans . . . will welcome this tale of twisted minds and the gory havoc they cause . . . chilling."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Creepy doings . . . The technical material . . . continues to fascinate."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

continued . . .

UNNATURAL EXPOSURE

"Relentlessly intense . . . Stark and gripping . . . Scarpetta is back on her game and in peak form."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Thrilling . . . Once again we see the ingenuity and bravery that have made [Scarpetta] so appealing."

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Almost mythic darkness . . . Scarpetta's palpable terror, so close to paranoia, lends her world a gothic atmosphere in which evil verges on the supernatural."

—*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"A doozy . . . Cunningly plotted . . . Medically propelled like the best of Cornwell's work, *Unnatural Exposure* will quickly have hypochondriacs squirming in their chairs." —*People*

CAUSE OF DEATH

"Gripping reading . . . So hard to put down your arms will tingle with intimations of rigor mortis before you reach the smashing climax."

—*Newsday*

"*Cause of Death* describes cutting-edge forensic techniques in fascinating detail. Dr. Scarpetta herself continues to fascinate, with a sensibility in which clinical objectivity and human concerns coexist convincingly."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

"Cornwell is such a master of narrative pacing that once *Cause of Death* has been started, it is still all but impossible to put it down until the final page."

—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"She is a meticulous researcher and a talented writer with an unerring eye for detail . . . Her major characters are vivid and complex."

—*The Boston Globe*

FROM POTTER'S FIELD

"A terrific read, perhaps the best entry in the Scarpetta series yet."
—*New York Daily News*

"Complex and convincing . . . fascinating and original."
—*Los Angeles Times*

"Creepy complications, combined with the downright macabre atmosphere of this tale make *From Potter's Field* a frantic, and at times, surreal thriller."
—*The Washington Post Book World*

"Dr. Scarpetta is no cardboard heroine—she's smart, lonely, fighting her own demons, and this bleak tale is horrifying and mesmerizing in equal measure."
—*Cosmopolitan*

THE BODY FARM

"*The Body Farm* is Cornwell at her chilling best . . . A murdered child, a distraught mother and clues that suggest the return of a serial killer...This one is chock-full of the very latest in dazzling forensic technology . . . [will] keep the reader pinned to the chair."
—*USA Today*

"Convincing . . . chilling."
—*Time*

"Ingenious."
—*The Washington Post Book World*

"All the pacing and suspense that Cornwell fans have come to expect . . . Will cause a few sleepless nights."
—*People*

Also by
Patricia Cornwell

POSTMORTEM
BODY OF EVIDENCE
ALL THAT REMAINS
CRUEL AND UNUSUAL
THE BODY FARM
FROM POTTER'S FIELD
CAUSE OF DEATH
HORNET'S NEST
UNNATURAL EXPOSURE
POINT OF ORIGIN
SCARPETTA'S WINTER TABLE
SOUTHERN CROSS
LIFE'S LITTLE FABLE

RUTH, A PORTRAIT: THE STORY
OF RUTH BELL GRAHAM

BLACK NOTICE

TO NINA SALTER
Water and Words

*And the third angel
poured out his vial
upon the rivers and
fountains of waters;
and they became
blood.*

(REVELATION 16:4)

BW

*December 6, 1996
Epworth Heights
Ludington, Michigan*

My Dearest Kay,

I am sitting on the porch, staring out at Lake Michigan as a sharp wind reminds me I need to cut my hair. I am remembering when we were here last, both of us abandoning who and what we are for one precious moment in the history of our time. Kay, I need you to listen to me.

You are reading this because I am dead. When I decided to write it, I asked Senator Lord to deliver it to you in person in the early part of December, a year after my death. I know how hard Christmas has always been for you, and now it must be unbearable. Loving you was when my life began. Now that it has ended, your gift to me is to go on.

Of course you haven't dealt with a damn thing, Kay. You have sped like hell to crime scenes and done more autopsies than ever. You have been consumed by court and running the institute, with lecturing, worrying about Lucy, getting irritated with Marino, eluding your neighbors and fearing the night. You haven't taken a vacation or a sick day, no matter how much you've needed it.

It's time to stop dodging your pain and let me comfort you. Hold my hand in your mind and remember the many times we talked about death, never accepting that any disease or accident or act of violence has the power of absolute annihilation because our bodies are just the suits we wear. And we are so much more than that.

Kay, I want you to believe I am somehow aware of you as you read this, somehow looking after you, and

that everything's going to be all right. I ask you to do one thing for me to celebrate a life we've had that I know will never end. Call Marino and Lucy. Invite them over for dinner tonight. Cook one of your famous meals for them and save a place for me.

*I love you forever, Kay,
Benton*

The #1 New York Times Bestselling Author

PATRICIA CORNWELL

**"Dr. Scarpetta is no cardboard heroine—
she's smart, lonely, fighting her own demons,
and this bleak tale is horrifying and mesmerizing in
equal measure."—Cosmopolitan**

**"Complex and convincing...fascinating and
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