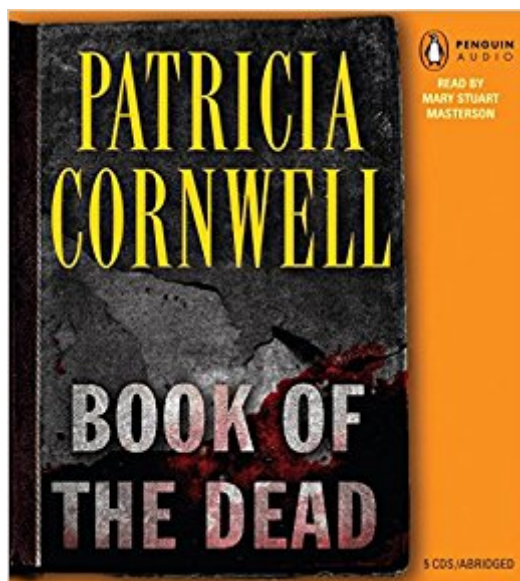


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Book Of The Dead: Scarpetta (Book 15)



Synopsis

From America's #1 bestselling crime writer comes the extraordinary new Dr. Kay Scarpetta novel. The "book of the dead" is the morgue log, the ledger in which all cases are entered by hand. For Kay Scarpetta, however, it is about to have a new meaning. Fresh from her bruising battle with a psychopath in Florida, Scarpetta decides it's time for a change of pace-not only personally and professionally, but geographically. Moving to the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina, she opens a unique private forensic pathology practice, one in which she and her colleagues-including Pete Marino and her niece, Lucy-offer expert crime-scene investigation and autopsies to communities that lack local access to competent death investigation and modern technology. It seems like an ideal situation, until the new battles start-with local politicians, with entrenched interests, with someone whose covert attempts at sabotage are clearly meant to run her out of town. And that's even before the murders and other violent deaths begin. A young man from a well-known family jumps off a water tower. A woman is found ritualistically murdered in her multi-million-dollar beach home. The body of an abused young boy is discovered dumped in a desolate marsh. Meanwhile, in distant New England, problems with a prominent patient at a Harvard-affiliated psychiatric hospital begin to hint at interconnections that are as hard to imagine as they are horrible. Scarpetta has dealt with many brutal and unusual crimes before, but never a string of them as baffling, or as terrifying, as the ones that face her now. Before she is through, that book of the dead will contain many names-and the pen may be poised to write her own. The first name in forensics. The last name in suspense. Once again, Patricia Cornwell proves her exceptional ability to entertain and enthrall.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bestseller Cornwell's 15th novel to feature Dr. Kay Scarpetta (after 2005's *Predator*) delivers her trademark grisly crime scenes, but lacks the coherence and emotional resonance of earlier books. Soon after relocating to Charleston, S.C., to launch a private forensics lab, Scarpetta is asked to consult on the murder of U.S. tennis star Drew Martin, whose mutilated body was found in Rome. Contradictory evidence leaves Scarpetta, the Italian carabinieri and Scarpetta's lover, forensic psychologist Benton Wesley, stumped. But when she discovers unsettling connections between Martin's murder, the body of an unidentified South Carolina boy and her old nemesis, the maniacal psychiatrist Dr. Marilyn Self, Scarpetta encounters a killer as deadly as any she's ever faced. With her recent switch from first- to third-person narration, Cornwell loses what once made her series so compelling: a window into the mind of a strong, intelligent woman holding her own in a profession dominated by men. Here, the abrupt shifts in point of view slow the momentum, and the reader flounders in excessive forensic minutiae. Copyright ÃÂ Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's hard to fault Cornwell for trying to redeem herself after missing the mark with her last few Kay Scarpetta novels, but this new one won't do the trick. The frosty forensic pathologist and her entourage remain as annoyingly self-absorbed and screwed up as ever, and their emotional baggage once again gets in the way of the story. A lengthy, vivid scene during which a young tennis star is slowly and brutally tortured sets up the mystery, which unfolds in artless leaps, mostly through halting dialogue and occasional forays into the mind of the killer. Once again Cornwell trots out venal characters from previous Scarpetta books; prominent here is psycho-bitch teleshrink Dr. Self (*Predator*, 2005), who is hoarding information about what turns out to be a string of loosely related murders. Then there's Scarpetta's longtime investigator, Pete Marino, foulmouthed and crude but tolerated, who reveals true ugliness in what may be the best scene in the book. As to forensic detail, it seems right up to the minute, and Scarpetta uses it often in her search for the killer, all the while trying to preserve balance in her personal life. Only for diehard Cornwell fans, of whom there are still many, despite the author's continued slump. Zvirin, Stephanie --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love Patricia Cornwell and have read almost every one of her Scarpetta books. Not necessarily in order. This one included. Maybe that was the cause of my disappointment with this one. It moved too slow and failed to engage my interest. Usually I read her books within a three day period, but this one took a few weeks.

I used to be a big fan of the Scarpetta series until I tried to read this turkey. It's a mishmash of threads that just build to a tangle of dull and uninspired mysteries. Honestly, I don't understand what happened to her ability to tell a suspenseful story because this thing was a mess.

What happens in Charlotte does not stay in Charlotte. There are many twists and turns in this novel. If you are a Kay fan, you will figure a few of them out. Then comes a new twist and the end is not exactly what you expected. The characters are as real as ever.

I really like Patricia Cornwell. I also love her character, Dr. Kay Scarpetta, her niece, and her fiance in this book who later becomes her husband. She has all sorts of characters in this one. Not all good but still a very interesting story.

Sorry I found this book hard to follow and understand. Cornwall seems to think every reader understands her back stories. It seemed that every character was full of secrets that related back to I don't know where. Constant whining through out. I have read a lot of Cornwell and don't remember having such a time maintaining interest or forcing myself to continue reading.

Have been Cornwell fan for many years. Never been let down by plot. Characters, or the content. Enough vocabulary to keep you interested and lots of information included within the plot.

This story lagged and was somewhat boring. It was hard to be interested in the characters. I finished it to see how it would end but was almost not worth it.

Love the series but always have to read the books twice to get the nuances and details. Complex plots and memorable characters.

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