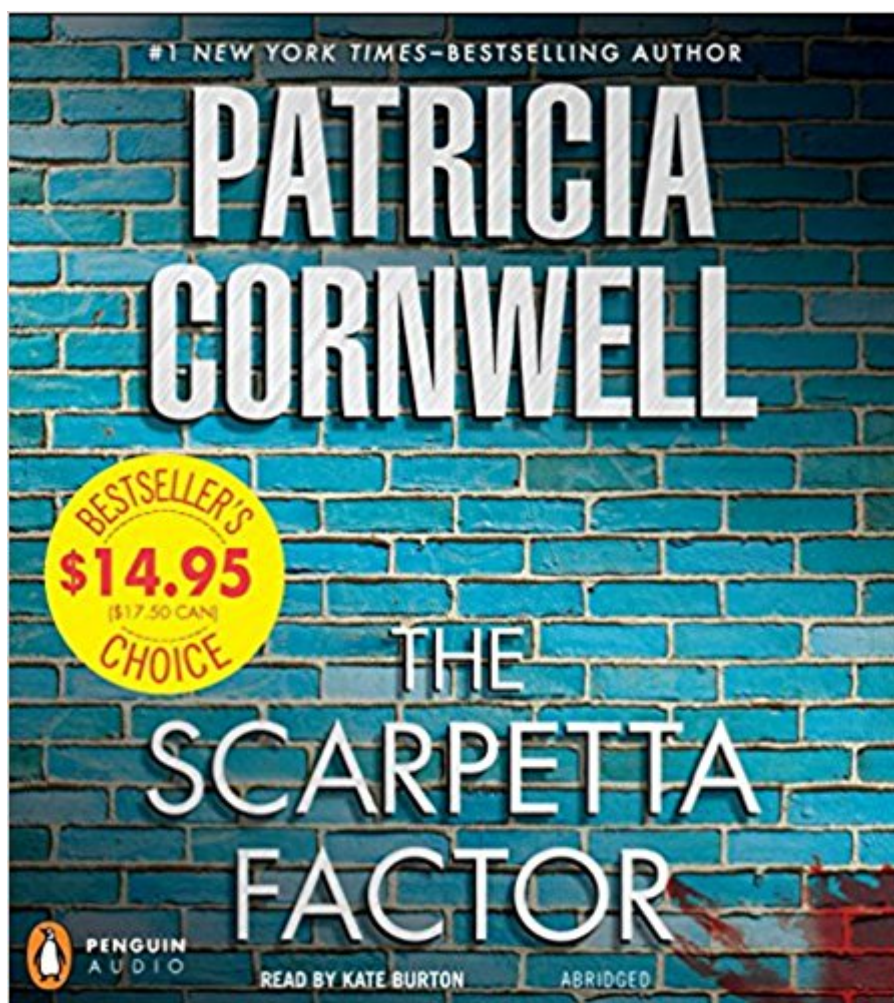


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# The Scarpetta Factor: Scarpetta (Book 17)



## Synopsis

In the extraordinary new novel by Patricia Cornwell-the world's #1 bestselling crime writer-forensic expert Kay Scarpetta is surrounded by familiar faces, yet traveling down the unfamiliar road of fame. A CNN producer wants her to launch a TV show called The Scarpetta Factor. But the glare of the spotlight could make Kay a target for the very killers she would put behind bars...From the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Patricia Cornwell and James Patterson: Author One-on-One In this exclusive, we brought together blockbuster authors Patricia Cornwell and James Patterson and asked them to interview each other. Find out what two of the top authors of their genres have to say about their characters, writing process, and more. James Patterson is one of the bestselling writers of all time, with more than 170 million copies of his books sold worldwide. He is the author of two of the most popular detective series of the past decade, featuring Alex Cross and the Women's Murder Club, and he also writes nonfiction and The Maximum Ride series for young readers. Read on to see James Patterson's questions for Patricia Cornwell, or turn the tables to see what Cornwell asked Patterson. Patterson: Here's a chance to say all the great things the critics would about The Scarpetta Factor, if there were any newspapers left that still reviewed books. Or, as they say in the TV interviews: Tell us about this one, Patricia. Cornwell: As was true in the last book (Scarpetta), the new one is set in New York City, and it begins with Kay Scarpetta working on the autopsy of a young woman who

presumably was murdered the night before in Central Park. While the apparent circumstances of the violent crime say one thing, the body is telling Scarpetta a very different and incredibly disturbing story that causes the prosecutor, the police, other officials, and even Scarpetta's friends and colleagues, to wonder if she's making mistakes or has begun to believe her own legend. While others are questioning and criticizing her, she begins to doubt herself and her decision to be the senior forensic analyst for CNN— an exposure that possibly leads to her BlackBerry disappearing and a suspicious package being left for her at her apartment building. As the intrigue unfolds, the past is no longer past, and she is soon faced with an old nemesis who threatens to be her final undoing.

Patterson: This book is set in New York again— what do you like about the Big City? What don't you like? Cornwell: Certainly New York City is the ultimate Big City. By placing Scarpetta in the midst of NYC within its medical examiner's office, I've positioned her on an international stage where anything can and does happen. The machinery is huge (NYPD and the FBI field office, for example), yet the private lives of the characters remain intimate and small. Not only is this a big story about a big-city case that captivates the world, it's also a very close look at the characters and who and what they are to one another in contemporary times. In terms of what I like and don't like about NYC? The only thing I don't like about it is driving there.

Patterson: I often get asked what I have in common with Alex Cross. What would you say you have in common with Kay Scarpetta? Cornwell: Scarpetta and I share the same values and sensibilities. We approach cases the same way (which should be rather obvious, since I work the cases by taking on her persona). Beyond that, there are many differences. I'm not Catholic or Italian or married to Benton Wesley. I'm not a forensic pathologist with a law degree. I don't have her emotional discipline or inhibitions, nor do I have her professional dazzle. (I always remind people I was an English major who started working at age eleven, first as a babysitter, then in food service!) I don't have Scarpetta's pedigree. But then, she isn't a writer, unless she's writing professional journal articles or autopsy reports.

Patterson: What's your routine like when it comes to writing? Do you do write every day? On the road? Do you need vacations from your writing? Cornwell: I wish I had more of a routine. I begin each book with research that continues up to the very end of the process. But gradually, as I approach the deadline, I sink deeper into seclusion until eventually I don't even answer e-mails or the phone anymore (unless it's my partner, Staci). I just write morning, noon, and night. The pulling together and completion of a novel is so intense, I'm almost living out of body by the time I'm done. It's the most wonderful and miserable experience imaginable. I would love a vacation but never seem to have time, and I doubt I'd know what to do if you made me "do nothing." In fact, Staci and I have a strange habit of going to foreign lands and visiting their police departments and morgues instead of

just hanging out at the beach. I don't write every day because I do so much research, and currently, I have many other responsibilities that keep me busier than ever (filming, involvement with forensic institutesâjust the business of life, for example). Patterson: What's the best feedback you've had from a reader? Orâwhat was the best piece of writing advice you've had? Cornwell: Frankly, the best feedback was when a reader complained some years ago that he wasn't sure I liked my characters anymore. And I thought about this and realized I wasn't sure I did, either. A horrible thing to realize. It was because the series had gone on for so long that it was time to reinvent the characters and their relationships with one another and the world they inhabit. I think this remake is most apparent in the last book, *Scarpetta*, and I am on a wonderful and invigorating new course that is even more evident in the new one, *The Scarpetta Factor*. Patterson: Bonus question: How do you feel about the Hollywood adaptations of your work? Don't be afraidâlet it all hang out. Cornwell: In the past, very disappointed, because the projects went nowhere. Now, so far so good. The first films (Lifetime movies of *At Risk* and *The Front*, which are non-*Scarpetta* novellas) air this spring. I had a magnificent experience from beginning to end with the producers, actorsâeveryone. It's way too early to talk about the 20th Century Fox project with Angelina Jolie, although who wouldn't be excited about her? --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bestseller Cornwell's solid 17th thriller to feature Dr. Kay Scarpetta (after *Scarpetta*) finds Scarpettaâwho's the senior forensic analyst for CNNâprobing the murder of a Central Park jogger as well as looking into the disappearance of Hannah Starr, a wealthy financial planner. Quizzed on-air about previously undisclosed details of the perplexing Starr case, Scarpetta realizes that the tentacles of the case reach further than she imagined. Her niece, forensic computer whiz Lucy Farinelli, has her own reasons for digging into Starr's disappearance, along with Lucy's girlfriend, New York County ADA Jaime Berger. NYPD Det. Pete Marino, another series staple, is also in the loop as a member of Berger's task force. But it's the dark past of Scarpetta's psychologist husband, Benton Wesleyâparticularly his presumed death in *Point of Origin* and shocking reappearance five years later in *Blow Fly*âthat binds the disparate pieces together and make this one of Cornwell's stronger recent efforts. (Oct.) Copyright 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.

I enjoyed the early books, but old age kept me from the book store for a few years so I am catching up on my Kindle. I liked the story line, but I spent so much time reading things not in (it seemed to me) the story. So many characters that were not part of the story, or were giving so much more

space than they needed. I suspect they might have been in a previous story I missed. Will try another Scarpetta book soon.

I'm a huge fan of the Scarpetta novels, but this one left me wanting. The back and forth action between 2 scenes happening simultaneously was a bit off-putting. A little of that would have gone a long way. I actually had to force myself to finish reading this one. It won't stop me from reading the rest of the series though. I'm hopeful that the remaining books will return to a more engaging writing style.

I couldn't even remember what this book was about when I came now to review it. Then I re-read a few reviews and it all came back. I agree, Benton is a cardboard cut-out. I love men but don't know a single one that perfect! Men are truly from Mars, but Benton seems to be from some other planet. One not in our universe, a cold rocky flat star. And the whole Marino attack thing, I found that to ring false too. "Everyone adores Kay, Kay is so perfect, Oh Poor Kay is such a victim, it's so unfair how the little people are so mean to Kay..." How about some genuine human flaws? I really love the Scarpetta series, but feel like our author is maybe getting bored with it. If you truly are, just take a break from Scarpetta and write something else, or retire her like Rebus and Harry Potter have been, or whatever. I guess what I feel most of all is a loss of the author's joy in creating these tales. I'm not a writing coach but it seems like something is off. All that being said, I'm still a huge Patricia Cornwell and Kay Scarpetta fan. Hope it works itself out in the next few books, if Cornwell decides to proceed.

Many years ago when I first found the world of Kay Scarpetta I was like an addict. I couldn't buy and read these books fast enough. The last three books, though, have been....boring. To be honest, my dedication waned several books back when Kay lost her job as the top Virginia M.E. Along with the never ending Chandonne threat, which, in my opinion, never should have taken up more than one book. I saw Ms. Cornwell in an interview where she stated that she changed her writing style, making chapters shorter, because readers have short attention spans. How can a person that will read several hundred pages of writing have a short attention span? If I could say anything to Ms. Cornwell it would be, "please go back to the beginning and write that way again."

Another Cornwell mystery, I found it extremely wordy, so much should have been left out especially between some of the characters. I almost put it aside as I have one of her other novels, but the more

I read it attracted my attention and I am now enjoying the novel. I have not finished the book as yet but very soon.

With several difficult tasks I needed to tackle and complete I tucked my new copy of *The Scarpetta Factor* in my desk drawer to read after all those tasks were done. It was to be my reward; I've always loved Cornwell's Scarpetta stories. Not a good decision this time. At many places in *The Factor* I was ready to quit. Not one character "came alive". The technical terms dragged on and on (and I usually am interested in learning new terms and technicalities). Even the dialogue between and among characters was often mundane and led nowhere. I kept waiting to see it would "matter" later on.....I pushed on. I finished reading the book....and I feel empty. Disappointed. Maybe I need to find another author's series to explore? And I certainly won't save another Cornwell story to reward myself for completing some difficult task.

Have never read a book by this author and we read it in book club. The characters were too hard to keep straight because a lot of them started with the letter "B". Didn't focus enough on the plot so when it finally came together in the end, it was anti-climactic. The way the book was written didn't capture and keep my attention. Not sure I would ever read another book by this author.

I love Kay Scarpetta series. It took me awhile to read, but worth the wait. The twists might have been a bit predictable, but didn't ruin the story at all. I love how we are let into their lives and can relate to the simple things like family, friends, and making the most of what we have. I would recommend this book for adults as there is necheophilia involved though not a huge part of the story.

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