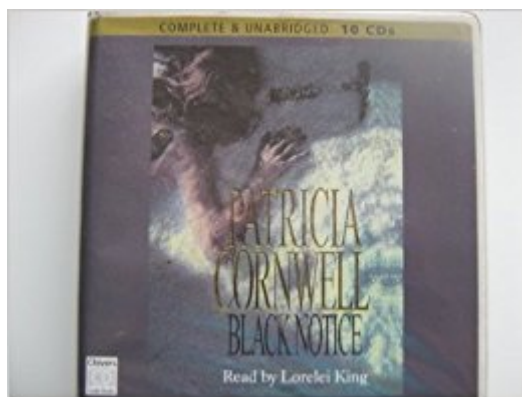


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# Black Notice: Complete & Unabridged



## Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. The discovery of the decomposed body of a stowaway aboard a cargo ship leads Chief Medical Examiner Kay Scarpetta to a perilous international odyssey on a mission that could destroy her career and threatens her own life. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The postmortem is in--Black Notice, the 10th in Patricia Cornwell's Scarpetta series, is a gore-splattered, intensely exciting read. As winter grips Richmond, Virginia, an air of somberness pervades chief medical examiner Kay Scarpetta's world. Her beloved niece Lucy is involved in a dangerous undercover police operation in Miami, and auntie fears for her life. A tyrannical new deputy chief, Diane Bray, wants to get Kay's department under her jurisdiction. Meanwhile, back at the office, someone has tinkered with the e-mail system, stealing Kay's identity, and sending off slanderous and hurtful messages. Emotionally battered, Scarpetta fears she is going insane. Or, could it be that someone is deliberately sowing this harvest of sorrow? Despite her personal problems, Scarpetta is still the reigning diva at the department of death. She is sent to investigate the putrefied remains of a man found inside a container ship, "eyes bulged froglike, and the scalp and beard were sloughing off with the outer layer of darkening skin." Kay finds strange, animal-like hairs on the man's clothing--the same hairs that she discovers on a murdered store clerk a few days later. In actuality, the bizarre killings extend well beyond Virginia; whoever killed the Richmond victims also butchered people in France. Kay and police captain Pete Marino are whisked off to Paris where they must collect top-secret information from a Paris morgue, and avoid becoming

victims themselves. This macabre tome is the stuff that classic Scarpetta tales are made of: creepy but compulsive autopsy scenes, plentiful plot twists, and the compelling, if slightly more vulnerable chief medical examiner herself. --Naomi Gesinger --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

It's like a splash of cold water on a hot day to be plunged, after the irritating third-person satire of Cornwell's last novel, *Southern Cross* (1998), back into the bracing narration of medical examiner Kay Scarpetta. As in the nine Scarpettas past (*Point of Origin*, etc.), here it's not the novel's events, startling as they are, that propel the story so much as the deep-hearted responses of Kay, as real a hero as any in thriller fiction, to the "evil" that threatens. Evil wears several faces here, from petty to monstrous. Most insidious is the office sabotage, insubordination, thefts, fraudulent e-mails that's making the grieving Kay look as if she's lost her grip since her lover's murder in *Point of Origin*. More destructive are the overt attempts by calculating Richmond, Va., deputy police chief Diane Bray to ruin Kay's career as well as that of Kay's old friend, Capt. Pete Marino. Then there's the wild rage at life that's consuming Kay's niece, a DEA agent. Finally, the plot wire that binds the sometimes scattered plot, there are the mutilation killings by the French serial killer self-styled "Loup-Garou," a werewolf. The forensic sequences boom with authority; the brief action sequences explode on the page, in the finale, overbearingly so; the interplay between Kay and Marino is boisterous as always, and there's an atmospheric sidetrip to Paris and an affecting romantic misadventure for lonely Kay. 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. One million first printing; \$750,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild, Doubleday Book Club and Mystery Guild main selections; unabridged and abridged audio versions; foreign rights sold in eight countries. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Called to one of the most horrific crime scenes ever, Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta, tried to hold it together as she surveyed her surroundings. Not only was her personal life in total shambles after recently losing the love of her life, Benton Wesley but her professional life was wavering also. Although she didn't know it, but her next case and the crime scene before her would change everything, regarding herself and others close to her. Entering a huge container, Kay found a badly decomposed body and it will not only cause alarming questions with a diabolical aftermath, but where it leads will make it even more terrifying. While in the middle of the autopsy, Kay had

discovered quite a few things, but first, she had to figure out who was trying to ruin her. She not only had a traitor in her midst and under her employ, but someone was impersonating her on the internet, but who? Who had it out for her? Who wanted her fired in the worst way? One of her employees? One of her peers? Her enemies? She hadn't a clue but she was determined to find out. After pointing her in the right direction, Kay was once again joined by homicide detective Pete Marino, and as always, they went where the evidence led them, in this case Paris, France. When more murders are committed both in France and the States, Kay and Marino head back home to Virginia, but when death knocks on Kay's front door, she looks through the peephole and sees the eyes of pure evil and cold calculation. Will Marino get to her in time?.....thank you.....

I very much enjoyed this book and I have read most of the Scarpetta novel as by Patricia Cornwell. Generally I am completely satisfied with them but this time I was very disappointed with the ending it just kinda cuts off and left me hanging with a feeling that there should've been more to it. I had so many unanswered questions for instance do Lucy and Jo end up getting into trouble with the ATF or does the family of the werewolf try to avenge his death or do Kay and Talley continue their relationship? I just feel like I was left hanging on too many issues this time. Sorry Ms. Cornwell but I was a little let down and disappointed with this one.

This book just follows the life of Kay Scarpetta round and round, all her usual cronies and loves but I haven't heard about the murders since the very beginning. I've forgotten what the book is about. And some say there is 'blue' language. I'd call it 'black', and you must tolerate M\_\_\_F\_\_\_ing on every single page, times 3, the whole book, plus extra G-D-ing, blasphemy, etc, and the only thing I haven't had to endure is a sex scene--thank goodness. Not done yet, though. Am close to the end, and this book is so boring, it's hard to get there. I don't believe Cornwell even wrote this book. It doesn't have her flow because of the constant profanities, like jarring bumps in the road, and sounds as if it is written by a younger person who is used to including constant profanities in their own language. If she has a good story, why can't she just put it together and make it a relaxing read? It makes me wonder, 'Who wrote this?'

Not one of her best but definitely a good read with an interesting plot.. Love all of her novels, they only take me a day or two to read because they are so good. Now that I have to read a romantic novel for school I can barely force myself to read it. Cornwell has spoiled me!! I've read almost all in

the series. I love the science behind this book, she does an amazing job researching. Point of Origin is another great one by her if you are into the more forensic books.

What I didn't like was the fact, that IMHO, one of the main persons, in this book was more or less left out...That is, details, as to his thoughts, motives, what made him the way he was...there are IMHO, a vagueness, about the 'wolf-man', that should have been included...If any one has ever read "THEWATCHER", by Dean Koontz, will understand what I'm trying to point out...his "MONSTER", was given, feelings it expressed, how it felt, why it was angry, in short, he had substance, you couldn't help but "feel", for the poor thing...this was missing here....another character in the book, her motives, were never made clear, either, before she was 'rubbed out', near the books end.....she was nasty, but I never grasped her true motives or reasons for being that way..I think/ believe, more defining, of the story line was needed...I truly felt let down, at the ending..

Great read! Thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. Very engaging from beginning to end. I couldn't put it down. Never disappointed.

Black Notice: Another Great Novel by Patricia Cornwell; the Usual Cast of Characters (Dr. Kay Scarpetta, Benton Wesley, FBI "Profiler," Lucy and Marino) are not complete in this novel, which caused me to give a 4-Star Rating. However, I still love this series but wanted other potential readers to be forwarded that Patricia Cornwell is not playing by anyone's rules, just her own! Could this be why her books are so intriguing?

If you love the Kay Scarpetta series, then this book should not disappoint. I do recommend reading this series in order though, and readers new to the series should start with Postmortem and work your way up to Black Notice. Black Notice is truly a wonderfully written book though, and Patricia Cornwell never seems to disappoint. People that give this mixed reviews because it did not go the way they wanted it to truly crack me up. If they want a book to go their way, they oughta write their own book.

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