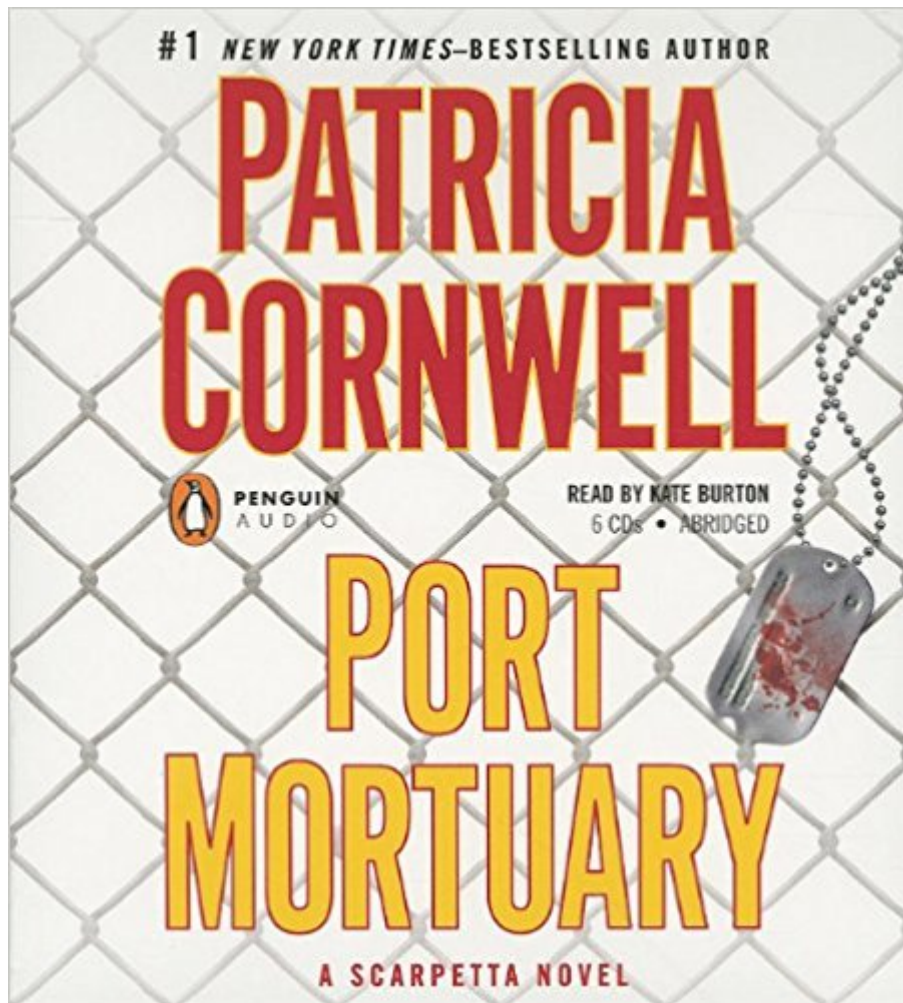




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# Port Mortuary (A Scarpetta Novel)



## Synopsis

Abridged, 6 CDs, 7 1/2 hours Read by Kate Burton The new Kay Scarpetta novel from America's #1 bestselling crime writer.

## Book Information

Series: A Scarpetta Novel

Audio CD

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> [Authors, A-Z](#) > ( C ) > [Cornwell, Patricia](#) #1098 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense](#) >  
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## Customer Reviews

Bestseller Cornwell's compelling 18th Kay Scarpetta novel (after *The Scarpetta Factor*), her strongest work in years, involves the chief medical examiner in a case that's both far-reaching in its national security implications and deeply personal. The story begins at the real Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, where Scarpetta is assisting in developing techniques for virtual autopsies, then shifts back to her recently adopted home at Boston's Cambridge Forensic Center (CFC). A young man's mysterious death becomes even stranger after full-body scans reveal destruction so extensive it's as if a bomb went off inside his body. Scarpetta and husband Benton Wesley-along with her niece, Lucy Farinelli, and ex-cop turned CFC investigator Pete Marino-discover links not only to a government project with the ability to cause mass casualties but also to another grisly case currently under investigation. As Scarpetta's military past rears its head, the emotional damage the investigation of the cases is bound to wreak on Cornwell's steadfast heroine will leave readers eager for the next installment. Long-time fans will welcome the return after a decade to a first-person narration with direct access to Scarpetta's thoughts. (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Cornwell returns to form—somewhat—after the plodding *Scarpetta Factor* (2009). Told in the first person, the story finds Kay Scarpetta, now the chief medical examiner of the new Cambridge Forensic Center in Massachusetts, involved in a couple of cases: the mysterious sudden death of a man and the murder of a child (whose confessed killer seems to be innocent). Soon she begins to suspect the two cases are related—joined by a piece of high-tech hardware found in the first victim's apartment—and before too long, she realizes she's facing what could be her most clever foe yet. For the first time in a while, Cornwell seems genuinely interested in Scarpetta again, giving the novel that spark of life that has made the series so enjoyable for its many fans. The book is still a long way from the glory days of *Postmortem* (1991) and *From Potter's Field* (1995), but it's definitely a step in the right direction. Series fans who have felt a bit let down of late will be pleased. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Print, radio, television, in-person, billboards, Twitter, Facebook, iPhone apps—about the only thing Putnam isn't doing to promote Cornwell's latest is a graffiti campaign. --David Pitt

--This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

This reader is a very loyal Patricia Cornwell fan! If you have not read every novel in the "Kay Scarpetta" Series, IN THE CORRECT ORDER, then you cannot fathom what mystery, murder, and mayhem are truly about! Dr. Scarpetta, a pathologist and Doctor of the dead, Crime Scene Investigator, along with her FBI Agent Profiler Spouse, Benton Wesley, Long-Time friend and Police Investigator, Pete Marino, and Lucy, a genius who is so technologically advanced that she began developing software programs and selling them for mega bucks, make up a team that sniffs out the bad guys who take pleasure in torturous behavior with their chosen victims prior to murdering them in cold blood. In this particular novel a well known character is murdered and accused of many heinous crimes until Dr. Scarpetta repeatedly reminds everyone not to jump to conclusions but to maintain the chain of evidence to unravel this mysterious case! It is a shocking revelation and you will be so riveted by the climax that you will not be able to put this storyline behind you for a while! I give this book a 10+ for holding the reader's full attention.

When will I ever learn! Every single Patricia Cornwell novel is an ode to herself. I am tired of reading how incredibly intelligent, astute, perceptive, beautiful, sensuous, sexy, and a great cook she thinks she is (PC considers herself an amalgamation of Kay, Lucy, AND Benton!!!) My god! Kay Scarpetta is a medical examiner for Pete's sake. She's gotta smell like death. Her average day is 57 hours

long -- that is how long it would take a human being to do all the tedious, yet supposedly intense things she does IN ONE DAY!!! And seriously, Marino always gets a bad rap from Cornwell. We get it, you hate men. Don't bother to read this book. It is more of the same. Perhaps in my next life I will make a fortune telling people how freaking brilliant I am. NOT! Just do yourself a favor, don't read this book.

I am a long time fan of Patricia Cornwell and I wait each year for my book to be delivered so that I can delve back into the world of Scarpetta, Benton and Lucy. That being said, I was disappointed with this book. Disappointed in a way that I cannot quite find words for, which disturbs me greatly. I found it heavy, not in a good way, pedantic, bogged down by pointless material that was at many times inconsequential to the story line and the ending was in no way a resolution to the stress between Benton and Scarpetta. I do like the fact that the perspective switched back to a first person point of view through Scarpetta's eyes because I think everything should be viewed through her eyes the way they once were. I also thought it was good to shine a measure of light on topics that rarely get talked about in fiction. All of this said, I was still depressed by this book because I know how much better the Scarpetta books can be and I just had a hard time with this book as a whole. And as a final note, I know that hardcore Scarpetta fans will not be deterred just as I wouldn't have been because I just had to know myself, but that said, I found the humanity, the relationships and the basic foundation that makes the series so good to me lacking in this novel.

Of all the zscarpetta books, this is the one I like the least. Seems like she is getting old and is nothing of the complete character she used to be. Story jumped around too much for me if Scarlett is main character then please let her be the star she once was rather than stumbling and bumbling and having to be rescued by one of her companions.

Warning: This book is hard to read. Especially if you love Kay Scarpetta. It is disorienting to find her so consistently kept out of the loop that she can't get a handle on what's happening. One of the joys of this series is to have the mystery unfold before your eyes. To hit brick wall after brick wall is so frustrating! To read through the first 400 pages and realize Kay hasn't discovered anything yet is panic-producing. When I got to the end of the book, I realized this wasn't the first time I had read about microbots. Michael Crichton's 2002 novel *Prey* also dealt with this technology. I find the self-replicating capacity to be terrifying. At the time, the only way I could find the courage to live another day was to put the entire issue out of my mind. The best minds in America need to be

pondering this issue, especially the ethics of it. We ignore it at our peril.

I tried really hard to love this book, but the plot really wasn't there. The book spent so much time with Scarpetta internally whining to herself about herself, employees, superiors, her Husband, Marino and every single other person she's ever met, I think that in total there was maybe a total of two and a half chapters about what the plot was. My God, the woman needs therapy at this point. THEN to top it off, the crime was solved.... BOOM .... within a few pages and Kay is cuddled up with a dog. I checked the book to see if someone had torn pages out the end was so abrupt. I love Patricia Cornwall's books, but I'm pretty sure this was ghost written. Will I buy more of what she's written? Yes...I just think this one wasn't up to snuff.

Normally I do not write reviews of books, but I thought Port Mortuary was so bad that I had to make an exception. Like many other now disillusioned Patricia Cornwell readers, I had been a Kay Scarpetta fan for many years. After reading Port Mortuary I don't care if I never hear of Kay Scarpetta again. I found the medical techno talk and psycho babble ad nauseum to be almost coma-inducing and the plot narrative (such as it was) was so disjointed that I had to force myself to finish the book which I only did because I had bought it. Fortunately (speaking from a money standpoint only), I bought the Kindle edition, so my financial loss was not as great as it might have been. Some books I couldn't put down; Port Mortuary I dreaded picking up. In short, I feel that I made a mistake buying the book and Patricia Cornwell has greatly disappointed me.

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