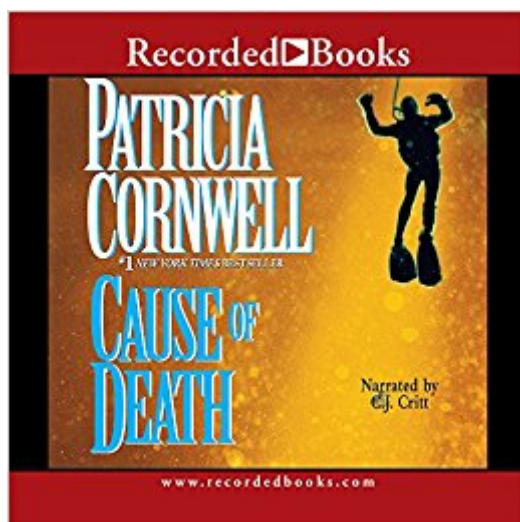


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# Cause Of Death



## Synopsis

On a quiet day, away from the hustle of Richmond, in a small cottage on the Virginia coast, Dr. Kay Scarpetta receives a disturbing phone call from the Chesapeake police. Thirty feet deep in the murky waters of Virginia's Elizabeth River, a scuba diver's body is discovered near the Inactive Naval Shipyard. As the police begin searching for clues, the wallet of investigative reporter Ted Eddings is found. Unnerved by the possible identity of the victim, Scarpetta orders the crime scene roped off and left alone until she arrives. What was he doing there, searching for Civil War relics as the officer suggested or was there a bigger story? As she rifles through the multitude of clues, a second murder hits much closer to home. This new development puts Scarpetta and her colleagues hot on the trail of a military conspiracy. Filled with lurid details that Cornwell's legions of fans have come to expect, *Cause of Death* is a breathtaking mystery further enhanced by C. J. Critt's gripping narration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Patricia Cornwell's heroine Dr. Kay Scarpetta is back; this time to solve the mystery of the death of an Associated Press reporter who was killed while nosing about in a decommissioned navy yard. Scarpetta's involvement in the case leads her to be targeted for murder herself by a nasty little neo-fascist cult with delusions of grandeur that include a plan to "kill and maim, frighten, brainwash and torture" all who oppose their plan to rule the world. Helping Scarpetta is her niece Lucy, an F.B.I. agent whose computer expertise leads to a heart-stopping journey into cyberspace. --This text

refers to the Paperback edition.

First, the good news: the omni-competent Kay Scarpetta is back, along with her sidekicks, in a murder mystery that's tighter than her last escapade, *From Potter's Field*. Chief medical examiner for the state of Virginia and an FBI consultant, Kay finds ample opportunity to demonstrate her skills in the autopsy room and outside it, too: here, she also dives with a Navy SEAL rescue squad and, through her computer-genius niece Lucy, an FBI agent, takes an up-close-and-personal look at a robot operated via virtual reality. But there is bad news: the work lacks the extraordinary, can't-go-to-bed-til-you're-finished suspense of Cornwell's earlier novels, e.g. *Cruel and Unusual*. The killers here, members of a nihilistic, fascist cult who think their founder akin to God, are identified early on but never developed as characters. Their crimes, while heinous, don't baffle and tease the reader (or Kay) in the manner of the villain Temple Gault, who was dismissed in the last book. While Cornwell's authoritative presentation of forensic sleuthing, FBI procedures and high-tech crime-fighting compensates mightily for the overneat dovetailing of characters' paths and even the implausible role Kay plays in the climax, the hurried, almost slapdash pace of the climactic scenes is disappointing from so accomplished a writer. But even at less than her best, Cornwell remains a master of the genre, instilling in readers an appetite that only she can satisfy. One million first printing; \$750,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild, Mystery Guild and Doubleday Book Club main selections. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

\*Bestselling author Patricia Cornwall has shined again with her seventh novel of one of her favorite heroines, Dr. Kay Scarpetta solving another great mystery. ....Covering for a doctor in a small fishing village known as Chesapeak, chief medical examiner of Richmond Virginia Dr. Kay Scarpetta was awakened by a strange phone call. Refusing to give a name, the caller tells her that there has been a homicide at the Inactive Naval Ship Yard and she is needed at the crime scene immediately. Approaching all obstacles from the military, Kay still had jurisdiction and she was not leaving without a body. Putting on a diving suit and ignoring all insults from the men in question, Kay went down into the water to retrieve the victim. To her surprise, she wasn't prepared in what she was seeing as she looked into the dead eyes of Ted Eddings. Infamous as an investigative reporter, Kay not only liked the man but she had the highest respect for him as well. So, why was Ted in a diving suit snagged onto an old sub doing in a military ship yard? As the body was brought back to the morgue, she was joined by her old friend homicide detective Pete Marino and he too was suspicious of Eddings

death, especially after Kay told him he died of cyanide poisoning. When threats are made by the military including a seedy detective, Kay decides to return to her home in Virginia where she and Marino can continue their investigation. At Ted's apartment though, more mysteries start to surface when they discover armour-piercing bullets commonly known as "cop killers", bullets only law enforcement would have including the military. What was Ted Eddings into? Was it a story? Or something worse? When someone close to Kay is violently murdered while driving her car, they do the only thing they can. They call profiler SS FBI agent Benton Wesley. As acting consultants themselves for the FBI, Marino, Kay and Benton are once again reunited as a team but before they probe any deeper, Kay is shocked by revelations she has unraveled on her own but before she can tell anyone all the clues slowly start to surface scaring her into oblivion. Between a crazy egotistical holy man, a creepy bible, uranium, cyanide, the military, a "cop killer" encased into a man's brain, betrayal, corruption and an evil killer that will stop at nothing until he gets to his prey. Can Kay get to Wesley and Marino in time before thousands die? She has to try, there's no turning back now. Three things she's positive about. Who to stop and who to warn with her gaze and more importantly, who's arms she wants to run into. Now, only to get there in time before the clock runs out!.....thank you

Heh, I forgot it goes along quite well and then its like Cornwell hit a brick wall and was like "I'm done with this story" and just ended it. Kind of like the next book in the series (unnatural exposure) did the same thing it went so far then wrapped up faster then, well at least I, thought it should. This folks if you are reading out of order is really where we start getting Lucy the can't hold a job trauma drama's because we're starting with the first job for her. And yes she's in full on Lucy the brat mode in places that was funny in the first book, and not overly useful the rest of the books including this one. But she's there to move the story along, so that's all good. Lucy comes by that bratty trait honestly, Scarpetta herself shows it a few times in the story. Then you got Agent Wesley out of character towards the end. Over all you'll need it if you're reading the entire series. I got this on Kindle as somewhere is my 1st edition I got when I was 14. The "eh I'm done with this" move on Cornwell's part is more obvious almost 15 years later then it was to my 14 year old self when I was wondering "um...so that was it?"

I love all of Patricia Cornwell's books, especially the Kay Scarpetta ones. I have read her books for many years. They are always fast paced and gripping from the first page. I actually have read all of her books and had them all in paperback. It seems as though the eBooks do not have all of the

same details in them that the paperbacks do. I may be wrong, but it just seems that these books are a little different than the paperbacks. Ms. Cornwell is one of the writers whose books I have great difficulty putting down once I begin them. Her books are really great page turners and keep me engrossed in the plots. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mysteries and thrillers. The readers will not be disappointed.

This started out as a real barn burner but faded into a lot of personal stuff that got me off these books years ago. I like the premise but it seems to me that as the series went on it got more about personal character stuff than storyline stuff. In fact many of the books were more personal stuff than story line. I'm one of those people that prefer to be entertained rather than taught. Do I care if the niece is an almost wacko? No

Dr. Scarpetta is the most amazing Medical Examiner, possibly, ever! She can even handle water deaths but if anyone messes with the scene, in or out of the water, before she has a chance to, then one had better beware! Her break with FBI Special Agent Wesley, is mended. I don't much care for those novels when the two are not as one? Congratulations Patricia Cornwell, on yet another great book!

good audio book.

good book

i liked the book but its not as well done as some of her other books and i am a big fan of hers. sometimes she inserts lucy into the book and i find it tedious at times.

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