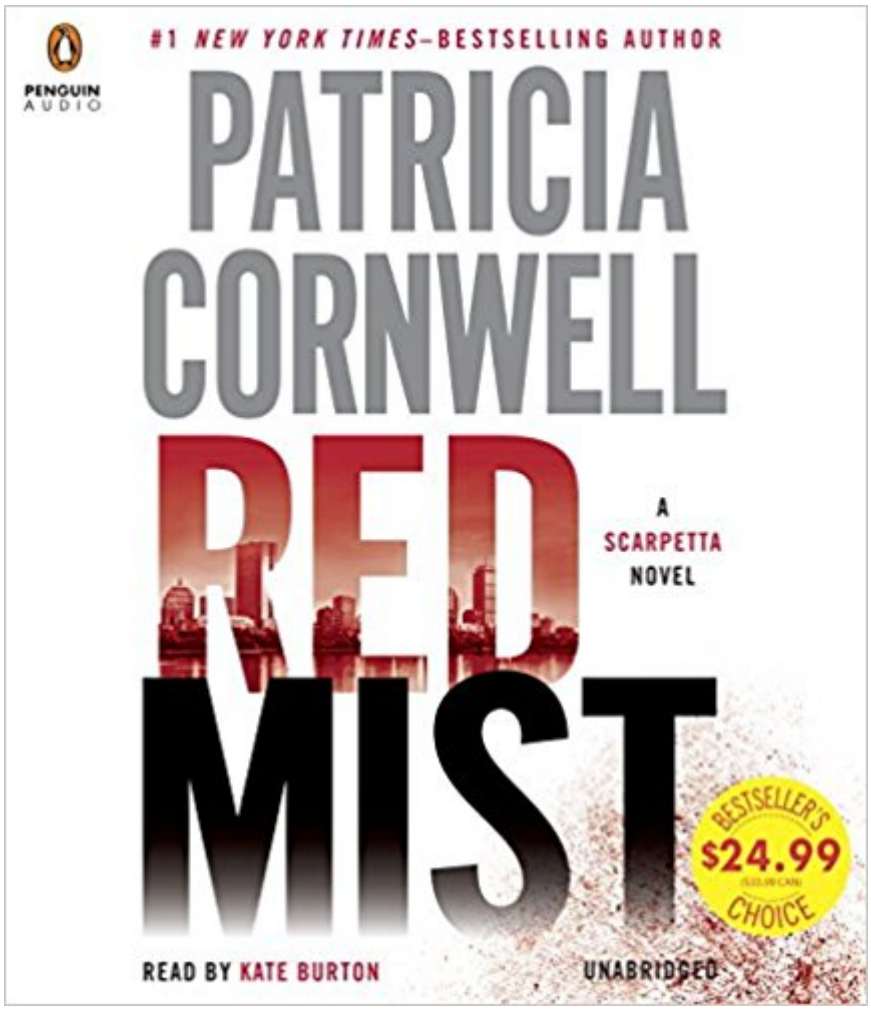
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Red Mist: Scarpetta (Book 19)



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Synopsis

The new Kay Scarpetta novel from the world's #1 bestselling crime writer. Determined to find out what happened to her former deputy chief, Jack Fielding, murdered six months earlier, Kay Scarpetta travels to the Georgia Prison for Women, where an inmate has information not only on Fielding, but also on a string of grisly killings. The murder of an Atlanta family years ago, a young woman on death row, and the inexplicable deaths of homeless people as far away as California seem unrelated. But Scarpetta discovers connections that compel her to conclude that what she thought ended with Fielding's death and an attempt on her own life is only the beginning of something far more destructive: a terrifying terrain of conspiracy and potential terrorism on an international scale. And she is the only one who can stop it.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,226,021 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (C) > Cornwell, Patricia #1768 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #3613 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“When it comes to the forensic sciences, nobody can touch Cornwell.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Cornwell has created a character so real, so compelling, so driven that this reader has to remind herself regularly that Scarpetta is just a product of an authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s imagination.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •USA TodayÃ¢â ¬Å“Scarpetta is one of the most believable characters in crime fiction.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Vancouver Sun --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Patricia Cornwell is one of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s major internationally bestselling authors, translated

into thirty-six languages in more than fifty countries.From the Audiobook Download edition.

Unlike other readers, I did not find the book boring at all. I guess TV programs like CSI here, there, & everywhere have made this type of mystery too slow for some folks. What I did like about the book is a return to somewhat normal relationships & personalities for the regular cast. Kay's insecurities & the food are back, but Kay is not overly neurotic as in the last several books. Benton is a little flat, but is coming back as husband/FBI profiler. Marino is back to being a friend, rough & grouchy, but protective & part of the family. Lucy is way less psycho & seems to have regressed to the little girl computer whiz of the earlier books (which is actually refreshing considering what a far out nut she had become). OK, not the best book but it gives me hope that Cornwell is moving in the right direction & future books will be more like the earlier ones where the plots were believable, the main characters were sympathetic, & there were no soap opera antics like Benton's return from the dead to slay a vampire-like character a few books ago. This book gives me hope that Cornwell will do better & keep us supplied with some more good Scarpetta novels in the future.

the first novels in this series were interesting and fairly plausible. This latest one has very little plot and is overloaded with office politics as well as vast amounts of dull and mawkish personal musings attrubuted to the title character. One wonders why in every novel Scarpetta is about to get fired ... the BIG THREAT ... ad by the end of the book ends up wishing that it would happen and put us all ... character and author and reaading public out of our shared musery.no more of these for me ... even scrubbing out the barbequeue would be more interesting

I am a fan of Cornwell but this book was a disappoinment. Way too much rambling and not enough action. The plot was interesting but I found my self skipping over the story just get to the end. This is not a page turner by any stretch. The way her husband and neice are treated - like strangers that were in the way - did not sit well. Something was missing in this book.

The first four fifths of this book could be the best Scarpetta novel in a long time. There is a single, coherent plot. There are realtively few minor characters. There is real mystery about what happened. The procedural parts of the book get back to the medical examiner material that Cornewell knows so well. The writing is tight and we do not have to spend too much time with Lucy and Marino. The Georgia Medical Examiner is particularly endearing. Cornwell can write.Then there are the last twenty pages, where Cornwell rushes to finish the book as soon as possible by telling us

everything that Scarpetta figured out in a moment of inspiaration. In first year writing class, we are told, "Show, not tell." This is a terrible example of "tell, not show." Cornwell could have usefully dropped about 100 pages from the first four-fifths of the book (articularly the parts where she is beating up on herself for various imaginary sins) and added about 100 working to solve the mystery. Have her interview the suspects. Have her go to the scenes of the crimes and the suspicious locations. Have the police and the FBI actually find some clues. Have Lucy actually go through some of her sneaky information-gathering processes. Throw in a few discoveries from California and Massachusetts bit by bit. Build a little suspense, rather than relate Scarpetta's paranoid worries. Put her in some real jeopardy.Cornwell was never particularly good a writing action. Her strengths were character, procedure, and atmosphere. But at some point, a mystery writer needs not only to create a mystery, but to solve it. This mystery is solved more or less by a deus ex machina. We don't know how she did it. It is almost as if she wrote much of a good book first, did not know what to do with it, and attached her outline to the end of the book in lieu of a solution.

I've found that the last 8 books of Cornwell's to be lessons in erudition and poetry rather than the earlier books which were faster paced with action occurring over a week or several months. This book, like the last few, have tended to rely on a 24 hour period and a great deal of introspective stream of consciousness which prevents this novel from fitting into the usual hard hitting crime genre. Characters are not invested in the story and in fact we're not really aware of what's going on until a fifth of the novel has passed. The story is predictable and as usual, we're treated to Cornwell's obsession with wealth and beauty in her houses: I don't want to read yet another chapter detailing the stylish stained glass windows, the "commercial, stainless steel appliances and travertine stone with alabaster and amber chandeliers". It's like a catalogue from an expensive Italianate boutique rather than a crime novel. Lastly, the woman herself never seems real and rarely has any vices. Unlike other more interesting characters who eat fast food at the last minute and wear mis-matched socks, Scarpetta is an amalgam of seeming perfection, her only problem that of occasionally looking after her niece "too much" and worrying about the ever-present stereotypical NY city cop, Marino complaining that "Marino won't respect himself" if he follows through on his "need to be with me" and if not "he'll be angry, depressed and emasculated." Every character is affected by Scarpetta, physically and emotionally. Without her and her directorship of the CFC, her involvement with Harvard and other institutions as well as the Defence Dept (covering every possible venue as well as CNN), the world would cease to exist. She is indispensable. This book, like her others isn't injected with a shred of humour. The funny side of life simply doesn't exist for

Scarpetta or for Cornwell

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