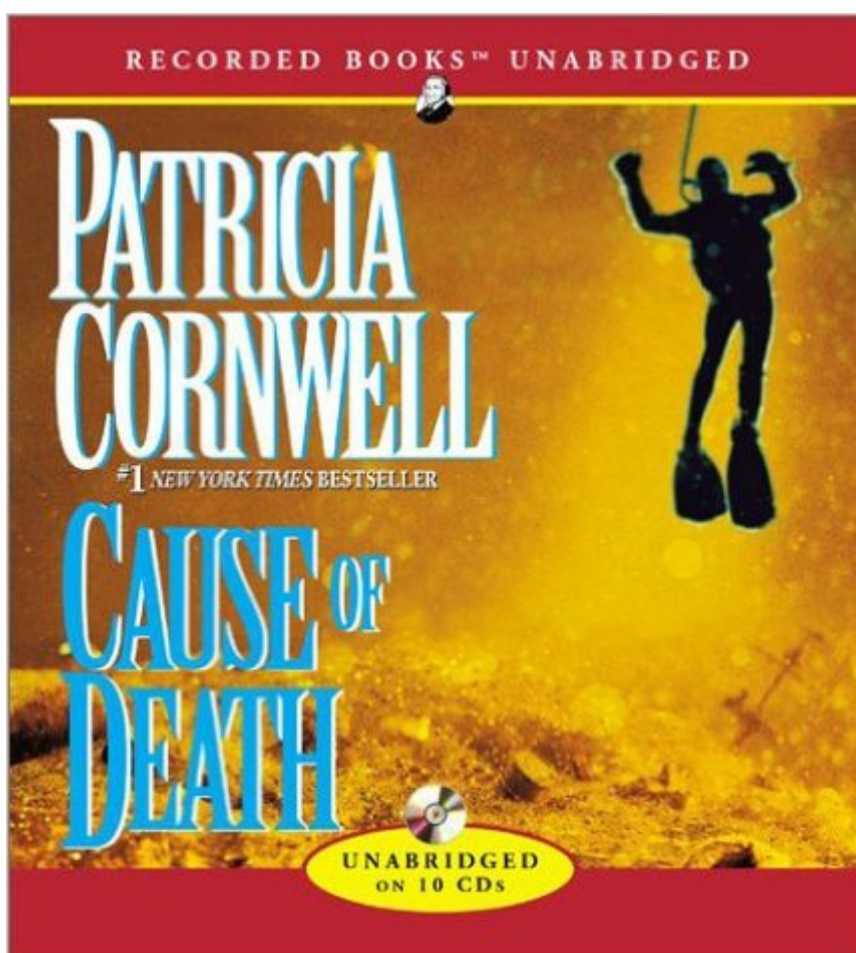


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# Cause Of Death



## Synopsis

Dr. Kay Scarpetta, Cornwell's popular forensic examiner, now finds herself caught in a labyrinthine case that wraps a web of danger around those closest to her and threatens to wreak fear and death far beyond the confines of Virginia. New Year's eve and the final murder scene of Virginia's bloodiest year since the Civil War takes Scarpetta thirty feet below the Elizabeth River's icy surface. A scuba diver and investigative reporter, Ted Eddings, is dead. Was Eddings out probing for a story or simply diving for sunken trinkets? And why did Scarpetta receive a phone call from someone reporting the death before the police were notified? After a second murder, closer to home, Scarpetta, her niece Lucy, and police captain Pete Marino must work together with cutting-edge technology and old-fashioned detective work if they want to catch the murderer.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (281 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,456,202 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( C \) > Cornwell, Patricia](#) #2807 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #3798

in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

Spoilers towards the end of review. I finished this book...barely. I began reading the Scarpetta series because I wanted some light summer reading, and Cornwell fits the bill: her writing is nowhere near sophisticated (try Scott Turrow or Caleb Carr for crime/mystery writing that assumes that you're an intelligent reader), but entertaining? Yes, most definitely. Her first half dozen books were great, and Temple Gault in particular was a fabulously evil villain. This book, however, takes a total and almost laughable nosedive right from the beginning. My paperback edition...which I fortunately paid only 50-cents for at a yard sale...starts with an intro by Cornwell, who proudly

boasts about how she learned to scuba dive in order to convincingly write this book. So why does she then go on to write a lame story that reads like a long, constipated crap? Maybe her money and time would've been better spent re-whetting her writing skills? Her first books were fantastic...what the heck happened here?! Now 7 books into the series, I can definitely say that somewhere along the way, Cornwell decided that her audience will love whatever she writes because hey, it's Scarpetta. Wrong. Every book is the same, with everyone conspiring to make Scarpetta look bad and cause her as much bodily harm as possible. \*yawn\* Lucy's total lack of human quality has been way over-played and is already bone-tired \*yawn\*. Scarpetta's continued wimpy relationship with Wesley \*double yawn\* seems totally incongruent with the toughness, ethics, and self-possession her character supposedly possesses, not to mention the stiffness and dullness with which Cornwell always writes of their amorous interactions.

Dear Dr. Scarpetta, I have been following your adventures for nigh on ten years, and wish to bid you farewell. I doubt we shall ever meet again in a reader-main character relationship. Yes, I am sorry but you have become a pain and a bother to me, and I can no longer summon up the sympathy necessary for you, nor the patience and interest necessary to turn the pages of your story. My spare moments shall have other characters peopling them. "Cause of Death" has done me in. I was able to read only a few dozen pages this time, although up until now I have succeeded in finishing your increasingly irritatingly surrealistic adventures. How did this happen? Did I love you too much at the beginning? Do I expect too much from the main character in a hastily-edited serial novel? My dear, over the years you have become more and more haughty, negative, paranoid, self-absorbed, self-centered and self-satisfied. You relate less and less well to others, to whom you show evermore coldness, anger, disdain and general ill-feeling. You are in a constantly bad mood, constantly vying for power, constantly feeling miffed and disrespected, constantly showing that you are the best at everything including scuba diving on New Year's Eve without your license, so that you are unable to enjoy even the cottage your colleague Dr. Mant lent you. There is never enough hot water for you, not even in the women's washroom of a dock/naval/abandoned ship facility. Your author obviously cares little about the image you project anymore. You need a sense of humor. You need to lighten up. You need to become attractive to readers again. You need to ask your author to set your adventures in the summertime rather than the dreary days before Christmas or New Year's.

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