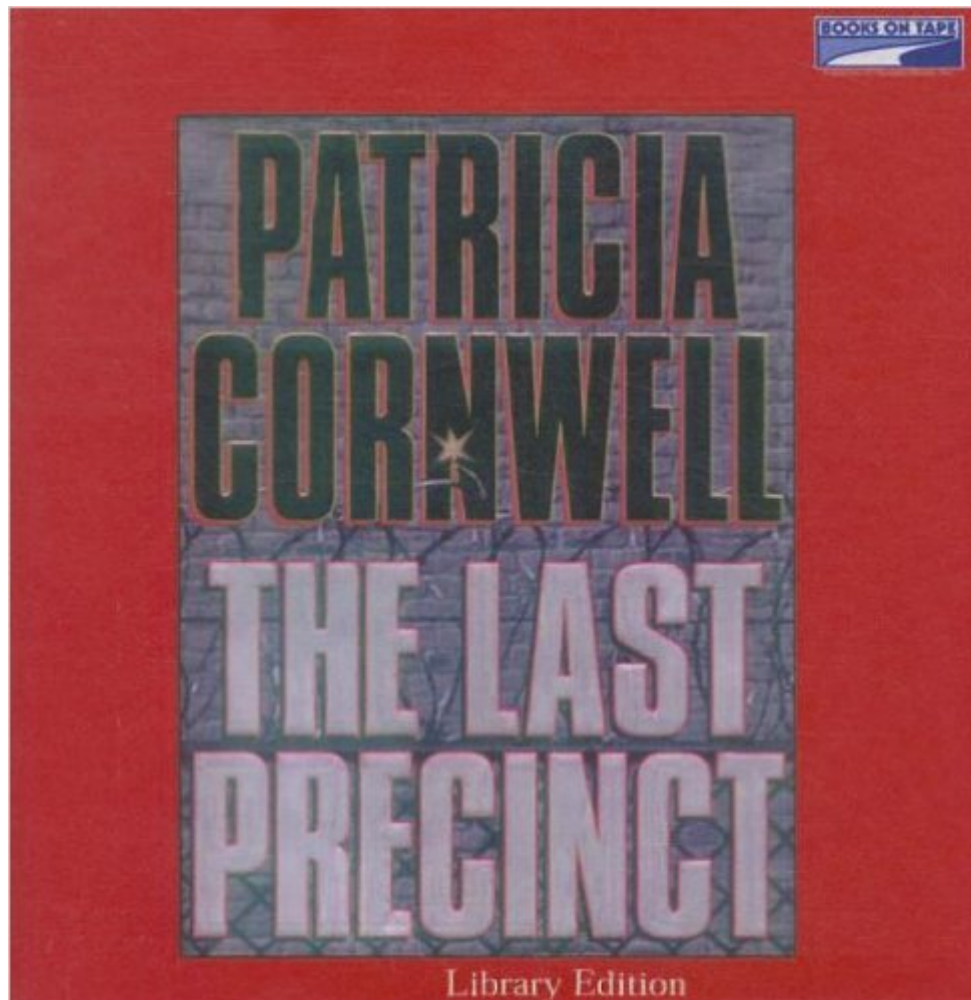


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The Last Precinct



Synopsis

A profoundly original book from America's premier crime novelist! Follow international bestselling author Patricia Cornwell's latest addition to the Kay Scarpetta series with *The Last Precinct*. This engrossing piece of fiction is woven through with the extraordinary forensic detail you've come to expect from Cornwell, with a palpable sense of fear that keeps readers looking back into the past for clues, and over their shoulders for the next enigmatic act of violence. *The Last Precinct* finds Virginia's Chief Medical Examiner Kay Scarpetta in the middle of a nightmare that began with *Black Notice*, and continues as she discovers the so-called Werewolf murders may have extended to New York City and into the darkest corners of her past. Scarpetta must struggle to make what she knows to be the truth prevail against mounting evidence to the contrary. By the end of the novel, it is clear that Scarpetta's life can never be the same. *The Last Precinct* marks a new era for Kay Scarpetta and a triumphant achievement for Patricia Cornwell. You won't be able to put this nail-biter down! --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: Kay Scarpetta Series

Audio CD

Publisher: Books on Tape; Unabridged edition (January 10, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0736661778

ISBN-13: 978-0736661775

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 4 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (521 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

By the time I had read *The Last Precinct*, I had already seen Patricia Cornwell give several interviews about it, so I had a certain expectation about what kind of book this would be. For the most part, her descriptions were accurate, which is unfortunate. From the beginning, this is a completely different Kay Scarpetta than we've read about before. Cornwell claimed in her interviews

that this could be a stand-alone book, that it wasn't necessary to read the previous books to understand this one, but I disagree strongly. It literally picks up where the last one left off, and if you didn't read Black Notice, chances are you won't have a clue what's going on. There are half-hearted attempts to bring the reader up to speed on the various characters, but they seem forced and uncomfortable. The storyline is much the same as in previous books, despite Cornwell's assertion that this is the first time we see Kay in professional jeopardy. There's a bad guy, Kay gets personally involved, Lucy goes off on some weird tangent, Kay's professional judgement is called into question..the bare bones of this story are the same as the others. What bothered me most about this book was the extremely sudden and startling change in the way we see Kay, and through her, all the other characters. She suddenly analyzes every thought, every emotion; we see all of the characters in a new light, and it is almost without exception, unflattering. Suddenly we are literally forced to consider Kay's sexual orientation, Marino's weird attraction to her; even the deceased Benton is re-examined and somehow comes off looking the worse for it. Cornwell said in the interviews I saw that she doesn't model Kay after herself, but there are several aspects of this book that almost feel voyeuristic.

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