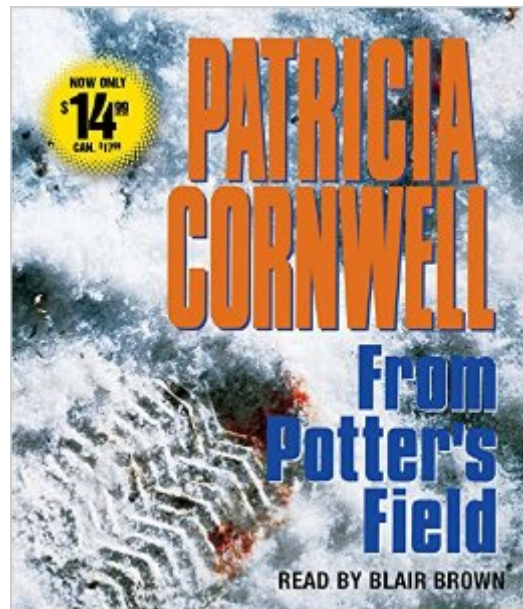


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From Potter's Field (Kay Scarpetta)



Synopsis

PATRICIA CORNWELL'S BLOCKBUSTER BESTSELLER AT A NEW LOW PRICE! FROM POTTER'S FIELD Read by Blair Brown IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE IN NEW YORK AND A SADISTIC KILLER IS ABOUT TO DISTURB THE PEACE! An unidentified nude female sits propped against a fountain in Central Park. There are no signs of struggle. When Dr. Kay Scarpetta and her colleagues Benton Wesley and Pete Marino arrive on the scene, they instantly recognize the signature of serial killer Temple Brooks Gault. Only Scarpetta can interpret the forensic hieroglyphics at the New York City morgue and give a name to the nameless. As she sifts through conflicting clues, Gault strikes again -- moving terrifyingly close to Scarpetta herself. From Potter's Field is a stunning achievement from a bestselling author at the peak of her powers.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #199,350 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (C) > Cornwell, Patricia #262 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

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Customer Reviews

...and with this book, she has done it yet again. The book does not start off too well, with the sheriff Santa bit being a bit confusing for the first couple of pages. I didn't like it. And I thought I might be in for a disappointing Cornwellian offering. My, was I WRONG. This book is yet another stunner. She has definitely veered away from the cunningness and cleverness which inhabited her first three books. But she more than makes up for it with a chilling plot and one of the most cold and clinical serial killers I have ever read of. Essentially, this is a serial killer novel, and as such it is not especially original. But it is nonetheless a good one. Marino, Benton, Lucy and of course Kay are back again for another great read. Cornwell's writing is sharp and to the point, and keeps you turning those

pages. I can't really put my finger on a reason why, but from the first time i read a Cornwell book i feel in love with the way she writes. It's simply...wonderful. I can't get enough of it. It's no more literate than the next person's, but for some reason i just relish every sentence she writes. The plot here is sometimes scatty and random (as was Cruel and Unusual) but here, she pulls it off a lot better. I tend not to like books full of random killings, without rhyme or reason (yoo hoo, James Patterson, author of Violets are Blue, i'm talking in particular about you.), but here i really did. The randomness is chilling, and Temple Gault is a super villain, who curdles the blood. He is just so...hateable. You loathe him absolutely. Especially when you find out how he treats his sister. You just hate him even more. With every part of i wanted him to die, die, die. It is hard to conceieve of anyone so cruel and horrifically terrifying than him.

I am currently taking a murder mystery class at my college. I have not read many murder mysteries before this class. We have read a variety of novels for this class, with the most number of novels by one author being three. The one Patricia Cornwell novel our class read is "From Potter's Field." I very much enjoyed this novel, though I think it should be considered a thriller instead of a murder mystery. The novel also had some hard to believe aspects about it, which were difficult for the members of my class to look beyond. Why should this novel be labeled a thriller and not a murder mystery? Well, the reader clearly knows who the murder is. Dr. Kay Scarpetta, the Chief Medical Examiner, has the feeling the murderer is her "nemesis," Temple Gault with plenty of reason. The only mysteries are for her to prove Gault is the murder, identify the first body of the girl, "Jane" and of course to find Gault, before he finds her. A thriller is also more appropriate because it had several moments that were extremely suspenseful, the kind that makes the hairs on your neck stand up. There is a section of the novel where there is a murder in Kay's office building and she believes the killer is still in the building. As she walks around the building, you expect Gault to jump out at any moment. There is also another section in which a trap is set for Gault in NYC's subway system. Not knowing whether or not he'll show up had me on the edge of my proverbial seat. As much as I liked this novel, there were several things that irked me about it. A Chief Medical Examiner seems more like an office, administrative position than a really, REALLY hands on job. Kay almost takes on the role of a detective.

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