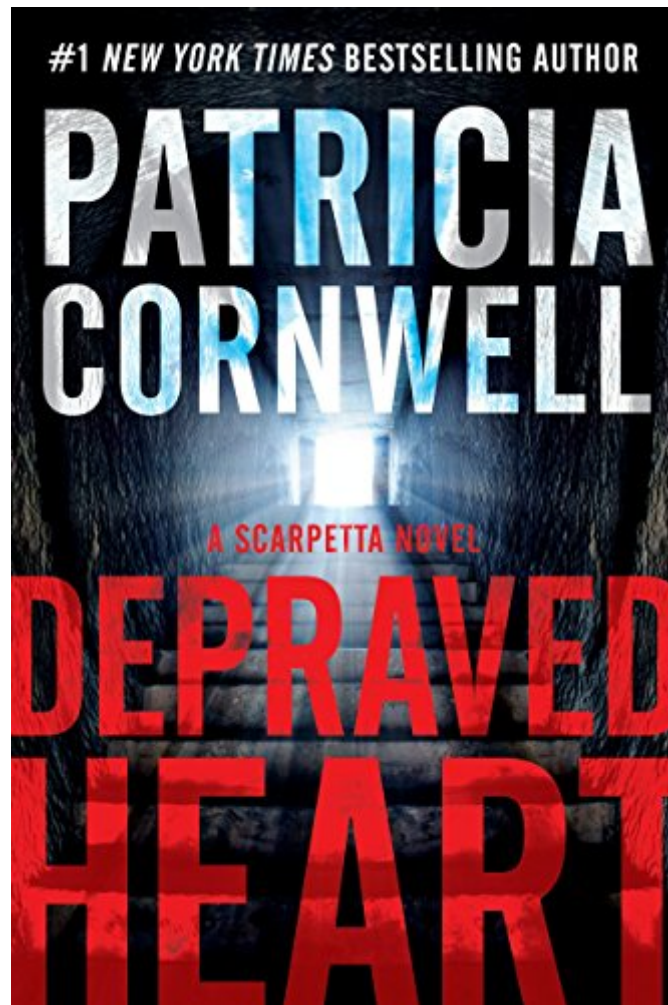


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# Depraved Heart: A Scarpetta Novel (Kay Scarpetta Book 23)



## Synopsis

Patricia Cornwell delivers the newest engrossing thriller in her high-stakes series starring medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta. *Depraved Heart*: "Void of social duty and fatally bent on mischief." *Mayes v. People*, 806 Ill. 306 (1883) Dr. Kay Scarpetta is working a suspicious death scene in Cambridge, Massachusetts when an emergency alert sounds on her phone. A video link lands in her text messages and seems to be from her computer genius niece Lucy. But how can it be? It's clearly a surveillance film of Lucy taken almost twenty years ago. As Scarpetta watches she begins to learn frightening secrets about her niece, whom she has loved and raised like a daughter. That film clip and then others sent soon after raise dangerous legal implications that increasingly isolate Scarpetta and leave her confused, worried, and not knowing where to turn. She doesn't know whom she can tell—not her FBI husband Benton Wesley or her investigative partner Pete Marino. Not even Lucy. In this new novel, Cornwell launches these unforgettable characters on an intensely psychological odyssey that includes the mysterious death of a Hollywood mogul's daughter, aircraft wreckage on the bottom of the sea in the Bermuda Triangle, a grisly gift left in the back of a crime scene truck, and videos from the past that threaten to destroy Scarpetta's entire world and everyone she loves. The diabolical presence behind what unfolds seems obvious—but strangely, not to the FBI. Certainly that's the message they send when they raid Lucy's estate and begin building a case that could send her to prison for the rest of her life. In the latest novel in her bestselling series featuring chief medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta, Cornwell will captivate readers with the shocking twists, high-wire tension, and cutting-edge forensic detail that she is famous for, proving yet again why she's the world's #1 bestselling crime writer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've read every Scarpetta book, some more than once, but this is the last one. Depraved Heart may be the worst book I've ever read. Plodding doesn't begin to describe it. I made up my mind that I would finish it and I did, but it was a chore. I don't understand Cornwell's intent with this series, but the plots strain credulity and Kay Scarpetta has become insufferably smug and elitist. Half of this book was about Lucy's estate and cars and original art work and the perfume Benton orders for Kay from Italy, etc. And I was VERY unhappy that the monumental cliffhanger ending of the previous book was not even mentioned!!! Goodbye, Kay, it was nice while it lasted.

I used to eagerly anticipate the next in Kay Scarpetta series. However, the past couple of books I have begun to wonder if maybe it is time for Kay to retire. I found myself dragging myself through Depraved Heart and it took me much longer to read than usual due to my lack of interest. The data fiction aspect, the "villian" that never seems to die all made it more tiresome than not. It doesn't help that Lucy becomes more unlikeable and unpleasant in each book. The "family" is super secretive and unbelievable. Even Kay has lost her luster. If you are new to the Scarpetta series I would definitely not recommend it at all. It's definitely a book that you need to know the background of the characters for. If you are a Scarpetta fan, be forewarned that it is not the Scarpetta that you are used to.

I've reached page 123 and only for I have absolutely nothing else to read I wouldn't bother. I'm sick to death of the depressing person Kay has turned into, the paranoia and once again a blast from the past intent on destroying her and her family. It's the same in every book. I really miss the early books and wish she would write one in which she's investigating just a murder. Not someone being killed and it ends up all being a plot against the great Kay. She's so depressing and stuck up in recent books would anyone mind if she was killed off? Lucy gets more unbearable with every book,

Marino is just used as the idiot slob and Benton is like an android. I don't want to read about Carrie, I didn't like when she was first introduced and I have no interest in reading about her again. The whole book just comes off as grey, there's nothing likeable about any of the characters.

I'll say it right out...Patricia Cornwell needs to find/create some new material. She has really painted herself into a corner with the Scarpetta series. She has removed all real tension by giving her main characters, Kay and Lucy, everything they want, so there is nothing left but to puff them up to over-the-top proportions and then infuse them with paranoia and arrogance and surround them with people who want to take everything away. This isn't a murder mystery. It's psychological warfare, six layers deep, and it's boring as hell. Kay has become all about gourmet cooking, fancy vacations, designer clothes, expensive haircuts and life with her tedious stick of a husband, Benton. Lucy and Carrie have become both sides of the same James Bond super-villain, complete with gadgets, cars, helicopters and planes, endless government conspiracies, and limitless money. Jeez, enough! What happened to random murders, new psychos, and autopsies? Cornwell has made the huge mistake of changing her main characters until they are no longer sympathetic, believable, or interesting. And I agree with the others; ENOUGH ABOUT CARRIE! Back to basics, Patricia!

I used to love the Scarpetta books for the science, the unexpected story arc, the relationships. I think Cornwell is merely regurgitating the same old, same old now. Enough with Carrie already. Enough with how corrupt FBI is. The only interesting idea, data fiction, was just a throw away. Wish the author would get her game back.

I have read all of the series and they just keep getting more self-absorbed and moronic. This is not a standalone book. It must be read with the one before-- and probably the one after-- to be meaningful. The plot and characters are increasingly implausible. The attempts to inject this thriller with literary devices, mystery, and "meaning" are laughable.

I hadn't read a Cornwell book for at least ten years and couldn't recall why. This book reminded me pretty quickly. The author is clearly a skilled hand at writing an interesting and well turned-out plot. The characters, however, were often hard to swallow. I realize there are a ton of books in the series before this one, so I've missed a lot. But that's not the problem. The problem is that I just didn't like any of the characters. Everyone was just a little 'too'. Not only is the niece an unbelievable Einstein-esque genius, but she's also beautiful, fiery, et cetera. But that's okay because Aunt Kay is

a doctor, a lawyer, a colonel, an astronaut, one of the founders of the Impressionist School (okay, so those last two I just threw in, but...) Yes, a lot of stuff about the characters has taken place in the preceding two dozen books (something around that, anyhow) so I don't know all the ins and outs of the characters' pasts. That doesn't matter to understanding their motivations, Cornwell is a pro and does a good job filling in the backstory. You don't need to read the other books to get a good idea about who is who and why they're the way they are. I just couldn't bring myself to care. Anyhow, although I found the characters hard to take, the dialogue was good and the pacing was enough to keep me plodding to the end, which is. . . surprise. . . a setup for the next novel, which I don't plan on reading.

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