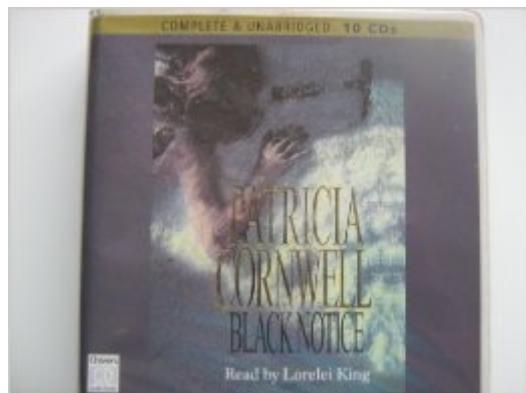


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Black Notice: Complete & Unabridged



Synopsis

[Read by Kate Reading] Black Notice is New York Times bestselling author Patricia Cornwell's tenth book in her thrilling Kay Scarpetta series. Following the postmortem of a stowaway that reveals neither cause of death nor identity, Doctor Kay Scarpetta travels to Paris in search of information. In Paris she is given a secret mission - a mission that could ruin her career.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A cargo ship containing the remains of a stowaway arrives in Virginia's waterway. Kay Scarpetta is called to examine the remains. Why would this man hide in a shipping container, and what does the strange tattoo on his back symbolize? These questions, as well as the identity of the man are a mystery to Scarpetta. Kay's neice, Lucy, has a new lover, Jo. Lucy and Jo are working in Miami, and their latest mission has gone terribly wrong, leaving two criminals dead, and Jo, fighting for her life in the hospital. Another body is found, this time, a young woman, brutally attacked, with strange bite marks on her body. Kay and Marino, end up in France, working with Interpol on the cases of victims who have also been brutally attacked, with strange bite marks left on the bodies. Once there, the two will have to solve the bizarre puzzle of the strange killings, and make connection to the mystery man in the container. "Black Notice" is one of the better entries in the Scarpetta series (it takes a while to get steam, about 250 pages before things start to move, and the plot involving the wolf-like killings comes into play). Long time readers of the series will notice each new novel is taking the series in a new direction; with less time being spent on the thrill a minute plot twists, and more time being spent on various sub-plots, and character development. Patricia Cornwell is the leading practitioner of the forensic crime thriller, but over the years she has lost her knack of creating "up all

night" reads, she is trying to balance too much in each novel, and at times it takes away from the main theme of the book.

Cornwell's latest Kate Scarpetta crime novel, *Black Notice*, is so bad one would like to think it was a parody or perhaps written by an untalented Cornwell doppelganger from a parallel universe. The usual characters are there: Virginia CME Kate Scarpetta, her lesbian niece, Lucy (now working undercover for the ATF), and Richmond Police Captain Pete Marino. But they are not themselves. Marino's behavior is so erratic and clownish he is no longer believable as a smart chief detective. Scarpetta's emotional strum und drang is deafening; rage, grief, remorse, and fear played at an unremitting triple forte. Lucy's chronic case of attitude seems to have turned into something darker. The spirit of FBI profiler Benton Wesley, a stalwart in earlier Cornwell books, looms over *Black Notice* like the ghost in Hamlet. Perhaps his death has driven his friends mad. The book opens with a US Senator delivering a posthumous farewell letter to Scarpetta from Wesley which concludes, "I ask you to do one thing for me to celebrate a life we've had that I know will never end. Call Marino and Lucy. Invite them over for dinner tonight. Cook one of your famous meals for them and save a place for me". This last supper takes place, but it can't transubstantiate dross into a satisfying novel. And Wesley, despite hints to the contrary, does not rise from the dead. Besides the loss of her sometime lover, Kate has to deal with mysterious subversion in her office, a serial killer who calls himself "the werewolf", and a new female Deputy Chief of Police who does a pretty fair impression of one. Lucy is trying to shut down a gun-smuggling operation in Florida. AND IT'S ALL CONNECTED! No wonder everyone is paranoid.

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