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# Point Of Origin



## Synopsis

Carrie Grethen, partner in crime to William Temple Gault, has escaped from prison. She has also sent Kay Scarpetta a message making it clear she blames her for Gault's death and has plans for revenge. Investigating another case, Scarpetta begins to feel she is being manipulated by an unseen hand. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When your everyday life is filled with death it's easy to find yourself a little edgy. The audio version of Patricia Cornwell's *Point of Origin* gives fans of her familiar heroine, Dr. Kay Scarpetta, a little something extra, a chance to hear the deep hurt and burning cynicism of the chief medical examiner's biting words. "You don't put your hands inside their ruined bodies and touch and measure their wounds.... You see clean case files and glossy photos and cold crime scenes. You spend more time with the killers than with those they ripped from life. And maybe you sleep better than I do, too. Maybe you still dream because you aren't afraid to." Perhaps because Kate Reading has also narrated Cornwell's *Unnatural Exposure* and *Cause of Death*, her voice conveys experience and the history of what has come before, allowing listeners to hear between the lines. Using a subtle but effective range of vocal inflections, Reading lifts the characters off the page and carries them along as the plot spins ever faster, tangling Scarpetta in a snarl of arson, deceit, and psychopathic murder. With her arch nemesis making threats and suspicious fires leaving calcified corpses, Dr. Scarpetta's long-overdue romantic getaway has gone up in smoke. It's just one more day at the morgue, and *Point of Origin*, another hit in the popular series of Scarpetta mysteries, finds the good doctor's attitude honed razor sharp. (Running time: 11 hours, eight cassettes)

--George Laney --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cornwell fans who relish her Kay Scarpetta stories for the postmortem findings will welcome this tale of twisted minds and the gory havoc they cause. Acronym fans will also be pleased. This tale opens with the complete destruction by fire of a Virginia horse farm, the owner of which was said to be in London. As consultant to the FBI and the ATF's NRT (that's the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' National Response Team), Scarpetta joins the investigation on site and discovers some remains of a young woman in the master bath. Although the origin of the fire remains a mystery, research turns up two similar unsolved incidents from years earlier, female victims who were dead before the accompanying conflagration. Another fire disguising another murder, and the escape of Carrie Grethen, evil woman partner of Scarpetta's now dead archenemy Temple Gault, from a New York City hospital for the criminally insane, ups Scarpetta's anxiety level about both her beloved, brilliant niece, Lucy, who was seduced by Grethen in *The Body Farm*, and her lover, psychological profiler Benton Wesley. A third fire covers a third personally devastating death before Scarpetta is able to finger Grethen's new diabolical partner and survive a harrowing finale in a helicopter. Although Cornwell repeatedly tells us how anxious, strung out or devastated Scarpetta feels in the face of Grethen's evil threats, there's very little dramatization of these powerfully emotional conditions. The author is convincing mainly in the delivery of chilling forensic details. One million first printing; \$750,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild, Doubleday Book Club and Mystery Guild main selections; simultaneous Putnam Berkley audio. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I started this series after reading the Temperance Brennan books by Reichs. They seemed to be similar and were. In the beginning. After several of them, her aging and her niece and love life and stories started to go south for me so I gave up after I'm not sure how many. Check for yourself but I think the best ones are the beginnings. around here it fell off for me.

I don't understand how this series has made it to 23 books. This book itself was pretty good, but killing off (apparently) one of the major characters was an issue for me. The follow up to this, "Black Notice", however, is almost unreadable. Some of the issues with that entry begin to creep into this book. Things like the author's overall negativity toward the world and her main character's continuing issues with the power structure. I recognize this is done to create tension and suspense, but in Cornwell's books it comes off as whining and preachy. The Temperance Brennan series by

Kathy Reichs handles these subjects much better and actually builds empathy for the main character, while Cornwell does none of that. I may try to finish the series, but at this point I need a break.

I enjoy Patricia Cornwell. I can read a Scarpetta book, set it aside for awhile while I do something and come back and jump right into it--which is something I appreciate. But she does make so many language errors that it's distracting for someone who cares about those things. I don't mean grammar so much as logic or communication. For instance, just now I put the book down and decided to write a review after reading this (and this is a very mild example so you may not get it): Marino says: "I've never got used to smelling people cook." Now this isn't wrong, per se, but reading it you imagine being in someone's kitchen as they're making dinner. "People cooking" would infer the same thing. He could have said something like "the smell of a cooking person" (or body, though maybe that's too direct to be funny). Anyway, there are 100's of examples of such awkward phrasing in her writing--and I'm always stopping, losing the plot and shaking my head over them. That's all! Just needed to vent. Cornwell is fun.

Is it bad this book actually made me sad? I don't want to give out spoilers so I won't say why. I found this book different than some of her others. Besides the fact it has a lot to do with fire, it felt somewhat more personal or Kay Scarpetta. I really really enjoyed it! I really love Kay/ Lucy scenes. It would be amazing if they made a movie or even tv show like Tess Gerritsen's Rizzoli novels. You can't beat getting these books for \$4 used. I have made quite a collection on my bookshelves from and a decent dent in my bank account as well. Oh well, books and knowledge are priceless! Highly recommend this novel series.

Too much superfluous technical detail. Who's she trying to impress? Too implausible. Over the top, bazaar. Too contrived. Unbelievable. Too, too many loose ends. Did we ever learn how the fires started (yeah a magnesium fire starter that left small filings in skin) and fueled to such intensity. Did I miss something as I skimmed the technical jargon? Why was Windsong loose? Himmmm....she may have gone down in a ball of fire, presumed dead, but I'm thinking we will have to wait until Carrie reappears to learn THE POINT OF ORIGIN.

I like the Kay Scarpetta novels. This novel was good and it had a little twist that I did not see coming.

I was thoroughly disappointed in Cornwell's latest effort. The plot is a recycled one as are the characters. Cornwell didn't even tie up the loose ends in the technical explanations of the fires' fuel sources. The ending reminded me of a bad soap opera, where without a body to identify one knows that the character will return..... Enough already...I thoroughly enjoyed her first books. However the last three seemed to have been "phoned in". "Point of Origin" reminded me of a screenplay for a "Summer Blockbuster" gone bad complete with one dimensional characters and lots of fire and explosions! Given the high quality of Cornwell's early works, this effort deserves less than one star.

I'm addicted to the series, no matter how violent and depressing it gets. I love this series even with all the carnage. It's depressing but it's real and I love this author!

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