



Point of Origin (Kay Scarpetta) (A Scarpetta Novel)

By Patricia Cornwell

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From the *New York Times* #1 bestselling author of *Unnatural Exposure* and *Cause of Death* comes a white-hot new Kay Scarpetta novel that pits Virginia's Chief Medical Examiner against an audacious and wily killer who uses fire to mask his crimes.

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Point of Origin (Kay Scarpetta) (A Scarpetta Novel) By Patricia Cornwell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Virginia's chief medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta is getting ready for a romantic holiday with her retired-FBI-profiler boyfriend, Benton Wesley, when she receives a cryptic and foreboding letter: "Hey DOC, Tick Tock, Sawed bone and fire," it begins. Even more creepy, the taunting note has been signed by Carrie Grethen, the psychotic killer Kay helped send to a psychiatric facility for going on a murder spree with Temple Gault in Cornwell's earlier book *Body Farm*. Benton believes that Grethen--who also happens to be the former lover of Scarpetta's niece Lucy--has big plans for a comeback. And before Kay and Benton can leave for their trip and discuss it further, Scarpetta is called upon to don yet another professional hat, that of a "consulting forensic pathologist" for the federal government. Someone has burned a highfalutin horse ranch and all of its contents, including a human being, to the ground. Worse, Grethen has escaped and is on the loose and closer to Kay and her beloved than she knows. *Point of Origin*, the ninth Scarpetta thriller, is classic Cornwell: rich with detail and strong dialogue, and doused with harrowing twists.

From Publishers Weekly

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.

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From Library Journal

Cornwell's ninth novel in the Kay Scarpetta series finds Scarpetta, Benton Wesley, Pete Marino, and Scarpetta's niece, Lucy, investigating a series of arson cases also involving human victims. To further complicate the plot, Scarpetta's old nemesis, Carrie Grethen, featured in *Cruel and Unusual* (Scribner, 1993; Avon, 1995, reprint) and *From Potters Field* (LJ 8/95), has escaped from a maximum-security psychiatric facility and is threatening Scarpetta and those close to her. Though this new work contains many of the characteristics of Cornwell's best Scarpetta novels--well-drawn characters, nail-biting suspense, and shocking plot twists--Scarpetta herself seems to be growing increasingly weary of it all, and the series seems to be losing momentum. It will be interesting to see where Cornwell takes it next. Still, readers who have enjoyed Cornwell's other installments should like this one, too. Recommended for public libraries and popular reading collections.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ricky Hayes:

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Christina Ochs:

Precisely why? Because this Point of Origin (Kay Scarpetta) (A Scarpetta Novel) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap that but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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