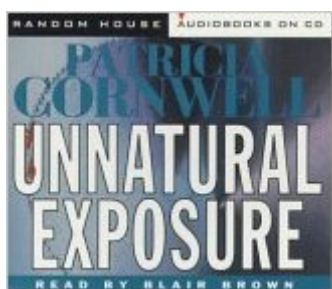


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# Unnatural Exposure: A Novel (Kay Scarpetta)



## Synopsis

Filled with tension and continual surprises, *Unnatural Exposure* is a thrilling chapter in Virginia Chief Medical Examiner Kay Scarpetta's life--and a triumph for #1 New York Times best-selling author Patricia Cornwell. The body of an elderly woman is found dismembered in a Virginia landfill. Scarpetta initially believes the clues mirror that of a serial killer she's tracked before, but upon further investigation, she discovers puzzling pox-like eruptions on the woman's body that, perhaps, point in another direction. When the killer contacts her via e-mail, Scarpetta enlists the aid of her computer-savvy niece, Lucy, to help track this monster through cyberspace. Learning that the Virginia victim was exposed to a high-tech virus that might unleash an epidemic, Scarpetta realizes she's dealing with a sophisticated mind. Her investigation leads her from the government's biological defense facility in Utah, to Atlanta's Center for Disease Control--and eventually to quarantine, when it is discovered that Scarpetta has been exposed to this fatal virus. Along the way, she's forced to deal with the unscrupulous ambitions of a slick FBI agent, Lucy's problems, and her own turbulent feelings for Agent Wesley Benton. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Virginia Medical Examiner Kay Scarpetta has a bloody puzzle on her hands: five headless, limbless cadavers in Ireland, plus four similar victims in a landfill back home. Is a serial butcher loose in Virginia? That's what the panicked public thinks, thanks to a local TV reporter who got the leaked news from her boyfriend, Scarpetta's vile rival, Investigator Percy Ring. But the butchered bodies

are so many red herrings intended to throw idiots like Ring off the track. Instead of a run-of-the-mill serial killer, we're dealing with a shadowy figure who has plans involving mutant smallpox, mass murder, and messing with Scarpetta's mind by e-mailing her gory photos of the murder scenes, along with cryptic AOL chat-room messages. The coolest innovation: Scarpetta's gorgeous genius niece, Lucy, equips her with a DataGlove and a VPL EyePhone, and she takes a creepy virtual tour of the e-mailed crime scene. Unnatural Exposure boasts brisk storytelling, crackling dialogue, evocative prose about forensic-science sleuthing, and crisp character sketches, both of familiar characters like Scarpetta's gruff partner Pete Marino and bit players like the landfill employee falsely accused by Ring. Plus, let's face it: serial killers are old hat. Cornwell's most vivid villains are highly plausible backstabbing colleagues like Ring, who plots to destroy Lucy's FBI career by outing her as a lesbian. Some readers object to the rather abrupt ending, but, hey, it's less jarring than Hannibal's, and it's the logical culmination of Cornwell's philosophy about human nature. To illuminate the novel's finale, read Cornwell's remarks on paranoia in her .com interview. --Tim Appelo --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Kay Scarpetta grapples with a serial killer who contacts her via the Internet in this latest from crime novelist Cornwell, who is involved in some headline-making scandal of her own: In a recent trial, she was named as the former lover of a woman whose husband attempted to murder her in a rage over the affair. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Awesome book. I always enjoy reading the Kay Scarpetta series. I am rereading all of the Kay Scarpetta series again. Glad that Patricia Cornwell writes this type of books.

good book

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. definitely lost me around here.

Am officially up to date with the Scarpetta series. Although I read them out of order it was by far a great experience. This was as good or better in some ways than others. Thoroughly informative white entertaining. The main characters are all unforgettable as only Cornwall is able to weave them

and the storyline together.

\*Another great thriller by bestselling author Patricia Cornwall, featuring one of her favorite heroines, Dr. Kay Scarpetta!.....While temporarily in Dublin, Ireland, giving lectures on a potential serial killer in their midst, Chief medical examiner, Dr. Kay Scarpitta knew it was time to return to the United States. Investigating a cold-hearted serial killer known as the "Butcher", there had already been four dismembered bodies found in Richmond, Virginia before the killer moved on to Ireland but now it looks like he's back when another body or torso was found at a landfill. Like always, Kay proceeded to do her investigative work at the scene but when she saw investigator Perry Ring already there, her day was ruined before it even got started because she knew along with everyone else, he was leaking information to the media who happened to be his reporter girlfriend. Thinking her day couldn't get anymore worse than it already was, she was sadly mistaken when she read one email she received on her home computer scaring her half to death as the message was addressed to her as "deadoc". What was happening? As she looked at the screen, images flashed of a body about to be dismembered. Were these the images of actual murder scenes? There was only one person to notify as she found herself calling the commander of the homicide division, none other than homicide detective Pete Marino. Not only was he shocked but insisted on calling FBI profiler Benton Wesley, the man Kay has been avoiding due to his marriage proposal. When Kay receives a phone call from one of her doctors from Tangier Island, he informs her of a possible outbreak of small pox, forcing her to check it out personally and what she sees, terrifies her causing her to report it to the right people. As she argues to be removed from quarantine, she is cleared only to find more cryptic messages on her home computer from the killer. When more people on the Island become sick from this unnatural exposure, Kay implores the help of Benton Wesley, Pete Marino, and her FBI agent niece Lucy along with the detective in charge of the previous murder. With threats made on her life and dealing with a mutant disease, mass murder not to mention scores of messages for "deadoc", Kay realizes this killer was highly intelligent, cunning, shrewd, cold and more evil than she ever thought possible and he needed to be stopped now if she had to pull the damn trigger herself before the night was over!.....thank you

my sister loved ts book

Great story and reading as usual

Patricia Cornwell is a master with Scarpetta, love those books. Highly recommended!!!!

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