

The background features a complex network of white nodes and lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The text is centered and white, providing a high-contrast look against the background.

The Body Farm

Written by Patricia Cornwell

Published by sanmarco-sf

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The Body Farm

By Patricia Cornwell

The Body Farm Book

The Body Farm - a research institute that tests the decomposition of corpses. Black Mountain, North Carolina: a sleepy little town where the local police deal with one homicide a year, if they're unlucky, and where people are still getting used to the idea of locking their doors at night. But violent death is no respecter of venue, and the discovery of the corpse of the corpse of an 11-year-old girl sends shock waves through the community. Dr Kay Scarpetta, Chief medical Examiner on a similar case in Virginia, is called in to apply her forensic skills to this latest atrocity, but the apparent simplicity of the case proves something of a poisoned chalice - until Scarpetta finds enlightenment through the curious pathologists' playground known as the Body Farm.

The Body Farm Tn

From Author's Website

Final Thoughts

4 of 5 stars to Patricia Cornwell's fifth book in the Kay Scarpetta series, *The Body Farm*, published in 1994. The title alone tells you what kind of book this will be, and it is full of thrills and suspense. Scarpetta has an opportunity to try to capture a serial killer she's dealt with sometime in the past. And with the history she needs to revisit in this one, you will learn a lot more about who she is and what's happened to bring her to today.

Another good part of this book is Final Thoughts

4 of 5 stars to Patricia Cornwell's fifth book in the Kay Scarpetta series, *The Body Farm*, published in 1994. The title alone tells you what kind of book this will be, and it is full of thrills and suspense. Scarpetta has an opportunity to try to capture a serial killer she's dealt with sometime in the past. And with the history she needs to revisit in this one, you will learn a lot more about who she is and what's happened to bring her to today.

Another good part of this book is the development of Scarpetta's relationship with her niece, Lucy. Lucy's now 21 and supposed to be an adult; however, her behaviors are still somewhat immature. I like getting to know the character more, even though she isn't too likable at this point. Detective Pete Marino is prominent again, and you want to love him... but he still makes you angry.

As Scarpetta finds different body parts all over the place, she knows she's close to meeting her match. The cleverness and complexity in this book makes it one of the better ones. It's still early on in the series before the books get too "governmental" and "formal," in regard to Scarpetta's career. The games being played are quite amusing and scary. Given the creepiness of the killer's plans, this is another fine entry in the series.

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. Note: All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

The Body Farm

[poll daddy poll=9729544]□

[poll daddy poll=9719251] ...more

The Body Farm Video Questions

Arrgh! From the misnomered title (A 'body farm' is only in a small portion of the book) to the implausible plot--how did this get past editors??? SPOILER!!! For starters...Only 3 people work at this TOP SECRET section of the FBI and 2 are dismissed because of malfeasance??? One has a dubious past and 'lied' on her application??? Come on!!! Our protagonist easily found that out, but NOBODY from the bureau vetted this crooked employee? Geez! Give me a break! I'm willing to suspend a bit of logic b

Arrgh! From the misnomered title (A 'body farm' is only in a small portion of the book) to the implausible plot--how did this get past editors??? SPOILER!!! For starters...Only 3 people work at this TOP SECRET section of the FBI and 2 are dismissed because of malfeasance??? One has a dubious past and 'lied' on her application??? Come on!!! Our protagonist easily found that out, but NOBODY from the bureau vetted this crooked employee? Geez! Give me a break! I'm willing to suspend a bit of logic but I am NOT willing to check my brain at the door!! There are many other problems with the storyline...Scarpetta returns to the crime scene at night and 'forgets' a flashlight??? Really??? Her partner may be in grave danger and she says NOTHING???? A child is missing and NOBODY thinks to search her home--but Kay does? Scarpetta enters a suspected killer's home without a gun, yet she sleeps with one next to her bed at all times? Right!! Truly, I didn't really even like/care about the main character...she was a snobby know -it-all and she was sleeping with a married man. Sorry I wasted my time reading this.... ...more

â€œThe Body Farmâ€• is Dr. Kay Scarpetta's fifth novel, published in 1994. Her dear niece's age has been hastily augmented to twenty-one. I was certain Lucy was under twelve in their 1990 introduction. I dislike violence, crime thrillers, forensics, even sad or tragic novels. I abhor reading about horror or grief. The personal perspective of Kay's teammates, family, friends, and my familiarity with them make all her series exceptions. When one wants content that is more serious than light mysteries, â€œThe Body Farmâ€• is Dr. Kay Scarpetta's fifth novel, published in 1994. Her dear niece's age has been hastily augmented to twenty-one. I was certain Lucy was under twelve in their 1990 introduction. I dislike violence, crime thrillers, forensics, even sad or tragic novels. I abhor reading about horror or grief. The personal perspective of Kay's teammates, family, friends, and my familiarity with them make all her series exceptions. When one wants content that is more serious than light mysteries, stepping past the lines of non-grotesque, standard adult mysteries occurs. Patricia Cornwell's novels are a successful effort in higher tolerance.

I ask authors to cease hurling cat deaths into fiction. This will always deduct a star but especially with the horrific addition so pointless and arbitrary to the novel. The main victim had died and that depraved act could not torment her. Besides the animal death deal-breaker and difficulty I had, believing the murderer identity and motive against feline and humans; the pace was fast and multifaceted. I traversed 374 pages in a rush of interest that never waned.

An additional, necessary criticism is that a major plot point and suspect was untouched and unexplained. If it was a red herring, a major series criminal should not have been used. That criminal's

The Body Farm

plot, pertaining to Lucy's FBI training, suggests that his unwarranted appearance sets up a succeeding novel. The heroine having an affair rattles my respect; no matter what the state of her paramour's marriage might be. Although his wife is a seldom-appearing cardboard figure, she is highly likeable. It seems I come to three stars anyway. The pace, complexity, and personal urgency were written well, keeping emotions and interest high. I look forward to Patricia's next novel, after my habitual break to absorb other tones of fiction and non-fiction. ...more

The Body Farm Tennessee

Number 5 in the Dr. Scarpetta series.

Kay Scarpetta is more of an investigator than a medical examiner in the story.

A young girl is murdered and the murder is attributed to a known serial killer. But the murder scene is not quite right for this particular killer. Whilst the FBI and the local police are searching for the serial killer Kay goes off in a different direction.

There is a lot going on here and I found the storyline a bit confusing at times

Kate's normal sidekick Pete Merino seems to have lost the plot but I never found out why. I never found the relevance of The Body Farm. It plays a part but it is so miniscule it's hardly worth its inclusion. Kate's niece Lucy, who was a smart young UNI student in the last book is now a smart and up and coming FBI student with a drinking problem. Did she just wake up one morning and decided to be an alcoholic?

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As an investigator Kate makes a good medical examiner. Although in the end it was Kate's investigation that proved to be right.

For all its flaws this is still an entertaining read.

If you have enjoyed the other Dr. Scarpetta books then you'll enjoy this too.

...more

As other reviewers have noted, the title 'The Body Farm' is a bit misleading since it doesn't come into the plot until near the end, and then it is as a sidebar, but its graphic descriptive inclusion and the good Dr. Kay Scarpetta's enthusiastic promotion for donating bodies for science totally rocks if icky science rings your chimes.

I had to laugh - the author Patricia Cornwell gave readers a high-minded dutiful social message while at the same time satisfying us mystery readers in our queasy quest. As other reviewers have noted, the title 'The Body Farm' is a bit misleading since it doesn't come into the plot until near the end, and then it is as a sidebar, but its graphic descriptive inclusion and the good Dr. Kay Scarpetta's enthusiastic promotion for donating bodies for science totally rocks if icky science rings your chimes.

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The Body Farm

the same time satisfying us mystery readers in our queasy quest of seeking ewwww entertainment and learning about police work and criminal law/science topics.

This series must be read in order - start here: Postmortem. Mixed into the plot of Dr. Scarpetta's public life of autopsies, vengeful serial killers, and bastard politicians obstructing her and the police, are a vividly dysfunctional gang of police friends, lovers and family who pop into the middle of her cases causing stress and distress.

In this book, much happens to Kay's favorite relative, Lucy, who is now a young adult. She is a genius computer-science geek who has been severely warped by Kay's self-involved low-life drama-queen sister, Dorothy, a fiction writer. Lucy wants to follow in Kay's footsteps as a crime fighter, so she is an intern of sorts in an FBI program at Quantico, Virginia.

Kay's relationship with her mother is fraught with the issues which commonly occur between an uneducated elderly woman of conventional housewife concerns and an extremely educated daughter who is swimming in upper level problems of government and leadership responsibilities. Adding to the difficulties is the physical distance between Kay's mother, living in Florida and Richmond, Virginia, where Kay is headquartered.

Captain Pete Marino, Kay's friend as well as a cantankerous police officer Kay works with in many cases, has been living in a manner designed to shorten his life, as a recent divorce has increased his rage and depression. He is jealous of Kay's lovers, despite that the relationship between himself and Kay has been strictly professional. Kay is gun-shy of relationships in the first place, but unfortunately, she has fallen in love with a married FBI agent, Unit Chief Benton Wesley, in this book.

Eleven-year-old Emily Steiner, a delicate small-town child, has been found dead. The mutilations on her body appear to follow the pattern of Temple Gault, the serial killer we met in the previous book in the series. Anything related to Gault has the attention of the FBI - and Dr. Kay Scarpetta!

...more

The Body Farm Location

Do I like PC or do I not like PC? I'm tending toward the latter with this book. It's the 2nd PC book I've read. Kay is unappealing as a main character, and grows even moreso the more I read her. Is it believable that she has all of these incredible insights into fingerprints, car wrecks, etc. that ever other law enforcement agency & specialty misses? Please! Are we to be ambivalent and accepting of the fact that she is an active accomplice in marriage-wrecking? Above and beyond this, there's

Do I like PC or do I not like PC? I'm tending toward the latter with this book. It's the 2nd PC book I've read. Kay is unappealing as a main character, and grows even moreso the more I read her. Is it believable that she has all of these incredible insights into fingerprints, car wrecks, etc. that ever other law enforcement agency & specialty misses? Please! Are we to be ambivalent and accepting of the fact that she is an active accomplice in marriage-wrecking? Above and beyond this, there's just nothing relatable, enjoyable, and interesting about her character.

As to the storyline, I guessed many of the clues prior to their revelation. The story was slow-moving, and I bored easily. Has taken me a very long time to read this book. ...more

I am still not sure if I dislike the author's writing, or if the books are just so old that I dislike the books because they are just that dated.

The stupid Lucy storyline:

1)There has never been any indication prior to this book that there was any reason to even hint that Lucy had an addictive personality, and or had a problem with drinking. So, it's amazing how in only the course of one book, Lucy became this supposed alcoholic.

2)The lesbian storyline. I think Patricia was starting to question h I am still not sure if I dislike the author's writing, or if the books are just so old that I dislike the books because they are just that dated.

The stupid Lucy storyline:

1)There has never been any indication prior to this book that there was any reason to even hint that Lucy had an addictive personality, and or had a problem with drinking. So, it's amazing how in only the course of one book, Lucy became this supposed alcoholic.

2)The lesbian storyline. I think Patricia was starting to question her own sexuality with this book, because there is absolutely no reason or previous hints, that would have lead anyone to believe that Lucy simply getting her cigarette lit by a pair of female hands means that she's a lesbian. It felt very out of the blue that suddenly Kay was suspecting of Lucy's sexual preferences.

The Benton storyline:

I actually didn't mind this, though I was rather ambivalent towards it one way or the other. I do like Benton, so perhaps thats why.

The Merino storyline:

The Body Farm

Meh. Did not like it. Didn't like any of it. His jealousy though did make more sense than the entire Lucy plots.

The killer storyline:

Meh. Didn't like. Didn't care. Saw it coming long before.

Kay's sister Dorothy:

Never liked her. Flat out hate her from the first mention in this book.

Kay:

It's amazing how idiotic the rest of the world is compared to Kay. Kay is super investigator! She can do anything, and the FBI is stooooopid. The police are stoooooopid. Only Kay can save the day! Only Kay can find the killer!

Title: The title of this book was pointless to the plot. The Body Farm was in one scene, and I don't even actually remember why it was necessary. I think she would have been better off calling it Coins for the Ferryman or something like that. Something actually appropriate.

Other than the fact that I already have them all loaded in my itunes, I'm not actually sure I care if I finish the rest of the series or not.

I must say if I had to choose between Temperance Brennan or Kay Scarpetta... I'm Team Bones all the way. The Scarpetta books are so meh. ...more

The Body Farm Series

29/3 - I agree with the other reviewers who said that the title of this book is misleading, this book is more about the FBI than it is the body farm. It would have made more sense to name it Quantico or something else that refers to where a lot of the book is located, instead of a very interesting place that really only gets a mention near the beginning and a quick visit at the end. If a book is titled The Body Farm you would expect the body farm to make a big impact on the story, possibly for t

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Marino is being a particularly large jerk in this book and shows hints of future assholery (that I won't mention further because it would be a huge spoiler for a book far into the future) that makes me mad just thinking about it. I've already started the next book, From Potter's Field and don't see how Scarpetta can (or think I could) go back to behaving normally around Marino. After the way he treated her and Benton I can't believe she was able to go back to the semi-healthy working relationship she had with him before. In my head I always imagined Marino looking and behaving like Skipp Sudduth's character John 'Sully' Sullivan in Third Watch, who isn't particularly appealing in personality or (to be honest) appearance.

Unfortunately, I had to dock a star due to the false advertising of a book about the body farm that wasn't actually about the farm at all and because I have a question about the passage of time between this book and the previous one. On page 74 of Cruel and Unusual Lucy is described as being Kay's 17-year-old niece, but on page four of The Body Farm she is described as being 21 which conflicts with the fact that on page 19 Gault's murder of Eddie Heath is described as being "nearly two years" earlier. For me that's a really irritating, and easily avoidable, mistake to make. If you know your characters well, you shouldn't get confused as to how old they are from one book to the next. Unless of course it was done on purpose so that Lucy would be realistically old enough to be working for the FBI and she just hoped that with the passage of time, between the publication of one book and the next, no one would notice (naughty, naughty *shakes finger* that's not very respectful to readers who notice details and enjoy rereading an entire series one book after another). ...more

In the fifth mystery/thriller, Cornwell has introduced so much about which praise is deserved. Picking up the threads left in the previous novel, Scarpetta has agreed to advise the FBI on some of its cases, to create a better mechanism by which to catch the seediest. Scarpetta's niece joins her at Quantico, on an

The Body Farm

internship and seeks to forge her own paths. With the murder of a young girl, all fingers point at the elusive serial killer who got away in 'Cruel and Unusual', leaving Scarpetta to determine how to catch him and use the clues left at the scene to piece it all together. While on the hunt, another suspect comes into her crosshairs and leaves the group wondering if this down and out individual might be allowing his alter-ego to appear. The murder of an investigator under awkward circumstances leaves new questions unanswered. Meanwhile, Scarpetta must juggle the case with an out of control niece who digs up trouble of her own and whose actions could cost Scarpetta more than she's ready to give up. Masterful storytelling and a plot that does not give the reader the chance to breathe make for the perfect novel.

Cornwell continues to build up the storylines for Scarpetta, as well as injecting a plethora of information about the characters involved. These are not simply breadcrumbs to sate the curious reader, but full-on feasts that are addressed masterfully and thoroughly with each novel's release. The reader can see major progress with all characters involved and are left to hope that this does not stop, as the series continues to progress. As the title suggests, use of the famed Body Farm in Tennessee does play a key role in the story and it is a great opportunity for readers to learn a little more about the facility. That said, nothing tops the Jefferson Bass series, penned by the creator of the Farm, filled with intricate details about this place and the types of things that Cornwell only began to discuss.

Kudos, Madam Cornwell for treating readers to yet another powerful mystery, where questions outweigh answers. ...more

The Body Farm Documentary

This book was fast paced and complicated with a twist. I really liked it! Scarpetta's relationship with Wesley changes from professional/friendship to an affair. This upsets me because he is married and Scarpetta has met his wife on a few occasions and likes her very much. What bothers me most is Scarpetta feels no remorse whatsoever. Nor does Wesley. Because of the change that goes on with Wesley and Scarpetta's relationship it makes Morino very upset and you start to realize that he has feelings for Scarpetta that are stronger than just friendship. I very much missed that relationship in this story. I enjoy the back and forth between Scarpetta and Morino and find it rather endearing the protectiveness he feels for her. I also find it endearing how he gets uncomfortable when any of his protectiveness shows. All this was missing in this book. I really missed it. I am concerned what is going to happen in the next book in regard to Scarpetta and Morino's relationship. In the first book, Morino saved Scarpetta's life, and now in this book she saved his life. I wonder how he is going to handle that one!! ...more

Ten pages to go but I gotta expurge some of the annoyed boredom now. The only reason I read two Cornwells in two days was that I was waiting for mail, but it enhances the flaws of her writing (or logic? I can't even say). Where no. 4 had been just boring and unpleasant and boringly unpleasant, in no. 5 now all the same people involved have completely forgotten that in the case they are actually following up here, fingerprints had already been unreliable. Yet now nobody even seems to doubt them. Ten pages to go but I gotta expurge some of the annoyed boredom now. The only reason I read two Cornwells in two days was that I was waiting for mail, but it enhances the flaws of her writing (or logic? I can't even say). Where no. 4 had been just boring and unpleasant and boringly unpleasant, in no. 5 now all the same people involved have completely forgotten that in the case they are actually following up here, fingerprints had already been unreliable. Yet now nobody even seems to doubt them. Then Lucy, whom I still don't like (just as I don't like Scarpetta), is suddenly an alcoholic, and 10 pages to the end I still cannot believe it because I have nothing but Scarpetta's word for it. Cornwell infamously has the most important emotional events between books (I had to keep googling to tripplecheck that yes, another guy left the stage between books, I hadn't missed a novel), and for a long time I tried to see it as her "style", but the praise is ridiculous, she's not writing incisively or chillingly, she just can't seem to write certain things?

She also seems completely overreacting about Marino without actually doing anything about him - just as going to one bar makes Lucy an alcoholic, being justifiably hurt and angry and considering a new life in a small town makes Marino a liability she and the FBI suddenly don't talk to, despite him seemingly working with them on a case. But worst of all, while Scarpetta goes to boldly confront a baddie instead of making sure they don't bolt by being alarmed, she runs AWAY when she sees the killer they've been

The Body Farm

searching for years, despite having a gun in her bag and being surrounded by people and him not killing in public - and that is not even questioned.

I'll talk more about how her doing nothing but driving and flying around endlessly makes every book the same; here though she had the Body Farm as a fascinating and real object and has the audacity to use it as title when it's not used at all in the book, the chapter devoted to it superfluous at best.

Finally, we are meant to be on her side about being smart and with great breasts, naturally slim and a great cook, doctor and lawyer and rich and successful, because her awful family uses that as their stick. Scarpetta says she is "a woman that is not a woman" and then ruins what I would have liked - a different sort of het relationship of loving equals - by ridiculous phrases ... I always liked her smart FBI guy, right from when she was with that other one I didn't care for, but to say "his voice was lean and muscled like his body" ... gahd, Cornwell just has a knack of making everything flat, and that was the only time I laughed in all her books. I haven't checked if Cornwell is lesbian herself, but in the 6 novels I read so far it was the lean, interesting men I found appealing - and yet it just makes Scarpetta look worse when she obviously could never consider Marino, because he's fat and semi-bald (all characters are either lean or grossly overweight in her world).

A friend said Cornwell's first novels were good but quickly worsened into Mary Sues - I don't know why I thought it was about sexuality, but I'm dreading the shelf of unread novels of her yet to plough through. Like Sarah Dunant, Cornwell makes McDermid look good again. ...more

The Body Farm Definition

I am new to reading Patricia Cornwell and I have so far read two of her books, which unfortunately I did out of order. Despite my little snafu though, I have found that I really enjoy her books and her writing style. This (like probably most of her books) was a thriller/suspense and it definitely kept my attention throughout the whole book, as I constantly read quickly to see what was going to happen next. Cornwell is really good about developing characters that you care about and despite their I am new to reading Patricia Cornwell and I have so far read two of her books, which unfortunately I did out of order. Despite my little snafu though, I have found that I really enjoy her books and her writing style. This (like probably most of her books) was a thriller/suspense and it definitely kept my attention throughout the whole book, as I constantly read quickly to see what was going to happen next. Cornwell is really good about developing characters that you care about and despite their sometimes farfetched job skills, it's not necessarily flaunted and somehow seems believable (I'm speaking specifically about the main character, Kay Scarpetta, who just happens to be a doctor, a lawyer and a consultant for the FBI). The story moved along really quickly and I didn't come across any lagging areas. My only issue with it was that Cornwell seemed to put a lot of time and effort into creating the suspense and going through layers upon layers of different theories from the main characters; however, the end seemed to happen kind of quickly and easily, which was a bit of a disappointment. It seemed a bit rushed to me in that all of the puzzle pieces that were coming out of left field throughout the whole book as clues to the mystery, just suddenly seemed to fit together and that was that. I would still recommend this book and this author to anyone looking for a good suspenseful thriller and I look forward to reading more of her books as well. ...more

This book was my introduction to Patricia Cornwell and her character, Kay Scarpetta; also my introduction to the concept of a "body farm", a forensic testing facility that puts cadavers in various environments over long periods to determine their effects on the corpse (the point being to be able to determine cause and time of death despite extensive decomposition.)

Let's just say I was sufficiently compelled by the writing and interested enough in the characters to go back and read the previous This book was my introduction to Patricia Cornwell and her character, Kay Scarpetta; also my introduction to the concept of a "body farm", a forensic testing facility that puts cadavers in various environments over long periods to determine their effects on the corpse (the point being to be able to determine cause and time of death despite extensive decomposition.)

Let's just say I was sufficiently compelled by the writing and interested enough in the characters to go back and read the previous books, and then continued with the series for several more, until the point at which Scarpetta's life drama became more important than the mysteries - then I quit. I can recommend pretty much everything from #1, Postmortem, through about #9, Point of Origin. (Some might suggest that the drama got obnoxious at an earlier point, but that's just about where I knocked off.) There are an additional 9 Scarpetta books beyond that - if you like her stuff, go for it. She has also started at least two other series featuring different characters, but I have found that once an author has

The Body Farm

hit on a successful franchise, subsequent series will follow virtually the same path - and life's too short
(IMHO.) ...more

The Body Farm In Texas

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

I was looking for something new to read, a crime series I could get into...unfortunately this is not my cup of tea. Scarpetta, the main character was really unlikeable, an arrogant, boring, emotionally void, judgemental kind of woman (whilst still maintaining dubious indulgences of her own, Scarpetta has it off with a married man throughout the book without a single qualm) who big upped herself in all depts. The plot isn't bad, just poorly executed and with little finesse. Cornwell seems to have many fans so maybe I'm just too picky, but I won't bother with her other books, despite this being an easy and light read, I just didn't warm to a single one of her characters (except perhaps for the dead girl) and found the writing style clunky and lacking in detail. And did anyone notice the lack of explanation in the final pages for the sexual abuse of the girl? Or did I miss something there? Meh. Life's too short! ...more

kay shows some bad-ass moves as she performs (view spoiler)[ante-, peri- and postmortem bullet surgery on a perp with pete's pump-action winchester (hide spoiler)]