

# Sacramento Book Review



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## **Scarpetta**

*By Patricia Cornwell*

*Putnam, \$27.95, 512 pages*

Cornwell's most identifiable character, Scarpetta, not-so-surprisingly returns in *Scarpetta*, and in classic form. When a man afflicted with Dwarfism is arrested for murder and detained in a New York hospital while his injuries heal, he specifically requests that Scarpetta be brought in to tend to him. Scarpetta leaves her private practice, and heads back to NYC, and no sooner does she start inspecting the suspected man than she becomes entangled in a mess of an investigation involving both the real and virtual worlds.

With a skillful understanding of building suspense, Cornwell embarks slowly, creating more and more tension as the chapters roll along, all the while keeping the plot entrancing. *Scarpetta* is a more-than-satisfactory example of a first-rate mystery, containing all of the elements that will keep you up late, trying to find a comfortable position on your bed to read in.

