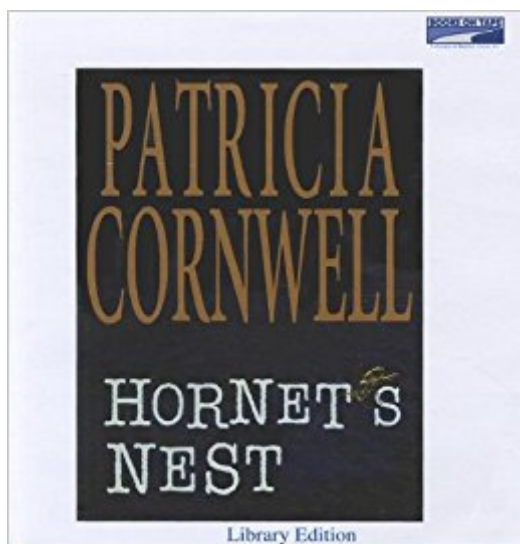


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# The Hornet's Nest



## Synopsis

In this first title of a new mystery series, New York Times bestselling author Patricia Cornwell introduces us to a dynamic trio of crime solvers in Charlotte, North Carolina: Andy Brazil, an eager young reporter; Judy Hammer, the city's police chief; and Virginia West, Hammer's deputy and a genuine head-turner. They're after a serial killer who pulls male out-of-towners from their rental cars, then mutilates, spray paints, and shoots them, in that order. What the trio uncovers jolts them like the sting of the hornet--Charlotte's symbol. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 446 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Patricia Cornwell turns from forensics to police procedures in her latest novel, *Hornet's Nest*. This book is less a thriller than a character study of the main characters: Judy Hammer, chief of police in Charlotte, North Carolina; Hammer's deputy, Virginia West; and Andy Brazil, a young reporter assigned to ride with the police as they go about their jobs. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

The decision to abandon her forensic pathologist Kay Scarpetta (*Body of Evidence*; *Cause of Death*; etc.) leaves Cornwell lacking more than a fail-safe series heroine. The only credible element in this novel is the urban New South setting. The story-about two women top cops and a young male newspaper reporter in Charlotte, N.C.-is routine fare at best. The three characters-42-year-old Deputy Chief Virginia West; her boss, unhappily married Chief Judy Hammer; and handsome wunderkind journalist and volunteer cop, Andy Brazil-are preternaturally competent automatons,

obsessive and utterly devoid of self-awareness. A sequence of serial killings of out-of-towners, men who are pulled from their rental cars, sexually mutilated, marked with orange spray paint and shot, creates tension in Charlotte. While Hammer struggles with city politics and a depressed, obese husband, West contends with Brazil (a "handsome and fierce" 22-year-old with "total photographic recall"), who is on assignment to write about police activity, having impressed his editor by turning in "a hundred of hours' overtime five months in a row." Rather than reveal her characters through their words and actions, Cornwell forces them on us predigested ("West believed women were great

I think a different Patricia Cornwell wrote this. Although it was good; it was a female version of her Scarpetta series. The main character, Andy Brazil, barely shows up. The two female leads have all the important issues and he is like a little kid running to catch up. West is like Marino. Sloppy and screwed up. Her writing style in Scarpetta is riveting and in this series does not have the same punch. The characters are so flawed you feel sorry for them. Everybody looks for a hero in a book, someone they can relate to. None of these characters offer that. And they move around; just like the Scarpetta series. I did not read the 3rd book. Maybe I should. Perhaps Andy gets some brass ones in it. Patricia Cornwell is a genius; just not so much in this series. I found her Scarpetta series and ate it up. Read them ALL at an amazing pace. Read those and save this series for when you have trouble sleeping.

I got the impression that the Andy Brazil books weren't as good as the Scarpetta series, but I enjoyed this one very much. It is a different perspective, focusing more on people. I liked it very much. I will read the others in this series and hope she will write more. Kate

Not Patricia Cornwell's best work, but the characters are interesting. No hero in this book.

Patricia Cornwell is my all time favorite author. I've read every one of her books but the Scarpeta series is my favorite. I anxiously await the next installment.

I enjoyed it, was a good read. I like that the two female's were in charge. I like that they describe the character.

Good read. Typical Cornwell big city problems with the dregs of society and the greed of our business world..

I love this book. I'm. Sure # 2 & 3 are going to be as great. I love Patricia Cornwall Books. I've read everything from Scarpitta to the book At Risk I like the People in It's books

Cornwell never fails to deliver a metaphorical cornucopia of tasty delights... Her descriptions and picture painting with words, takes you to a whole 'nother world...I love reading this particular Andy Brazil series....

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