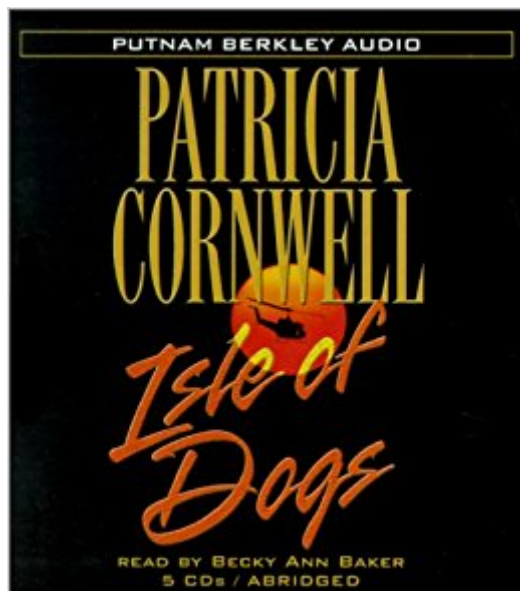


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Isle Of Dogs (Andy Brazil)



Synopsis

Abridged. Five CD's. 6 hours. From the #1 bestselling author of *Hornet's Nest* and *Southern Cross*, an irreverent portrait of politically driven law enforcement run amok. Patricia Cornwell's novels of big-city police have taken this classic genre to a new level. "Move over, Carl Hiaasen, you've got company," the *San Francisco Examiner* warned. "Patricia Cornwell has switched to Hiaasen's world of black humor and nearly conquers it." *USA Today* concurred: "Cornwell has coined a new penny." With *Isle of Dogs*, Cornwell outdoes herself with a wry tale of life and turmoil behind the blue wall. Chaos breaks loose when the governor of Virginia orders that speed traps be painted on all streets and highways, warning that speeders will be caught by monitoring aircraft flying overhead. But the eccentric Isle of Tangier, fourteen miles off the coast of Virginia in the Chesapeake Bay, responds by declaring war on its own state. Judy Hammer, newly installed as the superintendent of the Virginia State Police, and Andy Brazil, a state trooper and Hammer's right hand and confidant, find themselves at their wits' end as they try to protect the public from the politicians-and vice versa-in this pitch-perfect, darkly comic romp. With a Swiftian eye for the absurd and dead-accurate aim on her targets, Cornwell delivers another knowing story of the lives of the men and women in blue.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Be aware: this is not your typical Patricia Cornwell novel. Not only is there no Kay Scarpetta, but *Isle of Dogs* is a comic romp, a real departure for this author. It does center around a couple of

characters from past books--police chief Judy Hammer and reporter-turned-cop Andy Brazil of *Hornet's Nest* and *Southern Cross*. But the plot, style, and tone will remind you more of Carl Hiaasen's dark comedies. The madcap doings get underway when the addled, nearly blind governor of Virginia confusedly launches a speed-trap program on isolated Tangier Island, whose prickly, eccentric residents promptly attempt secession. Cornwell adeptly interweaves other crisscrossing plot lines involving a gang of street-stupid thugs gunning for Hammer and Brazil, an angel-faced serial killer, a kidnapped dog, and more. She does miss a few beats: the pacing sags during certain episodes, and at times the writing strains so hard for laughs that instead it draws wincing. Nonetheless, *Isle of Dogs* is for the most part a funny, diverting read and a refreshing departure for Cornwell. --Nicholas H. Allison

An island in Chesapeake Bay revolts when Virginia's governor orders speed traps on every street. It doesn't sound like Cornwell, but it's a main selection of BOMC, the Literary GuildR, the Mystery GuildR, and the Doubleday Book Club. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ms. Daniels-Cornwell should stick to writing her normal Forensic Pathology type of books. This book is one of the most disjointed books I have read in a long time. The subject matter is boring and pulls in a lot of directions. The dialogue is childish and silly. It seems to me that the author was forced to write a story (on a deadline) and she produced one in a hurry in draft form without reviewing it. The storyline is simplistic and does not at all match the sophistication of her other novels. I have read all her novels and was very disappointed in this one. In the past few of her novels I have seen a decline in the depth of the storyline and her character description, but not to this level. I was not totally pleased with her later novels, but could finish them and could say that I enjoyed them. I learned something from them with respect to forensic science. Not "*Isle of Dogs*". It is a silly collection of disjointed chapters. I would not recommend this book to anyone and am sorry I bought it. Especially the hard-cover edition was a waste of money.

I am a voracious reader. I read, on average, a book every couple of days. This book is, BY FAR, THE worst book I have EVER read. I cannot imagine what Cornwell was thinking when she wrote this crap. I have enjoyed her *Scarpetta* series, but this one was terrible. The plot -- if there even was one -- was convoluted and difficult to follow. The characters -- from the good guys to the bad -- were all unlikeable. And if I never read her bathroom humor again, it will be too soon. This book was utterly ridiculous, all the way through.

I just paged through dozens of those folks writing reviews that hated the book. Boy, did they misunderstand what this book is about! Anyone who is a fan of Saturday Night Live can see the biting sarcasm, the intrinsic irony, and the 'bite your tongue, and don't laugh out loud because someone might hear you giggling at something politically incorrect' humor of this story. Those hoping to read more darkly gothic storytelling with their favorite character, Kay Scarpetta, are sure to be disappointed--... Those who read this book to be entertained by a parody of Southern politics, hilarious distortions of basic human emotions, and who can recognize real-life folks just trying to 'get along' are in for a delightful ride. The story is essentially about a crime-fighting team of a female Va State Police Commissioner (?) and her trusty side-kick, a 'good 'ol white boy' State Police helicopter pilot whose main mission in life is to do their jobs as well as possible despite all the stupid people getting in their way. If anyone remembers The Dukes of Hazard television show, the little fat town mayor will quickly come to mind when Cornwell describes the Governor of Virginia--blind, deaf, and dumber than a hunk of fat-back hanging in the smokehouse. His wife, equally stupid, vapid, and a TV shop-a-holic will bring to mind many close relatives many of us are forced to acknowledge in our own families. The daughters--equally dumb, fat, and obnoxious to boot, make up the discontent family of political squatters in the Richmond Capital Mansion. Enter a protagonist who stirs the Governor's pot (figuratively and literally) to realize a lifelong burning ambition based on revenge for family honor for many generations. His methods of getting what he wants (OK, Patricia, this method of poison makes even my mouth water!) by manipulating the Governor's 'submarine' make for a cute plot amongst the several subplots with all the characters just trying to make an honest living and keeping all the vultures away. Tangier Island was appealing to me before, and I haven't visited it yet, but I want to drop by even more now after reading about all the unique characters that Cornwell 'slightly' exaggerated in the book to increase it's humor factor. OK, it's not a realistic, criminally dark and gothic book with sexy scenes of interracial coupling that Cornwell is known for with her Kay Scarpetta character, but she does right a compelling plot that wants you to read on to see what stupid event falls in to place next and how the characters react in a chain reaction of overdone proportions. Anonymous Internet Hero, a missing dog, good 'ol white boys, a dishonest dentist, race car drivers, and unpolitic behavior in this book promises a giggle throughout as you read and wonder what Cornwell has thought up next. If you are laughing within the first two chapters, then this book will entertain you to the end. But, if you expect and demand the same style of writing as Cornwell's Scarpetta novels, don't bother.

I see that I'm in the minority here, but I really love this book! The story is so cleverly detailed, with several storylines going, there's always something happening. The oddest parts are the Trooper Truth essays though... The audio version of this is really great, the reader does a fantastic job of voicing these characters. The adventures of the characters are frequently hilarious and I think that Cornwell shows a tremendous gift for creating such a diverse group of characters.

Patricia Cornwell has been one of my favorite authors for years, but this book was just terrible. I actually didn't have much of a problem with the talking crabs (or trout, or dog.) The crabs aren't this book's problem. This book's problem is the book itself. It's BORING, and the plot is so incredibly stupid. The people in this book were so unbelievable and unlikable - all of them - that it was really hard to finish this book at all. I also don't understand what it was about the Trooper Truth website that got everyone all riled up. I also couldn't stand the way people spoke. I kept hoping it would get better, but it never did! Honestly, if this was the first Patricia Cornwell book I had bought, I wouldn't have ever read her books again.

I have read most of Patricia Cornwell's books and liked, no make that loved, all of them...up to this one that is. What a disappointment from an author with so much technical expertise in forensics and insider knowledge of the intricate workings of a large police force. Neither of which were explored in this book. At first I found the constant misunderstandings of one character by another humorous, then they became overused and annoying. Perhaps this was Ms. Cornwell's way of straying into the world of humor, my advice, stick with what you are good at, your readers like what you write, and you have a loyal following. I would liked to have seen more details regarding the Unique character and what lurked behind the "Nazi" references as her motive for killing. I look forward to Ms. Cornwell's next book. Hopefully I will see the development of an interesting story, complete with fabulous characters exploring the darker side of humanity, rather than just trying to finish the book to make sure the bad guys get their just rewards, and wondering when the darn thing will end. A disappointed, but still loyal fan.

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