

Dr. Cothran
English 200
Reading Response 3

Using quotes and examples from Cornwell's novel, write a **2-3 page essay** (typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font) that responds to one of the questions below.

1. Unlike *The Moonstone* and *Murder at the Vicarage*, Patricia Cornwell's *The Body Farm* uses graphic images of violence (and super-scary-crazy criminals!) to depict the heinous nature of criminal activity in the modern world. Discuss this violence. Is it too horrible? Realistic? Gratuitous? This book is incredibly popular (and profitable!). What does this say about modern readers, their tolerance levels, their preferences, their pleasures?
2. Through the character of Kay Scarpetta, Cornwell focuses on the interior life and emotions of an investigative professional. Explore this character, and then explore how this focus changes the feel of the detective novel. What are the effects of the reader "getting inside the mind" of the detective?
3. Choose your own topic! Pick out a recurring theme or symbol (sexuality, visions of mothering and motherhood, images of water, messages about good and evil – about God in the world ... anything!) and write a thesis-driven essay on the topic.

Some advice: The evidence you provide when supporting your thesis should present not only quotations from the text (or descriptions of plot/character elements) that support your ideas but **analyses** of those quotations. Analysis means exploring the significance of a quotation. Define, discuss, and describe the quote. Explain why you have used this particular passage. How does it relate to your thesis? Don't assume that your reader will automatically see the significance of the examples you use.

Note: You are not expected or required to use outside sources when writing this essay, but if you do use them, please be sure to cite all source material using correct MLA format.