

**PATRICIA CORNWELL, #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR,
LAUNCHES AN EXCITING NEW WEB SITE**

**To Introduce Her Gripping New Novel PREDATOR, Due in Stores October 25, 2005,
Cornwell Today Unveils a New Web Site, a Truly Terrifying Video Trailer,
and a Sneak Peek at an Interactive “Forensic Challenge”
That Will Test Your Skills as a Crime Scene Investigator**

New York, New York, September 26, 2005 ... When Patricia Cornwell created forensic criminologist Dr. Kay Scarpetta in 1990 – the central character in her uninterrupted string of #1 *New York Times* bestsellers – she also launched a new genre, the forensic crime novel. The intrepid Scarpetta has millions of devoted fans around the world.

Now once again Cornwell breaks new ground with a web site (www.patriciacornwell.com) that is unique in the history of the book publishing industry.

Nothing will quite prepare you for what you will see on October 25, 2005, when Cornwell's new web site will be launched simultaneously with the release of **PREDATOR**, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. In anticipation of that event, the first phase of the new web site will be available to her fans today, September 26th.

Visitors to the **PREDATOR** site will see a frightening video trailer for the book, an exclusive interview with Cornwell herself, and an advance preview of exciting scenes from the “Forensic Challenge,” which will allow viewers to experience crime scene investigations firsthand. Prime-time TV has never been this authentic! Visitors will also be given an opportunity to win one of 25 autographed copies of **PREDATOR** and to sign up for early access to an excerpt from the book at one minute after midnight on the day of publication.

At 12:01 AM on October 25th, when **PREDATOR** will be released, Cornwell's fans will be given, for the first time, interactive access to the actual world of forensic science on her new web site. “Forensic Challenge” is a central feature of the site. Visitors will be able to witness a frightening crime scene reenactment as forensic investigators apply the techniques they use to bring compulsive killers, rapists, and other violent criminals to justice. Following each reenactment visitors will be challenged to test their forensic knowledge and skills.

The new web site will also feature new interviews with Cornwell as she talks about the experiences that inspire her books and the people, many of them scientists, who have influenced her in the creation of the forensic crime novel. This new genre has attracted an array of literary, prime-time television, and cable documentary imitators, but Cornwell's works have yet to be surpassed.

Other features on the new site will include links to the best Internet fan sites and an expanded overview of all of her books that will allow fans to click on any one of them for an excerpt.

Page 2 ... Patricia Cornwell, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author, Launches an Exciting New Web Site

For further information about **PREDATOR**, the book's web site, or the expanded web site that is soon to follow, contact Marilyn Ducksworth at 212-366-2564 or via e-mail at marilyn.ducksworth@us.penguin.com.

About the Author:

Patricia Cornwell's most recent #1 *New York Times* bestsellers include *Trace*, *Blow Fly*, and *Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper-Case Closed*. Her earlier work includes *Postmortem* – the only novel to win the Edgar, Creasey, Anthony and Macavity awards and the French Prix du Roman d'Aventure in a single year – and *Cruel and Unusual*, which won Great Britain's prestigious Gold Dagger Award for the year's best crime novel of 1993. Her fictional medical examiner, Dr. Kay Scarpetta, won the 1999 Sherlock Award for best detective created by an American author. And in 2005 Cornwell is Britain's top selling crime writer.

About PREDATOR:

Dr. Kay Scarpetta, now freelancing with the National Forensic Academy in Florida, takes charge of a case that stretches from steamy Florida to snowbound Boston; one that at first appears as unnerving as any she has ever faced. The teasing psychological clues lead Scarpetta and her team – Pete Marino, Benton Wesley, and Lucy Farinelli – to suspect that they are hunting someone with a cunning and malevolent mind whose secrets have kept them in the shadows, until now. **PREDATOR** is proof once again that Patricia Cornwell has few peers with her extraordinary ability to entertain and enthrall.