Vertical Coffin: A Shane Scully Novel. By: Stephen J. Cannell. Narrated by: Scott Brick. Series: Shane Scully, Book 4. Length: 8 hrs and 47 mins. Categories: Mystery, Thriller & Suspense, Mystery. In Shane Scully's most terrifying case to date, two elite SWAT units from the L.A. Sheriff's Department and the ATF appear to be engaged in a deadly midnight war. Officers from both agencies are being sniped at and murdered in vertical coffins. As the violence escalates, the mayor directs the LAPD, the only uninvolved and unbiased law enforcement agency, to investigate. Shane's wife, Alexa, under orders from Chief Tony Filosiani, assigns him to the case. Almost immediately, Scully is thrust into a nightmare of police intrigue and finds himself with no friends in law enforcement. Vertical Coffin is the first book that I can remember reading by Stephen Cannell. It was a delicious no nonsense fast paced cop thriller/killer. While I won't reiterate the book's storyline as you can find that in many other reviews, I will say I was delighted to find another writer that I could add to my "must read" list. It seems Shane, the protagonist of this story, appears in other Cannell novels, and he's as good as any I've read. He's gritty, full of human foibles and just like life, he doesn't always come out on the other side unscathed. If you like his Shane Scully novels you will REALLY like this book. Lots of mystery, lots of action and lots of just plain easy and enjoyable reading. Buy this book!