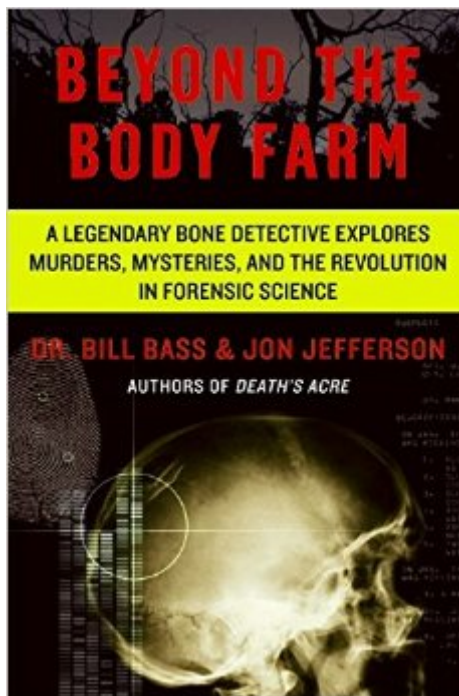


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Beyond The Body Farm: A Legendary Bone Detective Explores Murders, Mysteries, And The Revolution In Forensic Science



Synopsis

A pioneer in forensic anthropology, Dr. Bill Bass created the world's first laboratory dedicated to the study of human decomposition—three acres on a hillside in Tennessee where human bodies are left to the elements. His research has revolutionized forensic science, but during a career that has spanned half a century, Bass and his work have ranged far beyond the gates of the "Body Farm." In this riveting book, the renowned bone sleuth explores the rise of modern forensic science and takes readers deep into the real world of crime scene investigation. Beyond the Body Farm is an extraordinary journey through some of the most fascinating investigations of Dr. Bass's career—and a remarkable look at the high-tech science used to crack the most perplexing cases.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beyond the Body Farm is a collection of vignettes from the wide-ranging experience of forensic anthropologist Bill Bass. He and co-writer Jon Jefferson intrigue readers with stories illustrating the many ways forensic science has helped bring criminals to justice. At the same time, they provide a basic education in anatomy and physiology for the layperson. I appreciated how Dr. Bass was able to share true-crime stories without indulging in shock tactics. Although murders, almost by definition, can be gruesome, Bass dwelt on the science of his investigation, rather than on gory details. I also liked the way the majority of the stories stood on their own. It was easy to get through an entire chapter whenever I had a few minutes to spare. One feature of his writing I found unappealing, however, was his habit of starting one story, introducing another one in which the investigative process was similar, then winding his way back to the original story. I found this circuitous path distracting; rarely did it enhance the main story for me. Overall, however, Beyond the Body Farm

was a good read, and I'd recommend it to anyone who's curious about the constantly advancing field of forensic anthropology. Armchair Interviews says: If you are a "forensic junkie"--watching all those shows on TV, this book would give you added insights.

With two body farm novels (see FLESH AND BONE and CARVED IN BONE) and an account of his forensic anthropological work (see DEATH'S ACRE), Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson provide a sort of autobiographical account of the former's work in Kansas and more so in Tennessee where he created the first "living" forensic research lab. Dr. Bass gives credit to his instructor five decades ago Dr. Krogman, known as the "Bone Detective" who got him interested in the unnamed at that time field of forensic anthropology. He also credits Patricia Cornwell with her novel THE BODY FARM for making him famous and his type of work acceptable amidst the public; without Ms. Cornwell there is no CSI on TV. However, the fascinating segments of the book are the cases over the last fifty years that run the gamut from the Big Bopper to the wrongly identified corpse to a fireworks factory explosion to ancient Persia to solving modern day cases for local police departments. It is these cases and how he and his team solved them by shaking and tossing of the bones that makes for a fine CSI read with Harry Houdini appearing as a star performer in a future exhumation. Harriet Klausner

Dr. Bill Bass is, without a doubt, the most famous and prestigious forensic anthropologist in the United States, if not the world. He is the creator of the famous Body Farm at the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus and he has consulted on thousands of cases throughout his long career. This book is a group of cases that he found to be of particular interest and range from researching ancient bones in the Middle East to digging up the remains of the Big Bopper. The book contains about 15 such stories, each roughly a chapter long and each discusses various unusual aspects of forensic anthropology. It is well written and has a touch of dark humor added. If you like crime shows and forensic shows, you will love this book. It contains just enough science to make it interesting to those with a science background, but not so much as to overwhelm the average reader.

Being a criminal justice student with a focus on the forensic sciences, I found this book to be not only fascinating but very informative. Dr. Bass and Mr. Jefferson have managed to write a non-fiction book that reads like a fiction novel and still manages to inform and teach. I am as thrilled with this book as I am with the three fiction novels that they have written.

I went to school at UT and Had Dr. Bass as a professor one semester. I enjoyed the class although I just made a C. I guess I did not enjoy his exams so much. But I really like his books. This one is extremely interesting and informative. If you are a Bass fan, you need this one for your collection. It really explains a lot about his work and the body farm which is actually by the UT campus.

This is a very good and interesting book. However, if you are a follower of the series that Jefferson Bass writes then this isn't part of it. This is a real life book not fiction. It details different cases that Bill Bass was a part of. It even goes back to his time at the Kansas University before the Body Farm. I found the chapter on the "Big Bopper's Death" to be fascinating. He exhumed his body to find out if he could have survived the crash and walked to a fence or if he was shot. The chapter on sonar that looks for drowned bodies was also interesting. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in forensics or anyone that follows their series.

Dr. William M. Bass is one of the world's most renowned forensic anthropologists, and expert in the study of what happens to the human body after death. He was made famous by his novels ("Carved in Bone" and "Flesh and Bone") and by his memoirs ("Death's Acre: Inside the Body Farm, the legendary forensic lab"). In this fascinating book, Dr. Bass looks back on some of his more interesting cases - everything from examining ancient skeletons at an archaeological dig in Iran, through identifying a person by looking at a disembodied skull, watching bugs, what happens to people who were caught in a fatal explosion, and so much more. (Including such interesting things as what he found when he examined the body of Jiles Perry "The Big Bopper" Richardson.) This is a fascinating and very entertaining book. You would think that a book about dead bodies would be creepy, or perhaps dull and academic, but this book is anything but! The authors do an excellent job of presenting Dr. Bass's cases in an interesting manner, teaching you about forensic anthropology at the same time that it entertains you with fascinating events and witty dialog. I loved this book and don't hesitate to recommend it to everyone!

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