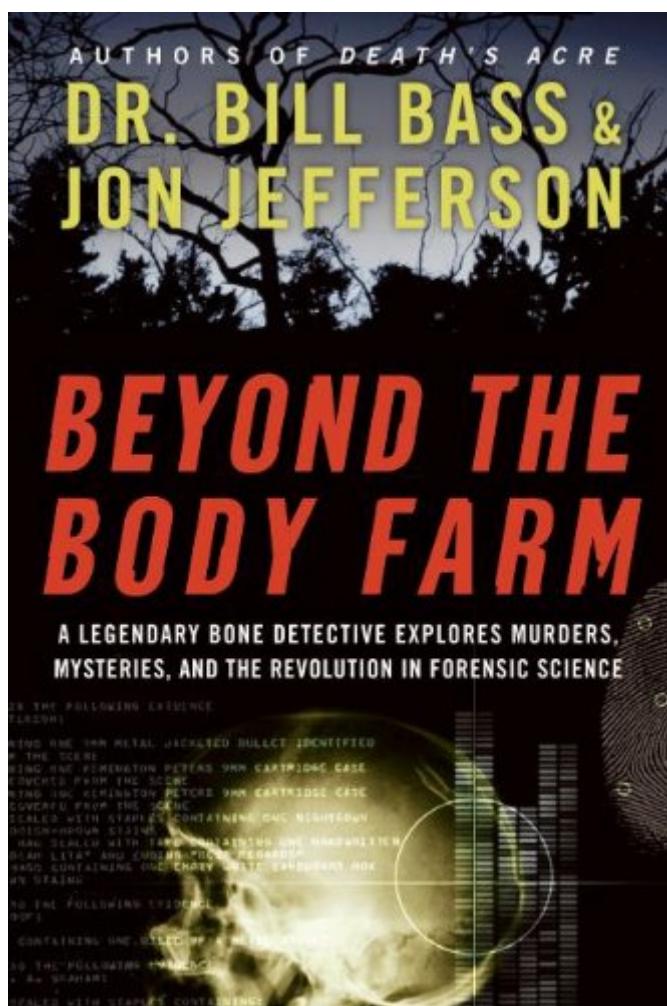


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# Beyond The Body Farm: A Legendary Bone Detective Explores Murders, Mysteries, And The Revolution In Forensic Science



## Synopsis

There is no scientist in the world like Dr. Bill Bass. A pioneer in forensic anthropology, Bass created the world's first laboratory dedicated to the study of human decomposition—three acres of land on a hillside in Tennessee where human bodies are left to the elements. His research at "the Body Farm" has revolutionized forensic science, helping police crack cold cases and pinpoint time of death. But during a forensics career that spans half a century, Bass and his work have ranged far beyond the gates of the Body Farm. In this riveting book, the bone sleuth explores the rise of modern forensic science, using fascinating cases from his career to take readers into the real world of C.S.I. Some of Bill Bass's cases rely on the simplest of tools and techniques, such as reassembling—from battered torsos and a stack of severed limbs—eleven people hurled skyward by an explosion at an illegal fireworks factory. Other cases hinge on sophisticated techniques Bass could not have imagined when he began his career: harnessing scanning electron microscopy to detect trace elements in knife wounds; and extracting DNA from a long-buried corpse, only to find that the female murder victim may have been mistakenly identified a quarter-century before. In *Beyond the Body Farm*, readers will follow Bass as he explores the depths of an East Tennessee lake with a twenty-first-century sonar system, in a quest for an airplane that disappeared with two people on board thirty-five years ago; see Bass exhume fifties pop star "the Big Bopper" to determine what injuries he suffered in the plane crash that killed three rock and roll legends on "the day the music died"; and join Bass as he works to decipher an ancient Persian death scene nearly three thousand years old. Witty and engaging, Bass dissects the methods used by homicide investigators every day, leading readers on an extraordinary journey into the high-tech science that it takes to crack a case.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the second book I've read by this author. So interesting and informative. The author readily gives credit to his fellow scientists when it's due. The cases he wrote about were very interesting.

Lots of new scientific words woven into a good story. The technical aspects are well explained in layman' terms. I found it hard to put it down.

And done with wonder and humor. It takes extraordinary people to be able to do this kind of detective work

I'm going to have to read all the books these two wrote. Really well written and couldn't put it down book

An awesome book that provides a ton of information on the "real CSI", Very well written and entertaining as well as educational.

I am fascinated by forensic anthropology, and few can explain the concepts and procedures of the science like Dr. Bass. His first memoir, *Death's Acre: Inside the Legendary Forensic Lab the Body Farm Where the Dead Do Tell Tales* was tremendously interesting as he wrote of his formal academic introduction into the field and recounted his development of the "Body Farm" interspersed with some stories of his work as a forensic anthropologist. In this second memoir, Dr. Bass discusses 13 new cases he worked on, providing additional insight into the tools, technology and methods that he (and his graduate students and colleagues) have developed and pioneered. The cases themselves are riveting, each (like the stories of the people themselves) are

unique and tragic: the case of a home-made fireworks factory that went horribly wrong; the anguish of a family unsure if the body they buried was indeed that of their mother; answering the question of whether J.P. Richardson ("the Big Bopper") survived the plane crash that killed Buddy Holly before succumbing to his wounds. But beyond the macabre fascination of the details of these cases is the sheer brilliance Dr. Bass demonstrates as he clearly, succinctly and briefly explains his craft and the way he is able to arrive at the conclusions he does. That he makes this look easy belies the difficulty of the task, the skill and experience he has, and the strength of his (and Jon Jefferson's) writing. Strongly recommended to anyone interested in the field. Other, related recommendations on the topic are: "Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Strange and Fascinating Cases of a Forensic Anthropologist," "The Killer of Little Shepherds: A True Crime Story and the Birth of Forensic Science," and "Bones: A Forensic Detective's Casebook."

I love how Dr Bass tells his stories. His sense of humor is wonderful and he fascinates with the details he gives. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I also read Death's Acres, and enjoyed that as well. I even had an autographed copy of it, which unfortunately was lost in a recent fire with 5,000+ of my other books. Sad, devastating. But I was disappointed that in the labeled Photo Insert section of this book, there were no photos. The captions were there, which made it worse, as that really made me want to see the photos. It's the only reason I gave this book a 4 star instead of 5 star rating.

Dr. Bass' works are must reads for anyone who values those who seek the truth and desire justice for the dead. His knowledge and insight is amazing. I had the pleasure of studying under his instruction while a student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in the seventies. In addition years later in my capacity as a homicide detective with the Knox County Sheriff's Office I was again honored to receive the benefit of his expertise. He is an unassuming genius of a man. Upon meeting him one realizes what someone looks like who has a quality value system and has a great love of our fellow humans. He has my life long respect and admiration. Few can speak for the dead as he has done and continues to do. Thank you Dr. Bass.

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