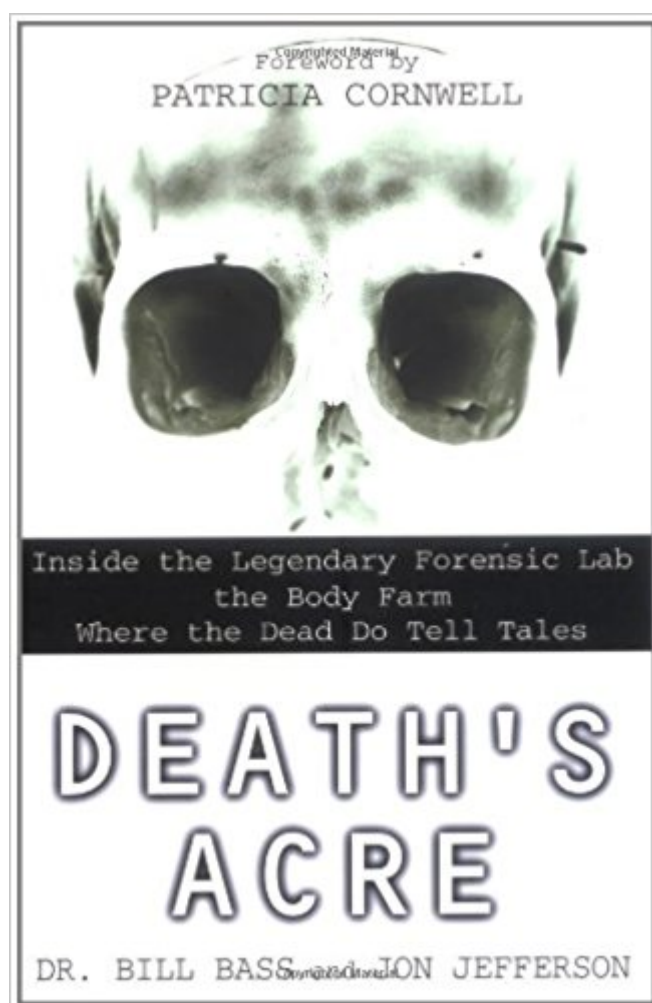


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# Death's Acre: Inside The Legendary Forensic Lab The Body Farm Where The Dead Do Tell Tales



## Synopsis

Dr. Bill Bass, one of the world's leading forensic anthropologists, gained international attention when he built a forensic lab like no other: The Body Farm. Now, this master scientist unlocks the gates of his lab to reveal his most intriguing cases-and to revisit the Lindbergh kidnapping and murder, fifty years after the fact.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this memoir, Bass, a premier forensic anthropologist, recounts how a life spent studying dead bodies led to the creation of "The Anthropology Research Facility" (aka the Body Farm), a plot of land near the University of Tennessee Medical Center where Bass and his colleagues monitor the decomposition of human corpses in various environments. The book is structured around the 1981 creation of the Body Farm, and the early chapters focus on some of Bass's trickier cases to demonstrate his need for more information about the science of forensics. The later chapters take a closer look at how the scientific analysis of Body Farm corpses has helped Bass and other anthropologists solve some of the toughest and most bizarre cases of their distinguished careers. Though professional and conscientious when describing the medical facts of each case, Bass, writing with journalist Jefferson, proves to be a witty storyteller with a welcome sense of humor. He also does a nice job balancing accounts of death and decomposition with decidedly not-so-morbid tidbits from his personal life. Furthermore, the poignancy of how he reacts to the deaths of his first two wives reflects the compassion he feels for the dead and their surviving family members he

encounters in his working life. Bass may deal with the dead, but he has a lust for life that comes across in his writing. While the grisly details may not make this a must-read for everyone, those who do pick it up might just be pleasantly surprised by how Bass brings death to life. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School--Not for the "faint of stomach," this is the story of one man's quest to identify murder victims. Bass, who created the University of Tennessee's Anthropology Research Facility, which is devoted to research on human decomposition, mixes scientific and personal anecdotes in such a way that readers are hooked from the first page. Readability, however, never loses out to accuracy, and the mix is quite an accomplishment. The author explains the process of decomposition and how bones give clues to identity: approximate age, sex, height, and race, all of which are needed to bring the forensic scientist one step closer to putting a name to a corpse. He describes some of the cases he has been involved with and laughs at himself when he shares stories of mistakes and assumptions. Young adults will gain insight into the forensic process and appreciate Bass's dedication to the truth and his work.--Peggy Bercher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a fascinating book! I am a huge fan of author Patricia Cromwell . I loved her novel The Body Farm and have read every book she has written. Very interesting to read about Mr Bass's research and how the actual body farm originated. Highly recommend for all you forensic science lovers!

I don't normally review books because I read so many. This was a fascinating read. Gruesome yes, but reality isn't always pretty. It was really interesting how the science was developed and turned into such an extraordinary teaching and research tool benefiting so many! Glad I read it.

Just knowing what has been accomplished through the efforts of these people to bring justice to the dead makes reading this interesting. I have read many of Patricia Cornwell's books based on the Body Farm and the information gained there and this makes them more relevant. Not necessarily for the squeamish or easily upset.

Many of the "cases" are the same or similar as ones in the books that spin or add a story to them. Maybe should have read this one first! If this is the only one you will read, it is excellent than.

So interesting to those who share interest in forensics. BJ's Mom

The title of this book is a little bit deceiving. Instead of putting too much weight in the Body Farm and its conception, operation and deeds, it should be called Dr Bill Bass' Memoirs. Interesting reading about that important scientist and researcher, but a far shot from the Body Farm and its mysteries and fascinating history. Worth reading, but don't expect too much.

This book is the story of Dr. Bill Bass and his Anthropology Research Center at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (better known by its nickname, The Body Farm) and is a must read for those who are fascinated by the scientific research and techniques used by modern forensic investigators to determine time and cause of death. One warning, however. This is not for the weak stomached- Dr. Bass tells the entire story and it is, not surprisingly, quite gruesome. It even made me a little queasy and I am a physician who spent a number of years in a couple of the most gruesome hospitals in the country, so I am not easily grossed out, but there were a few times I had to put the book down for a while, but I could not resist picking it up again once my gorge had sunk back to normal levels.

I initially became interested in this book after readingÂ The American Way of Death RevisitedÂ andÂ Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers. In addition, I watched a television documentary on the Body Farm so naturally I had to have this book. I was pleasantly surprised at the quick-paced writing along with the witty style. While some may not view decomposing human bodies as witty (it's not) the balance of humor and seriousness is fine-tuned and works extremely well. It is quite clear through-out the book that Dr. Bill Bass has great respect for the dead coupled with a love of life. Together with journalist Jon Jefferson, Dr. Bass has written a fascinating and informative book that never becomes morbid or trivial. The book is not solely focused on the Body Farm, that is, Death's Acre but a wide array of different yet related subjects. Weaved together, it makes an authoritative and compelling journey into a world that most of us will never see except from behind closed lids. I hope you find my opinion helpful. Michael L. Gooch Author ofÂ Wingtips with Spurs

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