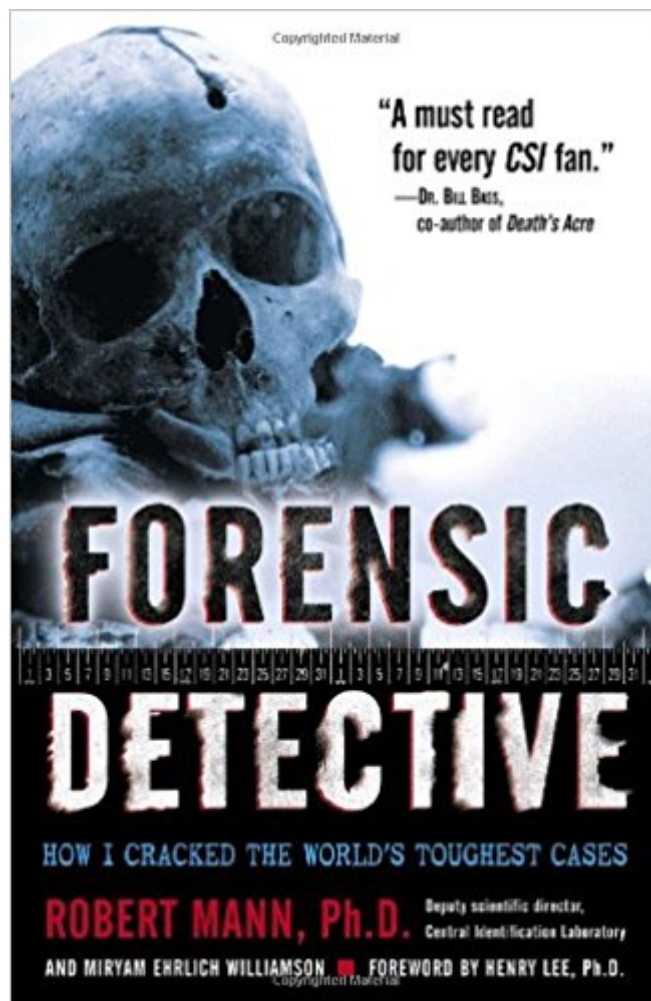


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Forensic Detective: How I Cracked The World's Toughest Cases



Synopsis

Death. It's not only inevitable and frightening, it's intriguing and fascinating—especially today, when science continues to make ever more stunning advances in the investigation of the oldest and darkest of mysteries. To discover the how and why of death, unearth its roots, and expose the mechanics of its grim handiwork is, at least in some sense, to master it. And in the process, if a criminal can be caught or closure found, so much the better. Enter Robert Mann, forensic anthropologist, deputy scientific director of the U.S. government's Central Identification Laboratory, and, some might say, the Sherlock Holmes of death detectives. When the dead reveal some of their most sensational, macabre, and poignant tales, more often than not it's Mann who's been listening. Now, in this remarkable casebook, he offers an in-depth behind-the-scenes portrait of his sometimes gruesome, frequently dangerous, and always compelling profession. In cases around the world, Mann has been called upon to unmask killers with nothing but the bones of their victims to guide him, draw out clues that restore identities to the nameless dead, recover remains thought to be hopelessly lost, and piece together the events that can unlock the truth behind the most baffling deaths. The infamous 9/11 terror attacks, which killed thousands; the unplanned killing that inaugurated serial murderer Jeffrey Dahmer's grisly spree; mysterious military fatalities from World War II to the Cold War to Vietnam, including the amazing case of the Vietnam War's Unknown Soldier—all the fascinating stories are here, along with photos from the author's personal files. Mystery hangings, mass graves, errant body parts, actual skeletons in closets, and a host of homicides steeped in bizarre clues and buried secrets—they're all in a day's work for one dedicated detective whose job begins when a life ends. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Readers who manage to put the hyperbolic and misleading subtitle aside will find this an enjoyable if unremarkable addition to the ceaseless, CSI-inspired forensic subgenre of true crime. Mann, deputy director of the federal Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, studied with masters of the field, including the legendary Body Farm founder, Bill Bass. The 20 chapters do a nice job of presenting the essence of forensic anthropology, although there is little that will be new to anyone who has read a similarly themed book (and Bass recently penned his own memoir, a better place for a newcomer to start). Mann's skill and dedication are unquestioned—he pieced together the smashed bones of one of the victims of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer—and his role in helping to identify soldiers' remains is admirable, but many of his case studies are similar, and a number end inconclusively (belying the book's title). The author might have done better to present fewer war stories, but to look at each in greater depth. (Mar. 28) 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.

Mann, who got his Ph.D. in physical anthropology at age 51, came to forensics after a stint at a funeral home during college eventually led to study at the infamous Body Farm, "a school for the living taught by the dead," where he stands out among the crowd so much that the famed forensic anthropologist Bill Bass takes him on as an assistant. Mann's career has been filled with colorful and varied cases, ranging from figuring out whether a severed, mummified torso was that of a male or a female to identifying the remains of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer's first victim, a young hitchhiker he picked up and beat to death. Not all cases get solved, at least not right away--a soldier's remains are discovered, analyzed, and identified 48 years after his disappearance, but a leg that is discovered in a natural pool in Oahu remains unidentified despite several clues. Armchair CSIs will enjoy this fascinating look at forensics in action. Kristine Huntley Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Robert Mann became a Forensic Anthropologist slightly later in life than most. He studied under the famous Body Farm founder, Dr. Bill Bass, worked at the Smithsonian and then became the deputy

scientific director of the U.S. government's Central Identification Laboratory. Along the way he's worked on some famous cases, helped identify people lost in the 9/11 tragedy and some very interesting mysteries. I learned some very interesting facts about forensic science, the amount of detail that goes into identifying remains and the incredible dedication of the people who work in this field.

I loved this book. If I was a younger person I would love to do this as a career. Each chapter holds interesting details that I never imagined took place in identifying precious souls. Cudos to those who do this detailed work and to the author who did an amazing job.

Utterly fascinating read! I especially love the portions about the author's work regarding the bones found in Vietnam after the war and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I bought it because of his work/writings regarding serial killers and got suckered in when it came to soldiers! Would have loved more detail regarding the serial killer cases he worked, but still a great read.

Was really well written and informative. I really enjoyed the pictures included at the end of the book. Our whole family enjoys CSI, Criminal Minds, and other television genres. I don't think I would have the stomach to do what you forensic people do, but I'm glad there are people like you who do this job to help others find closure. Keep up the good work and God bless

Mostly interesting on forensics but especially poor writing considering how disjointed the progression of the stories was & the incessant repetition of fairly obvious points.

Being the scientist the author is his descriptions are rather graphic. You can almost smell the decomp. Ghoulishly interesting.

Love forensics

interesting

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