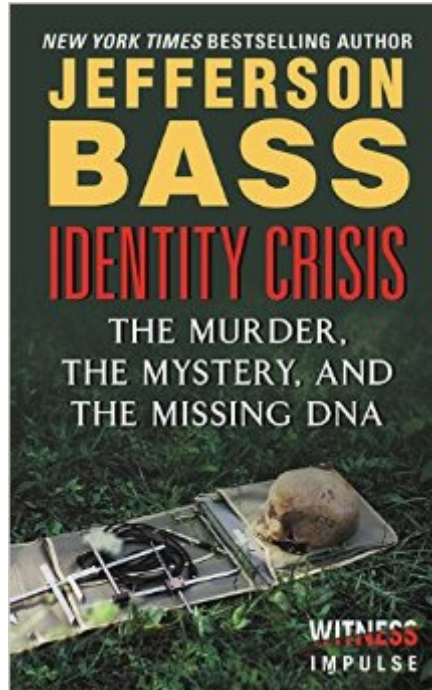


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# Identity Crisis: The Murder, The Mystery, And The Missing DNA



## Synopsis

Renowned forensic anthropologist Bill Bass "founder of the Body Farm" tackles one of his most baffling cases ever in this real-life spellbinder. In 1978, 56-year-old Leoma Patterson left a bar in Clinton, Tennessee, and was never seen again. Six months later, a female skeleton was found on a wooded lakeshore in a neighboring county. The bones were consistent with those of the missing woman, and one of Patterson's daughters recognized a ring found at the death scene as her mother's. The bones were buried, and six years later, a relative of Patterson's "one of the men she was last seen alive with" confessed to killing her. Case closed. But the tentative identification "made years before DNA testing was available to confirm it" failed to convince some of Patterson's relatives. And so it was that in 2005 Dr. Bass found himself winding around hairpin curves to the mountainside grave, where he would unearth the disputed remains and collect DNA samples. The forensic twists and turns that followed would test the limits of DNA technology and of Dr. Bass's half-century of forensic knowledge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Identity Crisis: The Murder, The Mystery, and the Missing DNA by Jefferson Bass is a 2015 Witness Impulse publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. This is a fascinating true story that follows a puzzling case in which a family in Tennessee is uncertain if their grandmother, who was allegedly murdered, was properly identified. After an exhumation, DNA analysis came back with shocking results, which led to a facial reconstruction, and even more DNA work, which only brought with it more questions than

answers. This story chronicles the saga that took over two years of forensic testing, with either puzzling results or no results, but that finally, with an incredible stroke of luck, put an end to the lingering doubts this family had about whether or not the woman buried under the name of Leoma Patterson was actually her. It was a long, tedious process which shows how Television dramas can lead the public to expect miracles where none exist. In this case things worked out and the family is satisfied they got the correct answers. However, it took years of ups and downs and many disappointments along the way before the case was finally put to rest, so to speak. While the book is only a little over a hundred pages in length, there were some moments when the author got a little off topic, and if this were a novel, I might go so far as to call it an "information dump". However, the details of how all this came about was very interesting and absorbing. The facial reconstruction was probably the most interesting of all the forensic sciences that were employed in this case.

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