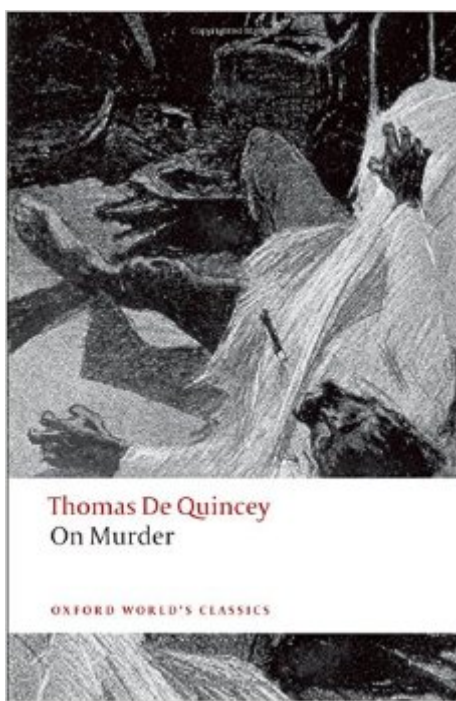


The book was found

On Murder (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

The titular essay in this volume of work by Thomas De Quincey centers on the notorious career of the murderer John Williams, who in 1811 brutally killed seven people in London's East End. De Quincey's response to Williams's attacks turns morality on its head, celebrating and coolly dissecting the art of murder and its perfections. This volume also contains De Quincey's best-known piece of literary criticism, "On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth," and his finest tale of terror, "The Avenger," a disturbing exploration of violence, vigilantism, and religious persecution. Ranging from gruesomely vivid reportage and brilliantly funny satiric high jinks to penetrating literary and aesthetic criticism, these essays had a remarkable impact on crime, terror, and detective fiction. They are also a key contribution to the satiric tradition, as well as on the rise of nineteenth-century decadence. The bibliography is the most extensive available on critical responses to De Quincey's essays on murder and violence, and the essays included here have never been annotated so thoroughly before. They reveal--often for the first time--De Quincey's debts, remarkable erudition, and encyclopedic knowledge of contemporary crime. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Book Information

Series: Oxford World's Classics

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Reissue edition (August 31, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199539049

ISBN-13: 978-0199539048

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.7 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #607,284 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #420 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Literature #1083 in Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > English Literature #1209 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > British & Irish

Customer Reviews

Robert Morrison's edition of de Quincey's various essays on murder is in keeping with the tradition of Oxford classics one of the best available - the text, as far as I can determine, is accurate and the footnotes informative. The major flaw is that Morrison, in his introductory materials as well as footnotes, consistently treats the guilt of John Williams in the Ratcliffe Highway murders and his "suicide" at Newgate as matters of proven fact. In their 1990 book "The Maul and the Pear Tree," the most recent historical look at the murders. P.D. James and T.A. Critchley make a strong case that Williams was in fact as much an innocent victim as those murdered and that his convenient "suicide" was a murder carried out by incompetent, corrupt local police (remember, this was well before the days of Scotland Yard) who were worried that if Williams got a chance in court to recuse the "confession" into which he had been bullied, public outrage over the murders would turn against them instead (James and Critchley suggest the real killer may have been "Long Billy" Amplas, a hulking merchant sailor of criminal habits and homicidal temper known to have been in the vicinity of both crimes, but admit that at this point the trail is too cold to be sure). Morrison was aware of "The Maul and the Peartree," since he quotes it in a footnote, but apparently ignored its carefully-reasoned conclusions, possibly because it would have been less compelling to present de Quincey's work while noting that it may have been based on a blatant miscarriage of justice.

Great

[Download to continue reading...](#)

On Murder (Oxford World's Classics) Complete Sonnets and Poems: The Oxford Shakespeare The Complete Sonnets and Poems (Oxford World's Classics) Twelfth Night, or What You Will: The Oxford Shakespeare Twelfth Night, or What You Will (Oxford World's Classics) The Oxford Shakespeare: Julius Caesar (Oxford World's Classics) A Mystic Murder: A Witch Cozy Murder Mystery (Witches of Hemlock Cove Book 1) A Sinister Slice of Murder: A Jessie Delacroix Murder Mystery (Whispering Pines Mystery Series Book 1) The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology (Oxford World's Classics) Journal of a West India Proprietor: Kept during a Residence in the Island of Jamaica (Oxford World's Classics) The Awakening: And Other Stories (Oxford World's Classics) The English Constitution (Oxford World's Classics) The Histories (Oxford World's Classics) Paradise Lost (Oxford World's Classics) Lord Byron: The Major Works (Oxford World's Classics) The Poetic Edda (Oxford World's Classics) Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse (Oxford World's Classics) The Flowers of Evil (Oxford World's Classics) (English and French Edition) Paul Verlaine:

Selected Poems (Oxford World's Classics) Eirik The Red and Other Icelandic Sagas (Oxford World's Classics) The Lusiads (Oxford World's Classics) Antigone, Oedipus the King, Electra (Oxford World's Classics)

[Dmca](#)