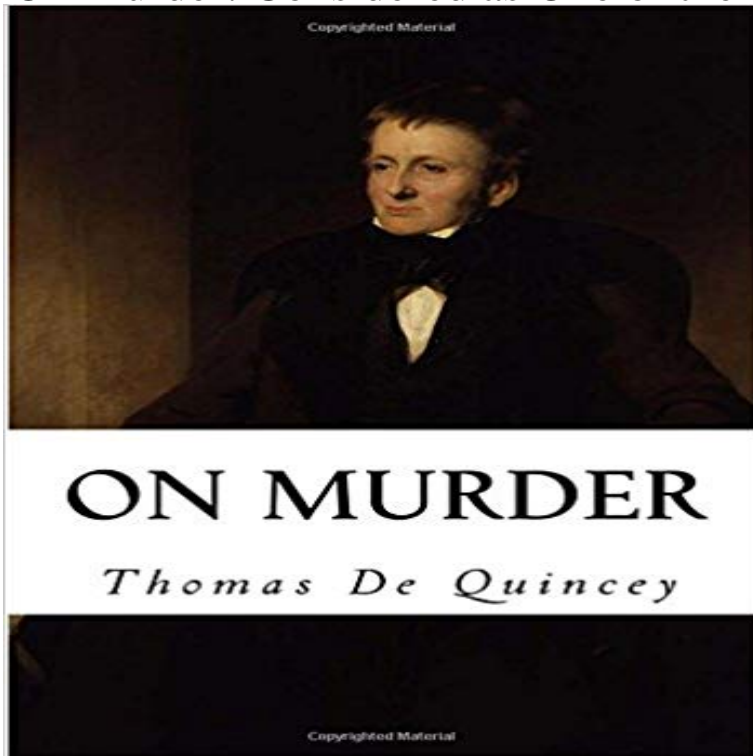


## On Murder: Considered as One of the Fine Arts



On Murder Considered as one of the Fine Arts is an essay by Thomas De Quincey first published in 1827 in Blackwoods Magazine. The essay is a fictional, satirical account of an address made to a gentlemen club concerning the aesthetic appreciation of murder. It focuses particularly on a series of murders allegedly committed in 1811 by John Williams in the neighborhood of Ratcliffe Highway, London. The essay was enthusiastically received and led to numerous sequels, including A Second Paper on Murder Considered as one of the Fine Arts in 1839 and a Postscript in 1854. These essays have exerted a strong influence on subsequent literary representations of crime and were lauded by such critics as G. K. Chesterton, Wyndham Lewis and George Orwell. De Quincey also refers to the Williams murders in his On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth.

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