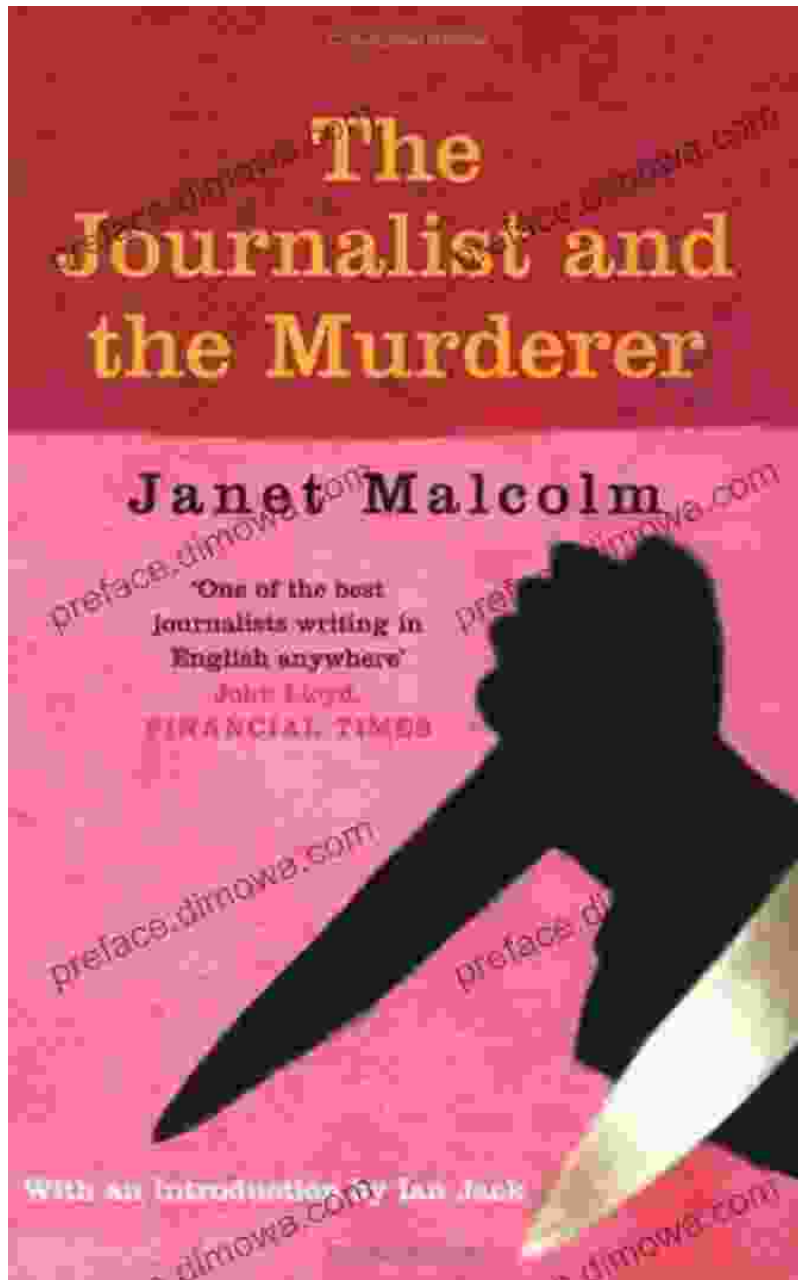


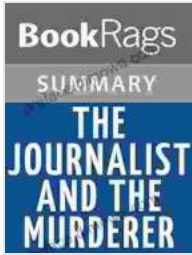
# The Journalist and the Murderer: A Haunting Tale of Obsession and Truth



## Summary & Study Guide The Journalist and the Murderer by Janet Malcolm by Disha Experts

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 199 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 46 pages
Lending	: Enabled



In 1982, a respected journalist named Janet Malcolm met with Jeffrey MacDonald, a Green Beret doctor who had been convicted of murdering his pregnant wife and two young daughters in 1970. MacDonald had always maintained his innocence, and Malcolm was intrigued by his story.

Malcolm spent the next three years researching MacDonald's case, interviewing him, his family, his friends, and his enemies. She also read the trial transcripts and visited the crime scene. The result of her research is a haunting and unforgettable book, *The Journalist and the Murderer*.

## **A Haunting Tale of Obsession and Truth**

*The Journalist and the Murderer* is a complex and nuanced work of nonfiction that explores the nature of truth, the ethics of journalism, and the dangers of obsession. Malcolm does not set out to prove MacDonald's guilt or innocence, but rather to examine the ways in which the media and the public can shape our perceptions of reality.

Malcolm's writing is lucid and incisive, and she has a gift for getting to the heart of her subjects. She is also unafraid to ask difficult questions, even if they make her readers uncomfortable.

## **A Must-Read for Anyone Interested in True Crime**

*The Journalist and the Murderer* is a must-read for anyone interested in true crime, journalism, or the nature of truth. It is a powerful and thought-provoking book that will stay with you long after you finish it.

### **Summary Study Guide**

This study guide will help you get the most out of *The Journalist and the Murderer*. It includes:

- A summary of the book
- A discussion of the book's major themes
- Discussion questions
- A bibliography

### **Summary of the Book**

*The Journalist and the Murderer* tells the story of Janet Malcolm's three-year investigation into the case of Jeffrey MacDonald. MacDonald was a Green Beret doctor who was convicted of murdering his pregnant wife and two young daughters in 1970. Malcolm's book explores the nature of truth, the ethics of journalism, and the dangers of obsession.

### **Major Themes**

The major themes of *The Journalist and the Murderer* include:

- The nature of truth
- The ethics of journalism

- The dangers of obsession

## Discussion Questions

Here are some discussion questions that you can use to help you get the most out of *The Journalist and the Murderer*:

- What do you think of Jeffrey MacDonald's guilt or innocence?
- Do you think Janet Malcolm was fair in her portrayal of MacDonald?
- What do you think are the ethics of journalism?
- What are the dangers of obsession?

## Bibliography

Here is a bibliography of some of the sources that Janet Malcolm used in her research for *The Journalist and the Murderer*:

- *Fatal Vision* by Joe McGinniss
- *The MacDonald Case: A Long Tragedy* by Errol Morris
- *The Journalist and the Murderer* by Janet Malcolm



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