

if i did it by oj simpson

If I Did It by OJ Simpson: Unraveling the Controversy and Legacy

if i did it by oj simpson is a phrase that instantly evokes a mix of shock, curiosity, and controversy. This phrase refers to a highly publicized book and television special that purportedly presents O.J. Simpson's hypothetical account of how he might have committed the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. The project stirred intense public debate, legal battles, and ethical questions that continue to resonate decades after the infamous 1994 trial. In this article, we'll dive deep into the background of "If I Did It," explore its content and reception, and examine the broader implications for true crime storytelling and media ethics.

The Background of If I Did It by OJ Simpson

The story behind *If I Did It* is almost as sensational as the O.J. Simpson trial itself. After being acquitted in the criminal trial of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, O.J. Simpson remained a figure of public fascination and suspicion. In 2006, almost a decade after the trial, a book titled *If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer* was announced. The premise was chilling: Simpson would give a hypothetical narrative, describing how the murders might have occurred—if he were indeed the perpetrator.

What Prompted the Book?

The book was originally slated to be published by ReganBooks, an imprint of HarperCollins. The project was met with outrage by the families of the victims, legal experts, and the general public. Critics saw it as a cynical attempt by Simpson to profit from a crime he was widely believed to have committed. The Brown and Goldman families expressed deep disgust, and the book's publication was initially canceled due to the backlash.

Despite this, the rights to the book were later awarded to the Goldman family after a civil court ruling found Simpson liable for the deaths. They published a version with the title design altered, emphasizing the words "I Did It" by making the "If" nearly invisible, as a way to reclaim the narrative and use the proceeds for the victims' memorial fund.

Understanding the Content and Narrative Style

The narrative of *If I Did It by OJ Simpson* is written as a hypothetical confession, a literary device that allows Simpson to describe the events

without outright admitting guilt. This approach raised eyebrows not only for its content but also for the ethical implications of giving a platform to a man many believe committed a heinous crime.

Simpson's Hypothetical Account

In the book, Simpson uses a first-person perspective to detail a scenario in which he describes the murders as if they had taken place. The tone is chillingly detached, and at times, the narrative seems to trivialize the gravity of the crime. The book provides insights into Simpson's mindset, his relationship with Nicole Brown Simpson, and his version of the events on the night of the murders.

However, it's crucial to remember that this is a hypothetical narrative, not a confession. The legal ramifications of actually admitting guilt in a published format would have been significant, so Simpson's careful phrasing maintains a degree of ambiguity.

Why the Book Is so Controversial

The release of *If I Did It* ignited intense debates about morality, justice, and media responsibility. Many viewed the book as a form of exploitation—Simpson allegedly profiting from a tragedy that devastated two families.

Critics argued that the book re-traumatized the victims' families and challenged the ethical boundaries of true crime entertainment. Supporters, on the other hand, claimed that the book offered a unique psychological insight into a notorious criminal figure, contributing to broader discussions about guilt, innocence, and the American justice system.

The Legal and Ethical Fallout

The legal saga surrounding *If I Did It* by OJ Simpson is as complex as the trial itself. One of the most notable outcomes was the civil case verdict, in which the Goldman family was awarded the rights to the book and its proceeds.

How the Goldman Family Took Control

After Simpson was found liable in the civil wrongful death lawsuit, the court awarded the rights to *If I Did It* to the Goldman family as part of the judgment. This move allowed them to publish the book with a design emphasizing "I Did It," effectively framing it as an admission of guilt.

The Goldmans used this opportunity not only to control the narrative but also to channel any profits toward victims' advocacy and memorial efforts. This legal maneuver showcased how civil courts can impact ownership and distribution rights in high-profile cases.

Media Ethics and True Crime Storytelling

The controversy around the book raises important questions about the role of media in true crime stories. Should publishers give platforms to individuals who might exploit tragedies for personal gain? How do media outlets balance public interest with respect for victims' families?

The case of *If I Did It* underscores the need for sensitivity and ethical considerations in publishing and broadcasting true crime content. It challenges creators to think critically about the impact their work has on real people affected by these stories.

The Cultural Impact and Legacy of If I Did It

Even years after its publication, *If I Did It* by OJ Simpson remains a significant cultural touchstone. It reflects broader societal fascinations with crime, justice, and celebrity.

Influence on True Crime Genre

The book and its surrounding media frenzy influenced how true crime stories are told and consumed. It highlighted the fine line between storytelling and sensationalism, prompting creators to be more mindful of the ethical dimensions involved.

Public Perception of O.J. Simpson

While Simpson's criminal trial ended in acquittal, the civil case and the publication of *If I Did It* hardened public perceptions of his guilt in many quarters. The book contributed to the ongoing debate about the American legal system's ability to deliver justice, especially in high-profile cases involving race, celebrity, and media coverage.

Lessons Learned from If I Did It by OJ Simpson

Looking back, the saga of *If I Did It* offers several valuable insights for

readers, creators, and society at large.

- **The Power of Narrative:** How framing a story—even a hypothetical one—can influence public opinion and legal outcomes.
- **Media Responsibility:** The importance of ethical decision-making when handling sensitive content involving real tragedies.
- **Legal Nuance:** Understanding the difference between criminal acquittal and civil liability in the American justice system.
- **Impact on Victims' Families:** Recognizing the emotional toll that media projects can have on those directly affected by crimes.

These lessons remain relevant today as true crime stories continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Exploring *If I Did It* by OJ Simpson ultimately reveals a complex intersection of crime, media, and justice. It's a reminder that behind every sensational headline lies a deeper human story, one that deserves thoughtful reflection rather than mere consumption.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'If I Did It' by O.J. Simpson about?

'If I Did It' is a controversial book by O.J. Simpson in which he hypothetically describes how he would have committed the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman, though he never explicitly admits guilt.

Why was 'If I Did It' so controversial?

The book was controversial because it appeared to be a confession framed as a hypothetical scenario, which many found offensive and insensitive to the victims' families.

Was 'If I Did It' ever published?

Yes, it was initially set to be published in 2006 but was canceled due to public outrage. Later, the rights were awarded to the Goldman family, who published it with added commentary as 'If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer' in 2007.

Did O.J. Simpson profit from 'If I Did It'?

Originally, O.J. Simpson was set to profit from the book, but after legal battles, the rights and profits were awarded to the Goldman family as part of a civil judgment.

How did the Goldman family respond to 'If I Did It'?

The Goldman family used the book to expose Simpson's hypothetical account and published it with critical commentary to highlight inconsistencies and reinforce their belief in his guilt.

What impact did 'If I Did It' have on public opinion about O.J. Simpson?

The book reignited public debate about Simpson's guilt, with many seeing it as a veiled confession, while others remained skeptical and viewed it as a publicity stunt.

Was 'If I Did It' adapted into any other media?

There were plans for a television special based on the book, but it was canceled due to backlash. No official adaptation was widely released.

What legal issues surrounded the publication of 'If I Did It'?

The publication faced lawsuits and public protests. The book's profits were seized to satisfy a civil judgment against Simpson for wrongful death, leading to the Goldman family owning the rights.

Where can I read 'If I Did It' today?

The book is available for purchase through various retailers, often titled 'If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer' with commentary by the Goldman family.

Additional Resources

****If I Did It by OJ Simpson: A Critical Examination of Controversy and Narrative****

if i did it by oj simpson represents one of the most contentious and widely debated publications in the realm of true crime and celebrity memoirs. The book, co-written by OJ Simpson, infamous for his 1994 murder trial, delves into a hypothetical confession that has sparked intense discussion regarding its intent, authenticity, and ethical implications. This article undertakes a

thorough investigation into the background, content, public reception, and broader impact of **If I Did It**, while contextualizing its place in the annals of American legal and cultural history.

The Genesis of **If I Did It and Its Publication History**

Following OJ Simpson's acquittal in the criminal trial for the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, the public and media remained captivated by the case's unresolved questions. **If I Did It** was initially conceived as a hypothetical confession, intended to provide Simpson's perspective on the events surrounding the murders without outright admitting guilt. The book was ghostwritten by Pablo Fenjves, a screenwriter, who collaborated with Simpson to craft a narrative that explores the scenario of "if" Simpson had committed the crime, hence the title.

The publication journey was fraught with controversy from the outset. Originally slated for release in 2006, it was quickly met with public outrage and legal battles, as many viewed the book as Simpson profiting from a tragedy. The family of the victims and advocacy groups vehemently opposed its publication, leading to the original publisher canceling the release. Eventually, the rights to the book were awarded to the Goldman family through a civil lawsuit, and the book was republished with the title format altered, placing emphasis on the word "I Did It" to highlight the hypothetical nature of the narrative.

Controversies Surrounding the Book's Content and Intent

The core controversy of **If I Did It** revolves around the ambiguous tone of the narrative. Simpson's hypothetical confession blurs lines, leaving readers and critics debating whether it amounts to an admission of guilt or a literary device. The book's style is a blend of first-person narrative and speculative reconstruction, which complicates interpretations. Critics argue that the book serves as a form of mockery towards the victims' families and the justice system, while supporters claim it provides insight into Simpson's mindset post-trial.

From a legal standpoint, the book did not constitute new evidence nor did it reopen any legal proceedings. However, its publication reignited public discourse on issues such as celebrity privilege, media ethics, and victim rights. The Goldman family's acquisition of the book's rights—and their subsequent editing and publication—was seen as a form of restitution and an attempt to reclaim the narrative from Simpson's control.

Analyzing the Narrative Structure and Themes in **If I Did It**

The structure of **If I Did It** is methodical, with Simpson recounting the events of the night of the murders in a hypothetical, conditional manner. The narrative is framed as a confession that never fully admits responsibility but provides detailed descriptions of the crime scene, the relationships involved, and Simpson's state of mind. This approach creates a complex psychological portrayal that oscillates between denial and implication.

Significantly, the book explores themes of fame, media scrutiny, and personal turmoil. Simpson's reflections suggest that his life under the public eye and the intense pressure of the trial influenced his behavior and emotional state. The narrative also touches on the breakdown of Simpson's marriage and the tensions leading up to the fateful night, presenting a layered perspective on the interpersonal dynamics involved.

Psychological and Sociological Implications

If I Did It offers a rare glimpse into the psychology of a man at the center of one of America's most notorious criminal cases. The hypothetical confession can be viewed as a coping mechanism, an attempt to control the narrative in a context where Simpson's public image was severely damaged. The book implicitly raises questions about guilt, accountability, and the human tendency to rationalize or distort traumatic events.

From a sociological angle, the publication reflects broader societal fascinations with true crime, celebrity culture, and the blurred boundaries between entertainment and justice. The public's reaction to the book underscores the cultural tensions around race, class, and media sensationalism that were already evident during Simpson's trial.

Public Reception and Media Coverage

Upon the eventual release of **If I Did It**, public and critical reception was polarized. Media outlets extensively covered the book's content and the ethical debates it sparked. Many commentators condemned the book as exploitative, while others noted its literary and psychological complexity.

Sales data indicated strong initial interest, likely fueled by the book's notoriety rather than literary merit. The Goldman family's involvement in republishing the book was a pivotal moment that shifted some public sympathy and reframed the narrative as a form of justice for the victims' families.

Impact on True Crime Literature and Celebrity Memoirs

If I Did It occupies a unique space in the true crime genre, blending memoir, hypothetical confession, and legal drama. It challenged conventional boundaries of authorial responsibility and victim sensitivity. Subsequent true crime publications have had to navigate the ethical landscape shaped in part by the reactions to Simpson's book.

In the realm of celebrity memoirs, **If I Did It** serves as a cautionary tale about the risks of capitalizing on tragic events. The book's reception influenced publishers' approaches to similar projects, emphasizing the need for sensitivity and transparency when dealing with controversial subjects.

Key Takeaways and Reflective Insights

The legacy of **If I Did It** by OJ Simpson is multifaceted. It remains a subject of academic interest for criminologists, legal scholars, and media analysts. The book exemplifies how narrative framing can influence public perception and legal discourse. It also highlights the ongoing struggle between public curiosity and ethical storytelling in cases involving real-life tragedies.

Through its controversial existence, the book invites readers to critically evaluate the interplay between confession, accountability, and media representation. It underscores the complexity inherent in interpreting narratives that straddle confession and fiction, especially within the high-stakes context of criminal justice.

In sum, **If I Did It** by OJ Simpson is not merely a book but a cultural artifact that continues to provoke debate on justice, narrative control, and the human dimensions of crime and punishment.

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if i did it by oj simpson: *If I Did It* O. J. Simpson, 2009-07 In 2006, HarperCollins announced the publication of a book in which O.J. Simpson told how he hypothetically would have committed the murders of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson, a crime for which he was found not guilty. In response to public outrage, the book was never published. Here is the original manuscript of the book.

if i did it by oj simpson: *If I Did It* The Goldman Family, Dominick Dunne, O.J. Simpson, Pablo F. Fenjves, 2008-04-01 All author royalties from the sale of this book are awarded to the Goldman Family. In 1994, Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson were brutally murdered at her home in Brentwood, California. O.J. Simpson was tried for the crime in a case that captured the attention of the American people, but he was ultimately acquitted of criminal charges. The victims' families

brought a civil case against Simpson, which found him liable for willfully and wrongfully causing the deaths of Ron and Nicole committing battery with malice and oppression. Twelve years later, HarperCollins announced the publication of a book in which O.J. Simpson revealed how he would have committed the murders—under the pretense that his confession was “hypothetical.” In response to public outrage that Simpson stood to profit from these crimes, HarperCollins canceled the book. Just one year later, Federal Court Judge A. Jay Cristol awarded the Goldman family the rights to *If I Did It*. Thus began one of the strangest odysseys in publishing history. Originally written by O.J. Simpson, the Goldmans published a new edition of the book in the fall of 2007, which included essays written by members of the Goldman family, a member of the Goldman family legal team, and O.J.'s ghostwriter that reveal the fascinating story behind the bankruptcy case, the book's publication, and the looming court proceedings, which would eventually lead to his conviction. The book, called “one of the most chilling things I have ever read” by Barbara Walters, skyrocketed up bestseller lists across the country in the months following publication as the national media relentlessly covered O.J. Simpson's dramatic Las Vegas arrest for armed robbery and kidnapping. The Goldman family views the book as his confession and has worked hard to ensure that the public will read this book and learn the truth. This is O.J. Simpson's original manuscript with up to 14,000 words of additional key commentary from those whose lives were forever changed by the heinous crime.

if i did it by oj simpson: *If I Did It* OJ Simpson, 2019-06

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if i did it by oj simpson: *If I Did It, LP* O.J. Simpson, 2007-01-01 Over 10 years after he was tried for two murders in the Trial of the Century that captured the attention of the world, O.J. Simpson, in his own words, tells for the first time how he would have committed the murders if he were the one responsible for the crimes.

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if i did it by oj simpson: *Northwestern Journal of Technology & Intellectual Property*, Vol. 9, No. 3 Hazlett Et Al., 2011

if i did it by oj simpson: ***Real-World Media Ethics*** Philippe Perebinosoff, 2016-07-15 Is it ethical to pass yourself off as black if you are Caucasian, as Rachel Dolezal, the president of a local chapter of the NAACP, did in 2015? Was it ethical for Donald Sterling, the former owner of the NBA team, to use racially inflammatory language? Is it ethical to exaggerate or fabricate the importance of one's role, as Brian Williams apparently did when he anchored the NBC nightly news? Is it ethical for a journalist to pay a source for a story, tips, and photos, as TMZ, Gawker and others do regularly? The above questions as well as other questions definitely illustrate the need for studying ethics. *Real-World Media Ethics* provides a wide showcase of real ethical issues faced by professionals in the media field. Numerous case studies allow readers to explore multiple

perspectives while using realistic ethical principles. This book includes the basics in ethical journalism, as well as the tools to navigate through the landscape of mass media such as public relations, entertainment and other forms of visual communication. The second edition has been updated to encompass globalization, new media platforms, current copyright issues, net neutrality, sports ethics, and more. An accompanying companion website provides additional interviews demonstrating ethical principles in practice. Being a former ABC executive, author Philippe Perebinosoff gives readers an inside look at circumstances with an ethical, experienced eye.

if i did it by oj simpson: *Ink and Guilt: When Killers Pick Up the Pen* Lu Dragonian, 2025-07-10
Some people take their secrets to the grave. Others write them down, sell the rights, and ask for a foreword. In *Ink and Guilt: When Killers Pick Up the Pen*, we dive headfirst into the shadowy literary underworld of real-life criminals who, after committing unspeakable acts, felt the need to put their stories on paper. Sometimes it was a confession. Sometimes it was a denial. Sometimes it was just... a draft for their Netflix deal. This isn't a book about solving crimes — it's about what happens after. After the bodies are buried. After the trial is over. After the headlines fade — but the murderer sits down at a desk, opens a fresh notebook, and decides, Now let me tell you what really happened. From memoirs penned behind bars to blog posts updated in real time during active investigations, *Ink and Guilt* drags us through the blood-stained pages of those who couldn't keep their words — or their hands — clean. You'll meet: A narcissist who turned his courtroom confession into a bestselling autobiography. A soft-spoken blogger who documented his crimes while police searched his apartment. A scammer who faked a murder, wrote about it, then got sued for pretending too well. And multiple cases where murderers wrote fiction — and the fiction turned out to be true. But this isn't just a rogues' gallery of literary sociopaths. It's a brutal, often hilarious (in the laugh-so-you-don't-cry kind of way) dissection of our cultural obsession with killer confessions. Why are we drawn to these stories? What happens when truth, guilt, and storytelling collide? And who really owns the narrative — the victims, the justice system... or the author with blood on their hands and a publishing contract? Witty, macabre, and deeply unsettling, *Ink and Guilt* doesn't just examine murderers who wrote books. It exposes how writing became the ultimate power play for some of the world's most dangerous minds. The page, after all, is a perfect place to rewrite history — especially when you're the one who ended it for someone else. If you've ever found yourself binge-reading a killer's memoir and wondering if you're part of the problem... you probably are. And this book is here to explain why — with sarcasm, horror, and a healthy dose of literary criticism.

if i did it by oj simpson: *Pimps, Wimps, Studs, Thugs and Gentlemen* Elwood Watson, 2010-03-22
With essays ranging in topic from the films of Neil LaBute to the sexual politics of Major League Baseball, this diverse collection of essays examines the multi-faceted media images of contemporary masculinity from a variety of perspectives and academic disciplines. The book's first half focuses on the issue of racialized masculinity and its various manifestations, with essays covering, among other topics, the re-imagining of Asian American masculinity in Justin Lin's *Better Luck Tomorrow* and the ever-present image of black male buffoonery in the neo-minstrel performances of VH1's *Flavor of Love*. The book's second half explores the issue of contemporary mediated performance and the cultural politics of masculinity, with essays focusing on popular media representations of men in a variety of gendered roles, from homemakers and househusbands to valorous war heroes and athletic demigods.

if i did it by oj simpson: *PEOPLE True Crime Stories* The Editors of PEOPLE, 2017-08-25
Inside many of the real life cases to inspire Law & Order For over 20 years and across two signature shows—Law & Order and Law & Order: Special Victims Unit—viewers have been riveted by cases that have been ripped from the headlines. Now, in *True Crime Stories*, a new special edition from People, go inside 35 real crimes that inspired the hit TV shows. From well-known cases that continue to fascinate us, including JonBenet Ramsey, O.J. Simpson, Robert Durst, and the Mayflower Madam, to the travails of such celebrities and politicians as Hugh Grant, John Edwards, and Anthony Weiner, here are descriptions of the crimes, the key players, and synopses of the episodes the cases inspired, complete with photographs of the real-life players and their respective Law & Order characters. This

special edition also includes several Reality Check sections that provide insight into the detectives, prosecutors, and sets that have made the shows as realistic as they are. True Crime Stories also includes an interview with renowned Law & Order creator and producer Dick Wolf and photographs of your favorite cast members from both shows. For fans of both Law & Order and for true-crime readers, this is the one special edition you won't be able to do without. Bonus: an exclusive look at Law & Order True Crime: The Menendez Brothers, the exciting new miniseries that focuses on just one shocking story for an entire season.

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throughout American history, caused media scandals-public outcries, legal proceedings, denunciations, violence and, in the case of Salman Rushdie's 1988 novel *The Satanic Verses* deaths. The early battles by the print media-newspapers, magazines, books-over censorship, book banning, book burning, obscenity, blasphemy and libel set the groundwork for even greater battles as the media expanded into radio, television and the Internet. This fascinating volume offers an overview of the most influential and notorious media scandals, from newspaper publisher John Peter Zenger's groundbreaking 1735 trial for printing and publishing false, scandalous, malicious and seditious statements to Dr. Phil McGraw's 2008 thwarted attempt to force his television cameras inside Britney Spears' hospital room, from the attempts to ban literature by the likes of D.H. Lawrence, James Joyce, Henry Miller, and Allen Ginsberg to the excesses of gossip mongers like Walter Winchell, Hedda Hopper, Geraldo Rivera, and Matt Drudge. It delves into the tabloid press and walks through the minefields of political opinion shapers, the shouters, the muckrakers and whistleblowers. *Media Scandals* examines this fascinating, troubled and sometimes inspiring subject from two different perspectives. First, through its recurrent themes, which reach across all media: politics; censorship; race and religion; sex and morals. The second half of the volume then examines each industry in more detail: book publishing; newspapers and magazines; radio and television, and the Internet. Augmenting this invaluable resource is a detailed timeline to help students put the wide-ranging scandals into historical perspective, and a thorough bibliography to encourage further research.

if i did it by oj simpson: *The Forest and the Field* Chris Goode, 2015-12-09 *The Forest and the Field* is a polemical thinking-through of the whole concept of theatre as a 'space', and a politically motivated exploration of how, and where, that theatrical space meets the real world that surrounds and suffuses it. The book begins by demolishing the notion of the 'empty space' and drawing careful and suggestive distinctions between 'space' and 'place'. It moves on to consider how the body - of the actor, or of the spectator - is read within the theatrical encounter, and how meaning is created in the turbulent movement of signs between performer and audience. Finally it interrogates the wider relationship between theatre and its 'outside', culminating in an attempt to answer the familiar question of whether theatre can change the world - and, if it can, how it might.

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if i did it by oj simpson: **Free and Equal** Joseph Grčić, 2011 The ideas of John Rawls have revolutionized the shape and content of much of contemporary political and social philosophy. His *Theory of Justice* (1971) and *Political Liberalism*, (1993) among other works, have been a rich source of ideas which continue to influence contemporary discussions about justice and politics. Although much has been written on the political philosophy of Rawls, there has not been any in-depth study focused on the implications of the ideas of Rawls for contemporary existing democracies. Drawing on some of his earlier work, the author offers a detailed exploration of how Rawlsian ideas impact the basic elements of Western democracies and the US Constitution and discusses the changes that would be necessary to make modern democracies more consistent with the basic values of liberal equality as understood by Rawls. The ideas of justice, equality, fairness, liberty, public reason, stability, the rule of law and other related concepts are the bases of the analysis of the US Constitution and suggestions for reform presented here. For many people, the American Dream has come to seem more like a vague hope than a real possibility. It is becoming increasingly clear that our society is faced with profound social and political problems which need to be confronted and addressed. Some of these problems are described in this book, and the solutions defended here are

based on a deeper understanding of the underlying principles of the Constitution informed by the ideas of the philosopher John Rawls. This book is intended for the general educated public and college classrooms in political philosophy, philosophy of law, American government.

if i did it by oj simpson: Mad, Bad & Dangerous To Know Paul Taylor, 2023-03-01 This anthology of true crime stories written by Paul Taylor will satisfy the appetite of all true crime enthusiasts. The thirty-one chapters comprise notorious and fascinating cases, and shed light on chilling criminal personalities many of whom are known around the world. Readers will recognise local names such as Martin Bryant, Ivan Milat and Mark 'Chopper' Read, and immerse themselves in international events that involved Oscar Pistorius, the infamous duo Bonnie and Clyde and last but not least O.J. Simpson. By the time readers reach the end of this book, they will have no doubt uncovered which criminals were mad, bad or dangerous to know.

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