

# Delve Deeper into "Every Mother's Son"

A film by Tami Gold and Kelly Anderson

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Lynn Whitehouse of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Every Mother's Son" that premieres on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings)

In the late 1990's, three victims of police brutality made headlines around the country: Amadou Diallo, the West African street vendor whose killing sparked intense public protest; Anthony Baez, killed in an illegal chokehold, and Gary Busch, a Hasidic Jew shot outside his Brooklyn home. "Every Mother's Son" profiles three New York mothers who unexpectedly find themselves united to seek justice and transform their grief into an opportunity for profound social change. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) co-presentation.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**Collins, Allyson. *Shielded from Justice: Police Brutality and Accountability in United States*. New York: Human Rights Watch, 1998.**

Americans continue to suffer abuse from racist officers. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report offers an excellent 120-page overview of the contributing factors and civil and criminal remedies.

**Diallo, Kadiatou and Craig Wolff. *My Heart Will Cross This Ocean: My Story, My Son, Amadou*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2003.**

Kadiatou Diallo, mother of the West African man slain by New York police in a barrage of bullets in 1999, offers a powerful story of her life and that of her son.

**Washington, Linn. *The Beat Goes On: Police Brutality in the Age of Racial Profiling*. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 2003.**

Washington shows how the issue of police brutality has become a central focal point for human rights in the U.S.

**Williams, Kristian. *Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America*. Brooklyn, NY: Soft Skull Press, 2003.**

Our Enemies in Blue offers a clear-eyed account of law enforcement practices, including how police target certain groups and work to preserve power imbalances within society.

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## ADULT FICTION

**Flander, Scott. *Four to Midnight*. New York: William Morrow, 2003.**

This complex and riveting procedural centers on the issue of racism among cops--both real racism and that manufactured by others for political gain.

**Mosley, Walter. *Walkin' the Dog*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1999.**

The main character lives in Watts, tries to stay out of the way of the ever-suspicious cops and eventually becomes a national symbol for his placard-wielding protest against police brutality.

**Pfarrer, Donald. *Temple and Shipman*. Cambridge, MA: MS in a Bottle, 1999.**

A young black man has been killed by white police officers in a midwestern city at night. John Shipman is one of the wealthiest black men in town. His son, Hawk, is the victim of police brutality.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Gottfried, Ted. *Police Under Fire*. Brookfield, CT: Twenty-First Century Books, 1999.**

Gr. 6-9. Using accounts of true incidents to make his point, Gottfried indicates factors such as racial prejudice, cultural differences, and pressures and demands of the job that often lead to police brutality.

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## VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

***American Roulette*. Dir. Seyi. Hargrove Entertainment, 2002.**

A sharply controversial documentary on racial profiling and police brutality, the film explores multiple facets of the crisis through the thoughts and eyes of people in minority communities and law enforcement.

***Investigative Reports: Behind the Blue Wall - Police Brutality*. A&E Home Video, 2000.**

Focusing specifically on the New York City police department, this video follows the controversial and highly publicized cases of brutality victims Abner Louima, who was brutally assaulted by NYPD officers, and Amadou Diallo, who was gunned down by four NYPD officers.