

Delve Deeper into *After Tiller*

A film by **Martha Shane and Lana Wilson**

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Linda Brawley of San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *After Tiller*.

*Martha Shane and Lana Wilson's **After Tiller** is a deeply humanizing and probing portrait of the only four doctors in the United States still openly performing third-trimester abortions in the wake of the 2009 assassination of Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas—and in the face of intense protest from abortion opponents. It is also an examination of the desperate reasons women seek late abortions. Rather than offering solutions, **After Tiller** presents the complexities of these women's difficult decisions and the compassion and ethical dilemmas of the doctors and staff who fear for their own lives as they treat their patients.*

ADULT NONFICTION

Baird, Robert M. and Stuart E. Rosenbaum, Ed. *The Ethics of Abortion: Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice*. Prometheus Books, 2001. Comprehensive and balanced, this new third edition again makes available the most useful writing on the controversial abortion issue.

Boston Women's Health Book Collective and Judith Norsigian. *Our Bodies, Ourselves: A New Edition for the New Era*. Simon & Schuster, 2011. Hailed by The New York Times as a "feminist classic," and "America's bestselling book on women's health," the comprehensive guide to all aspects of women's health and sexuality, including menopause, birth control, childbirth, sexual health, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health and general well-being.

Brooks, Christie. *Our Heartbreaking Choices: Forty-Six Women Share*

***Their Stories of Interrupting a Much-Wanted Pregnancy*. Bloomington: iUniverse, 2008.** This book is about abortion, but more specifically, about abortions sought due to a poor prenatal diagnosis or due to serious maternal health complications. This book contains 46 personal stories, each one from a woman who decided to interrupt a much-wanted and oftentimes much-planned pregnancy.

Faúndes, Aníbal, and J Barzelatto. *The Human Drama of Abortion: A Global Search for Consensus*. Nashville, Tenn: Vanderbilt University Press, 2006.

Doctors Faundes and Barzelatt, educated in Chile, strive to provide a middle ground that both pro-life and pro-choice advocates can accept. In this book, the authors try to humanize a controversial topic by documenting the personal experiences of women from around the world. The women represent various social and economic classes, offering an overall examination of the entire topic of abortion. They examine the medical to the religious; the ethical to the psychological, and finally to its legal ramifications.

Singular, Stephen. *A Death in Wichita: Abortion Doctor George Tiller and the New American Civil War*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2012. Singular provides ample context about the divisive issue of third-trimester abortions. Providing in depth knowledge of both Tiller and the man who shot him, Singular uses first-person passages to trace the investigation back to the time of the shooting, in 2009.

Allison, Jay, Dan Gediman, John Gregory, and Viki Merrick. *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. New York: H. Holt, 2006. Inspired by Edward R. Murrow's 1950 radio program, *This I Believe* is a collection of 80 thought provoking essays told by people where courage

and belief form an integral part of their life.

Irons, Peter H. *The Courage of Their Convictions*. New York: Free Press, 1988. Irons profiles 16 landmark cases from the files of the US Supreme Court, all decided between 1940 and 1986. The collection includes personal narratives from each litigant. Not all of them won, but all continue to believe that they did the right thing. Abortion, evolution, loyalty oaths, school funding, pregnancy, libel, school prayer, sodomy, and eight other issues of contemporary importance make up the cases covered.

Tivnan, Edward. *The Moral Imagination: Confronting the Ethical Issues of Our Day*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995.

Tivnan looks at polarizing issues and calls for an effort to understand and respect why people believe so strongly in their own values. He suggests, if we can face up to our differences of opinion we can then make progress, expand our moral imagination, and achieve a decent and respectful society.

ADULT FICTION

Taylor, Jackson. *The Blue Orchard*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010. During the period between the Depression to the dawn of the Civil Rights era – prior to Roe v. Wade, Taylor's protagonist, Verna Krone confronts issues of race, power, religion and abortion as she struggles to find solace with the conflicting choices she has made.

Edwards, Kim. *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*. Waterville, Me: Thorndike Press, 2005. Unfolding the plot over the course of 25 years, Edwards tells a moving story of two families bound by a secret that both eats away at relationships and eventually helps to create new ones.



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NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Bell, Ruth. *Changing Bodies, Changing Lives, Updated Third Edition*. Random House, 1998. *Changing Bodies, Changing Lives* has helped hundreds of thousands of teenagers make informed decisions about their lives, from questions about sex, love, friendship, and how your body works to dealing with problems at school and home and figuring out who you are.

Leverich, Jean. *Abortion, 1st Edition*. Greenhaven Press, 2010. Part of the "Issues on Trial" series, *Abortion* examines the Supreme Court cases that have shaped the issue of reproductive rights, beginning with the historic *Roe v. Wade* (1973) decision legalizing abortion.

Suen, Anastasia. *Doctors without Borders*. New York: PowerKids Press, 2002. This book describes the work of volunteer doctors and other medical personnel who travel the world to offer medical care during disasters, wars, and other times of need. Color photographs, maps, and graphs appear throughout the book

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. Square Fish, 1999. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself.

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. New York: Pocket Books, 1999. This novel is written in letters to an anonymous person, explaining experiences as they happen. In these letters we learn about family and friends,

and about some of the tough decisions teenagers encounter as they navigate their way into adulthood.

Zindel, Paul. *My Darling, My Hamburger: A Novel*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969. With a complex and shifting narrative, Zindel efficiently reveals the perspective of four teenagers, as they confront subjects such as casual sex, the use of contraceptives, and abortion as an alternative to unwanted pregnancies. The subjects are dealt with realistically and with candor.

