

THE _ GAP

**The Truth About
Black Infant Mortality and Black Maternal Health**



7998

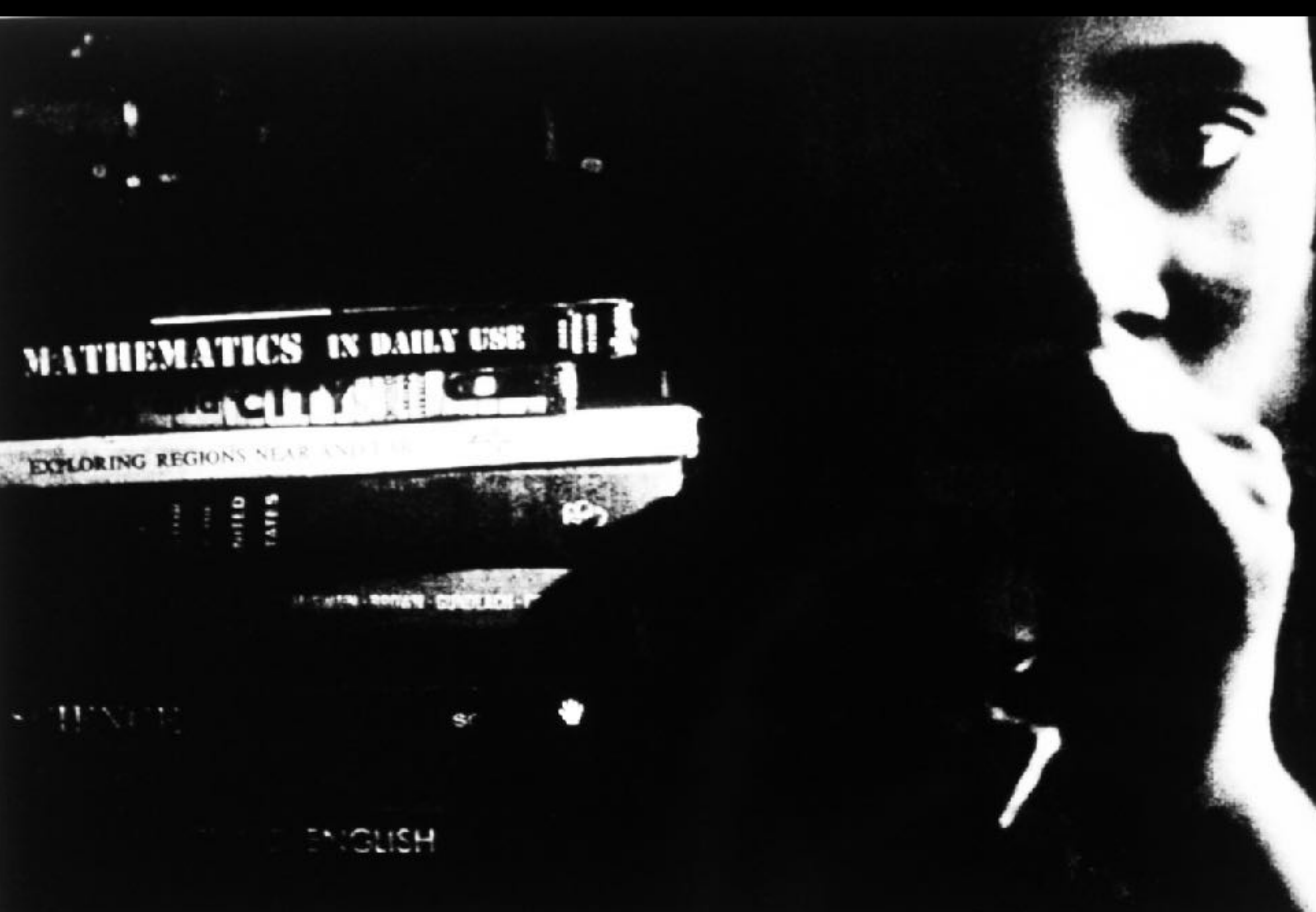
That's the number of Black infants who will die this year before their first birthday.

The reality of Black infant mortality in the United States.

Black infants die at a rate of 2:1 or higher compared to Caucasian infants.

Blacks mothers also suffer from health issues and die from complications at a rate four times higher than mothers of other races.





**In what mean streets or rural
country roads is 7,998 deaths
not a crime— but what happens
when we treat it like a statistic...**

The metrics about black infant mortality and black maternal health remain largely unchanged since the 1890 census.

-LINDELL SINGLETON, CREATOR



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GET MURDER WATCH
FOR 'DAHLIA' KILLER

"AMERICANS LOVE
CRIME DRAMAS. AMERICANS LOVE
DETECTIVE STORIES.
- RAYMOND CHANDLER



“ WHAT IF ?

WHAT IF we treated our quest to understand black infant mortality and black maternal deaths as a crime drama?

What if we treated the question for solutions with the sacred quest of detectives searching for truth among the shadows?

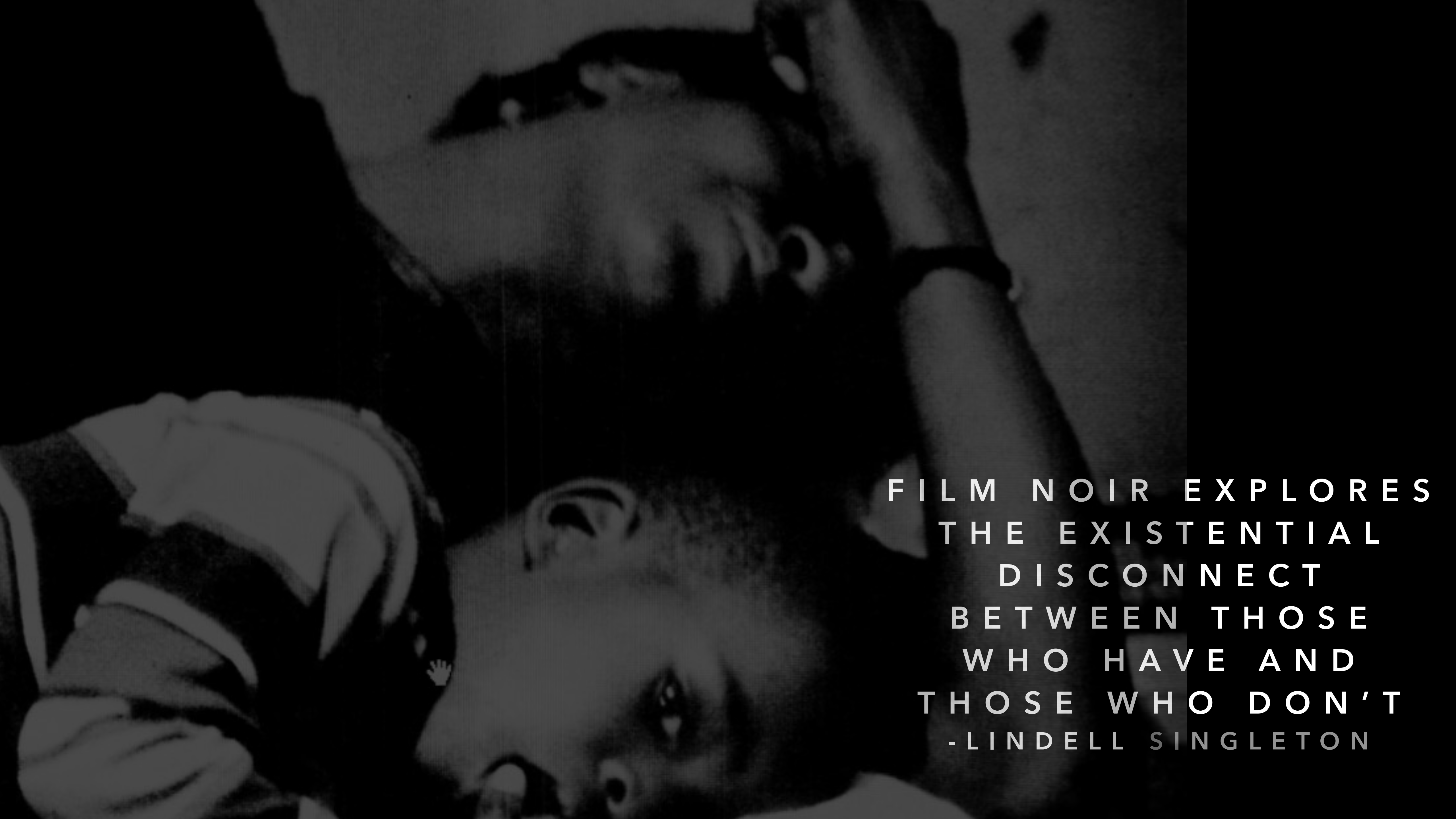
What if it were possible to reduce the gap ? Steadily. With cold, cruel virtuous actions.

SERIES SYNOPSIS

The_Gap is an eight-part documentary series and companion podcast that offers multiple meanings and arguments to discuss the complex issues of black infant mortality (BIMR), and black maternal health in the United States and its impact on communities, regions and our nation.

This series is a journey into a labyrinth where we deconstruct the narratives around BIMR and 'un-silo' the factors that support this. Ultimately, we will determine who has power over the social, financial, medical, theological and legislative matters which have kept this 'gap' in place for a century.

-LINDELL SINGLETON, CREATOR

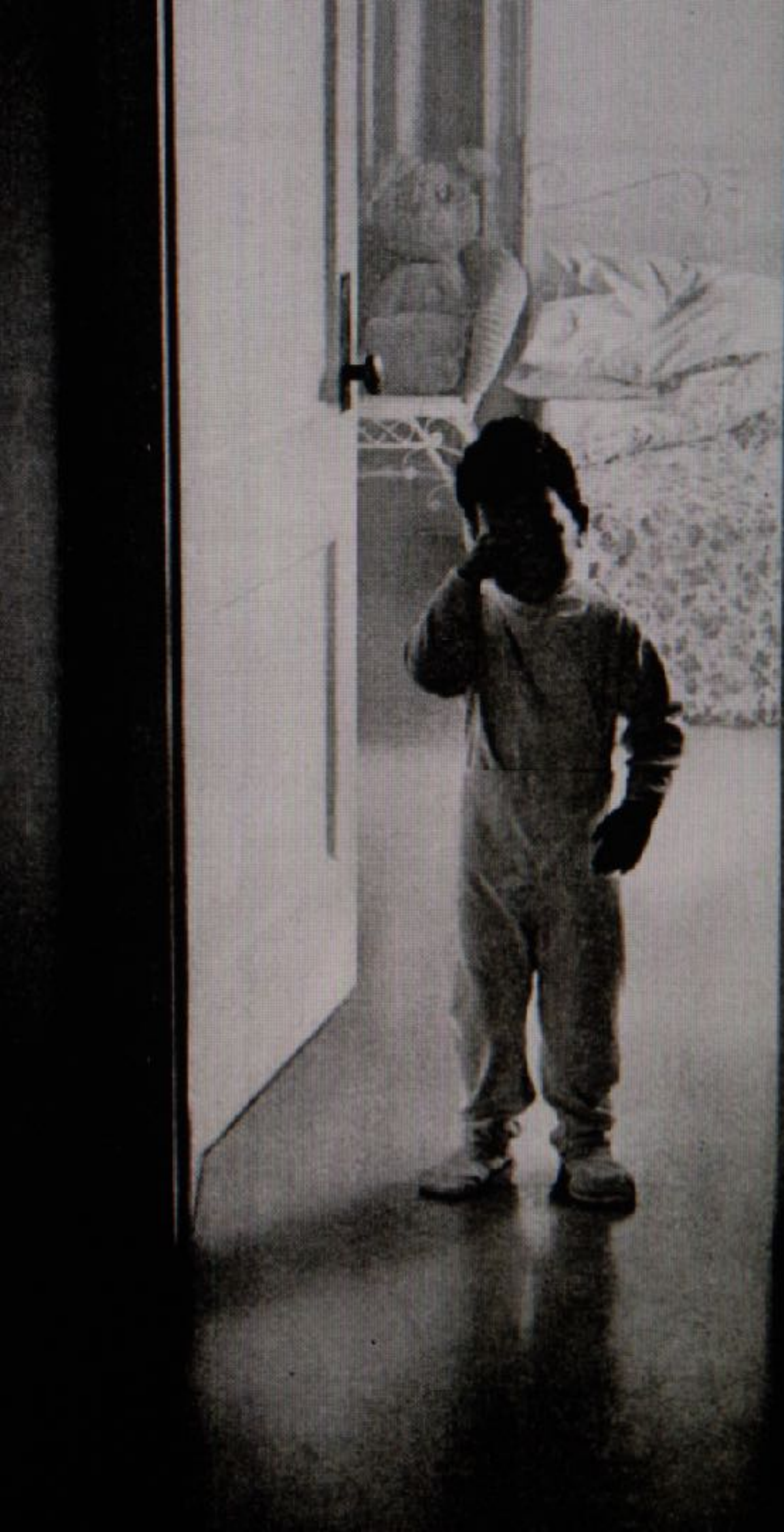


FILM NOIR EXPLORES
THE EXISTENTIAL
DISCONNECT
BETWEEN THOSE
WHO HAVE AND
THOSE WHO DON'T
-LINDELL SINGLETON



Labyrinth:

1. A tortuous, entangled, or inextricable condition of things, events, ideas—
2. A maze, an entanglement;



REMEMBER ME
WHEN I AM GONE AWAY/GONE INTO
THAT SILENT LAND.
FROM THE NIGHT I WAS BORN,
THEY HOPED I COULD BECOME A
MAN...
IT DID NOT HAPPEN FOR ME.
IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE



There have been documentary films which have decried BIMR. We examine the historical and current systems which persist to allow this gap to remain.

...systems devouring its young and fundamentally at odds with itself ...
and the lofty values of the elusive American dream ...
and the Christian Nation milieu



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EPIISODE BREAKDOWN

THE _ GAP



**It is night. It is always night.
The detective narrator enters a labyrinth on a quest.
He is alone and off-balance. He is driven.**



LIKE SUGAR AND MOLASSES

A Frenchman wrote this: "What was remarkable on the plantation was how the little Negro infants were traded like commodities...to settle debts, to buy pianos, to be given as a tribute....such little regard for their lives.

"Celia's child – don't know its name– died on the 12th. That makes two Negroes and three horses I've lost this year." - David Gann, Owner.





" ACCESS: DENIED

Are there reasons Black women receive pre-natal care that is aggressive, inconsiderate and often lacking in empathy? And this can happen when they are fortunate enough to receive ANY pre-natal care.





" THERE'S A TICKING SOUND IN MY HEAD..."

^ A CDC Administrator looked into camera and said this: "...there is something about life in the United States that makes childbirth a difficult road for African-American mothers."

Stress. A sense of abandonment. Depression. Anxiety. 'School-to-prison' pipeline. Police brutality and the killing of young black men. Clearly, poverty, chaos and racism have a role, but there is something far more sinister at work. For many young black moms, there is a curtain of despair that envelopes when they become pregnant





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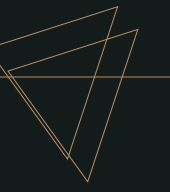
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Can a purposeful choice and vigilant commitment to reducing pre-term births reduce the number of deaths of black infants before they reach their one-year birthday? For some moms, they are young, nomadic and homeless—unsure of their next meal and uncomfortable within anyone they don't know. For other moms, they work in corporate or municipal jobs with stable lives and church friends. Yes, in these two disparate situations, the birth outcomes are eerily consistent.

What is the true social, economic and psychological impacts of pre-term deliveries? What are the biologic and social components? How does this relate to chronic diseases, life expectancy, school performance, asthma and other matters? Is pre-term delivery the dominant cause for black infant mortality?

39 Weeks. 13 x 3.





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GAME OF HUNGER

Malnourished pregnant mothers and children represent a humanitarian crisis in the United States— a crisis for which we have zero understanding of the end game. One in five children go to bed hungry. What does that mean for mothers of these children? If Moms are undernourished and literally starving because for the want of nutritious foods, what is the impact on the developing fetus?

In most rural counties in the U.S., there is one grocery store for every 190 square miles.





" ACROSS THE TRACKS

What is impact of toxins in the air, water and soil?

There is a decidedly racial / class component in the how the effects of environmental toxins creates an impact on BMR and Maternal Morbidity. Racial antagonism has left deep scars and no place are they more visible than in the places blacks are allowed to live and the stinging debilitating nature of the chronic diseases that can impact pregnancy.

The 'Unholy Trinity' of hypertension, eclampsia and gestational diabetes are often the 'tip of the spear' leading to devastating outcomes for mother and infant.





" PROLONG MY DAYS

IF black moms comprise 11% of the birthing moms in some states and 36% of the deaths classified as maternal morbidity, why isn't this being considered as a public health crisis.

And what about the broader spectrum of 'near misses' – moms who came with moments of dying and were left with life long chronic health conditions.

The social fabric of African-American life is threatened by Maternal Morbidity (MM). The long term impact is generational.

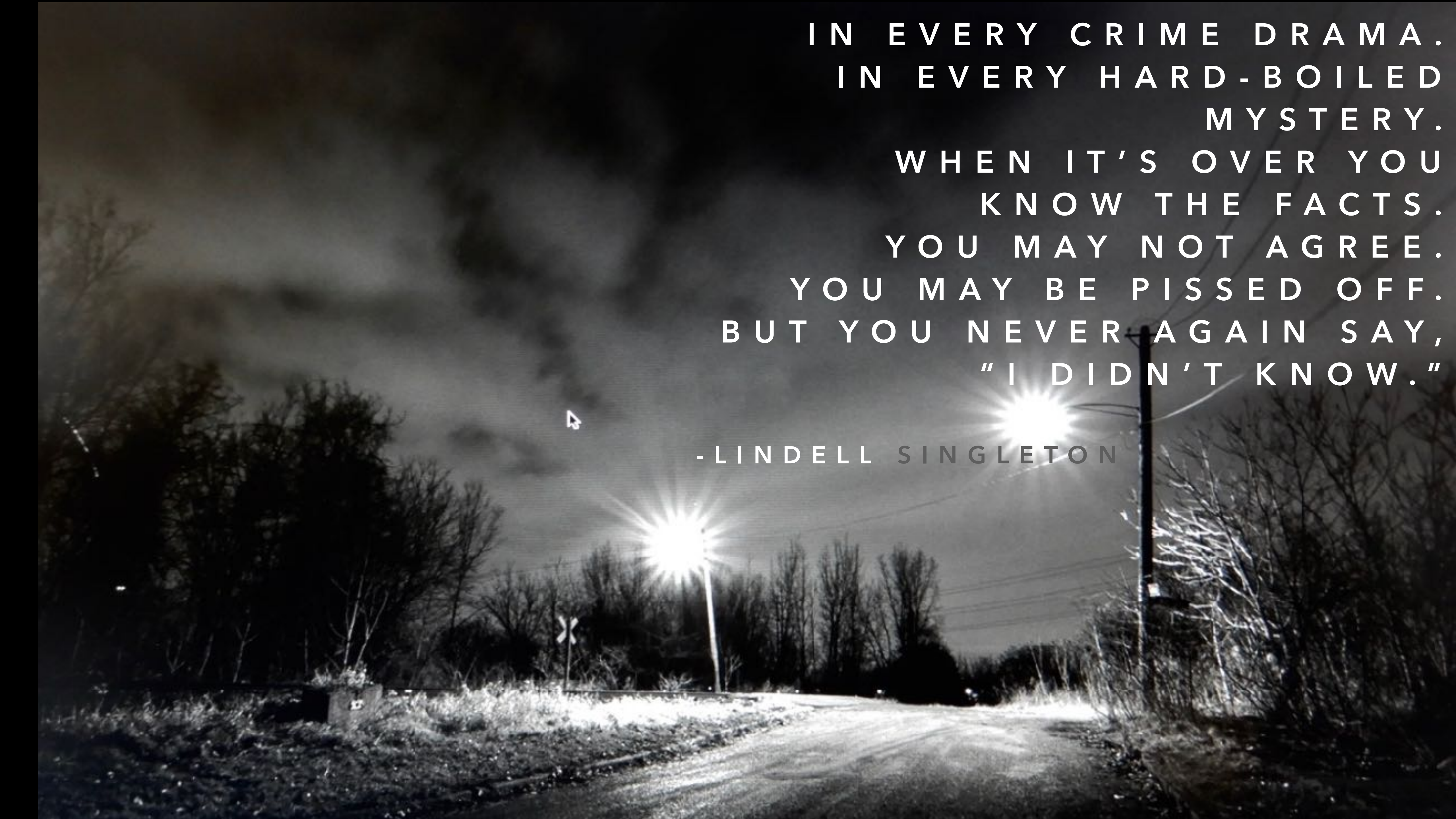




" SOLUTIONS - THE FINAL EPISODE

Our goal, from the beginning, was to 'unsilo' the factors leading to BIMR and MM so that we could understand how they are connected. We are compelled to present the solutions with an allegiance to truth. Both sentimentalism and sensationalism are obstacles to clear understanding.

In this episode, we look at each of the broad, systemic patterns and begin to offer solutions. Each of the eight factors we've identified are quantifiable damaging to the lives of moms and infants. Clearly, we've established this—what have to accept is that the solutions are not obscured or too complicated to implement.

A black and white photograph of a road at night. The road is illuminated by two bright streetlights, one in the middle ground and one further down the road. The sky is dark with some clouds. There are trees and bushes on both sides of the road. The overall mood is dark and mysterious.

IN EVERY CRIME DRAMA.
IN EVERY HARD-BOILED
MYSTERY.
WHEN IT'S OVER YOU
KNOW THE FACTS.
YOU MAY NOT AGREE.
YOU MAY BE PISSED OFF.
BUT YOU NEVER AGAIN SAY,
"I DIDN'T KNOW."

- LINDELL SINGLETON

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST:

[HTTP://
THREESIXTYFIVEPLUSONE.PODBEAN.COM](http://THREESIXTYFIVEPLUSONE.PODBEAN.COM)

WATCH THE SIZZLE REEL:

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/427464388](https://vimeo.com/427464388)



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*"... 'er the land
of the free and the
home of the brave..."*



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Black Maternal Health**