

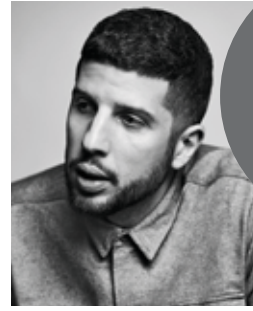
## SERVE AND PROTECT

By Anthony Anaxagorou

*'Because white men can't police their imagination  
black men are dying.'* – Claudia Rankine

If you're selling CDs, we'll shoot you.  
If you're eating sweets, we'll shoot you.  
If you ask us for assistance, we'll shoot you.  
If you're minding your own business, we'll shoot you.  
If your tail light is broken, we'll shoot you.  
If you do nothing, we'll shoot you.  
If you try breathing, we'll choke you.  
If you're African American, we'll shoot you  
and the world will bury you in hashtags  
and Facebook updates and felt-tip placards  
whilst we reload.

but if you're white, we'll restrain you  
if you're white, we'll follow procedure  
if you're white and have just murdered  
nine praying African Americans  
we'll even buy you a Burger King.



© Sam Beeson and Latifu Laye

POEMS