

Case Holds Potential For Books and Films

Reporters, literary agents, lawyers, editors and publishers were reported yesterday to be exploring the possibility of producing books and films on the .44-caliber killer case.

The front-runner in the book race is expected to be a hardcover work by Jimmy Breslin and Dick Schaap, tentatively titled "Son of Sam," that will be published by the Viking Press in October and, several months later, by New American Library in paperback. The deadline for their manuscript is after Labor Day.

Corlies Smith, their editor at Viking, discussed the book with the newspaper and television reporting team yesterday to determine its form in light of the capture of the suspect in the case. "It will be a novel that will not depart materially from the facts," Mr. Smith said. "Names will be changed, but we have not yet decided if David Berkowitz's name will be used.

Bantam Books, the paperback house, has received many approaches from writers and agents to turn out a "Sam" book in a week or two, but says it has no book "in the works" now.