

Pledged In

by Carolyn Shelby

WELCOME!

You have been pledged into the
brotherhood only a few are welcomed
in.

Please, get comfortable among
your other brothers here.
We are a big family.

Run along and make friends
for this is what you will know now.
Look here, these are my favorite;
Young five black boys.

This is a brotherhood
where I was pledged in,
defined by stereotypes,
lies and fear.

This is a brotherhood
where I was pledged in,
where I wear orange
and a number to establish myself.
Strip me of my identity and
Introduce me to insanity.

This is a brotherhood
where I was pledged in.
The recruiter was pale skinned
With blonde hair and evil eyes.
I was her new target,
the unfortunate soul
on the end of her lies.

Goodbye to my brother, mother,
father and sister.
Trapped in a box,
knowing i am innocent and
should be free.

This is a brotherhood
where I was pledged in,
With my leaders in blue.
Big shiny badge and
a gun with souls
Young and innocent too.

This is a brotherhood
for I was forced to be here.
My life was cut because
I am Black and conveniently around.

I live behind these steel bars because
the brotherhood destined me to be.
I lost my childhood and my innocence,
But my third eye is open for how the world sees me.
We were only in the park, enjoying ourselves,
When we was introduced to the evil
of what it means to be Black.

Blue code, that's the law they follow,
where the truth is hidden
and the law is ignored.

The police, where their motto is
Serve and protect,
when in reality, it only applies to themselves.
A brotherhood they form,
Feed off lies and fear.

We come in as babies,
barely aware of this evil world.
Leave out as men, scared and broken.

WELCOME!

This is the brotherhood that is meant for
you and all that look like me.
This is a brotherhood
I was forced in.