

EVERY ONE OF US

by Patrick Kinney

Every one of us has met the judge
heard the gavel
felt the chains and cuffs
biting deep
shuffled to and fro
in shower shoes
stared at concrete floors and blank, white walls

Every one of us has heard the silence
filled with a million voices
asking what if
with its billion answers
that never solve a problem
biting deep
trapped by concrete floors and white, plain walls

Every one of us has caused some pain
though some deny it
ruined lives, plus our own
left behind much carnage
cutting deep
all the way through concrete walls and white brick walls

Every one of us deserves this pain
at least some of it
many more
most admit it
contrary to popular belief
that still runs deep
outside these concrete floors and whitewashed walls

surrounding every one of us