



## PATRICE WRIGHT

*I am smart, brave, and funny. I feel very special.*

*I was born December 16, 2000. I was raised in Savannah, Georgia. I would like to be a college student at Savannah State University (go Lady Tigers!). Or I would like to be a singer and the Next Big Thing.*

*My grandfather inspired me with his sweet ways. He is very special to me. He was a very wonderful man. He died October 8, 2013. He is my hero!*

## PROBATION AND VIOLATION

Four times she has lost control.

*Number 1: The time she set fire to her neighbors' backyard.*

Today she is a pit bull, angry at  
The drunk people and the dogs that pee on everything,  
The people who kill and shoot everybody,  
Her parents.

She says something, people comment.  
Everybody has to say something and then everybody has something to say.  
Everybody can't be trusted.  
Everybody cannot be told everything.

*Number 2: probation violation.*

She goes to school and she is weakened, every time.  
Everyone makes it seem like she is ugly, stupid, crazy, and bad.  
She is a lion fighting for food  
When one day she defends a little boy  
Against their strange looks and laughter.

*Number 3: probation violation.*

They judge the big, the medium-sized, and the skinny.  
They judge hair that is unbraided, unwashed, and short.  
They judge shoes that are torn, dirty, and old.

That is not right.  
If anyone wants to judge her, God can judge her.  
She has her own style, her own looks,  
She is a newborn baby.

She feels that people who don't have all the nice stuff  
—the unused or unworn or useful stuff—  
Have the highest score in school  
And are the people to be around.

*Number 4: the time she cut her brother on the leg, arm, and face.*

Her brother went to the hospital.  
She went to jail.  
She was scared because it was dark.  
And around her were beetles and bumblebees,  
Girls sleeping on beds, talking.  
It smelled like dirty socks and pee.  
It was so quiet she could hear the outside.  
From the top bunk bed she looked out the window  
And saw the shiny stars, big and little.

One day she was in her bedroom and  
Heard her parents, in the living room, talking.  
They can't deal with her all day.  
Today she came home and found her grandparents in the living room.  
They came to take her to New York.

