



Musician and poet Jim Carroll has died

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Musician and poet [Jim Carroll](#), best known for his song [People Who Died](#) and his 1978 autobiographical book [The Basketball Diaries](#), died while working at his desk in his Manhattan home on Friday, September 11. According to [The New York Times](#), the 60-year-old artist died of a heart attack.



Jim Carroll's 1980 album, Catholic Boy. Album cover photo by Annie Lieb Liebovitz

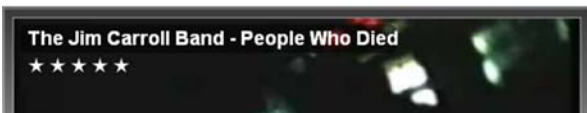
Jim wrote *The Basketball Diaries* at the age of 13 chronicling his double life as a star basketball player and a heroin addict who prostituted himself to support his drug habit. The book was first published in 1978 and was made into a film starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Wahlberg in 1995. He published [Organic Trains](#), his first collection of poetry, when he was 16 and established himself in the literary world. In regard to *The Basketball Diaries*, Jack Kerouac once said, "At thirteen years of age, Jim Carroll writes better prose than 89 percent of the novelists working today."

Before Jim Carroll recorded his first album, he inadvertently appeared on *The Velvet Underground's Live At Max's Kansas City*, released in 1972. The 1970 concert was being recorded simply for archival purposes by Brigid Polk, star of several Andy Warhol films, on a portable mono cassette recorder. Carroll was sitting with Polk during the concert and held the microphone. In-between songs, he can be heard ordering drinks and asking people for drugs.

As [The Jim Carroll Band](#), he released his first album *Catholic Boy* in 1980. The album cover photograph was taken by Annie Liebovitz and shows Jim Carroll with his parents. Also on the album is a song called [The Crow](#). Author J. O'Barr took inspiration from this song and others on *Catholic Boy* when writing his graphic novel [The Crow](#) which later became a film starring Brandon Lee. O'Barr used several lines from various songs on the album without giving credit to Carroll. The likeness of the character known as [Fun Boy](#) is based on Carroll.

According to [catholicboy.com](#) plans for memorial services have not yet been finalized.

A video of Jim reading poetry from *The Book of Nods* [can be found here](#). While there is no strong language, some may find the content offensive. Charles Bukowski appears at the end of the clip.



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