Jim Carroll: 'People Who Died' adds to the list

By Brill Bundy | September 14, 2009 5:15 PM

It's only fitting that ever since hearing news of Jim Carroll's death, his punk rock litany of all the friends he'd lost and how -- "People Who Died" -- should be going through our heads:

Mary took a dry dive from a hotel room
Bobby hung himself from a cell in the tombs
Judy jumped in front of a subway train
Eddie got slit in the jugular vein

Recorded for his 1980 album "Catholic Boy" (thanks to a record deal set up for him by Rolling Stones' Keith Richards), the array of demises is a perfect snapshot of the destructive and tragic circles Carroll found himself running in throughout his life, populated with other counter-culture notables like Andy Warhol, Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe.

After a promising start as a high school basketball star -- chronicled in his journals that were later published as "The Basketball Diaries" -- Carroll went on to a life of petty theft, prostitution, drug addiction, poetry and punk rock.

And Eddie, I miss you more than all the others
And I salute you brother

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