

Hey Joe

Where you goin' with that non sequitur in your hand?

R.I.P. – Jim Carroll



Jim Carroll

1949 – 2009

Jim Carroll died of a heart attack at his Manhattan home on Friday September 11. Author, musician, poet, and punk, Carroll played them all and he played them well.

Like most of us, I was introduced to Carroll through The Basketball Diaries, his classic 1978 memoir which chronicled his spotted youth growing up in NYC, his Catholic school experiences, his success on the court and his descent into heroin addiction and prostitution. The spine of this fascinating autobiography is visible on my bookshelf as I write, and somewhere buried amongst my books you'll find its sequel, Forced Entries: The Downtown Diaries.

During the late 70's and early 80's, Carroll performed with punk/new wave group, The Jim Carroll band, collaborating with various artists including Lou Reed, Boz Scaggs and Pearl Jam. The 1990's saw Carroll's return to writing and his emergence as a spoken word artist, often performing with Ray Manzarek.

Carroll's first novel, (current working title, The Petting Zoo), hopefully will be published soon. (And added to my wish list) According to his website: "The story takes place in the 1980s. The protagonist of the novel is a young painter (working name: "Billy Wolfram") who suffers an existential crisis after viewing an important art exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan."

Godspeed Catholic Boy.

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