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Poet Jim Carroll dead at age 60

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Carroll found dead in [apartment](#), working on unfinished novel.

This past Friday New York native poet Jim Carroll passed away due to a heart attack. He was found dead at his desk in his [Manhattan apartment](#). He was said to have been working on his unfinished novel *The Petting Zoo* which he has been using excerpts from for years at his spoken word performances. His life came to fame in 1995 with the film 'Basketball Diaries' based on a book of his writings of the same name. The movie starred a young Leonardo DiCaprio as Carroll.

Carroll was born 1950 in New York City. In his teenage years in New York he was known as a great basketball player, but at the same time was hiding a growing dark secret.

According to [RollingStone.com](#), The book *The Basketball Diaries* adapted into a film as well, "details Carroll's struggles with drug use as a teenager in the 1960s — depicts his fall from prep school basketball star to heroin addict who turned to prostitution, all before Carroll was even 17 years old." Carroll also was the leader of a punk band called the Jim Carroll Band. He started this band because close friend and fellow punk poet Patti Smith said his spoken word was really good and should start a band. His biggest hit was "People who died" off the 1980 debut album 'Catholic Boy'.

As reported on [LiveDaily.com](#), Jim Carroll impressed one of rock's greatest songwriters/ guitarists, Keith Richards. Richards helped Carroll to arrange a three-record [deal](#) with Atlantic Records.

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