



Jim Carroll

August 1, 1949 - September 11, 2009

New York, New York

Jim Carroll, the American poet, diarist, and punk musician who turned a Catholic-school basketball life into *The Basketball Diaries* and a downtown band into the chant "People Who Died," died in New York City on September 11, 2009. He was sixty. Reports said he collapsed at his Manhattan home from a heart attack.

Born James Dennis Carroll in Manhattan on August 1, 1949, and raised in part in the Inwood neighborhood, he wrote early and hard. The diaries - published when he was still young enough to make the confession sting - became a cult document and later a film. He moved through the downtown art and music scenes, recorded with the Jim Carroll Band, and kept returning to the page when the stage lights dimmed. Addiction and recovery were not side notes; they were the weather of the work.

He remained a New York writer in the literal sense: the city's Catholic schools, playgrounds, and nightclubs were his syllabus. Admirers valued the candor; musicians valued a lyric that could yell without losing the line. He died on a date already crowded with American memory, adding a downtown poet to a calendar that did not ask permission.

He died in New York on September 11, 2009. The diaries stay open; the chorus still names the dead.

Carroll wrote like someone taking dictation from a nervous system that would not settle. Basketball courts and Lower East Side nights shared the same voltage in his sentences. Punk audiences found him because the band could yell; readers stayed because the diaries refused to flatter the narrator. He was not a mascot of downtown cool so much as a witness who paid for the tickets in advance. On a date already overloaded with public grief,

his quieter collapse at home still deserves a clear public notice.

Services

Died at home in Manhattan, New York City, on September 11, 2009. Writer and musician; private arrangements.

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