



# Void of Course

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From the bestselling author of "The Basketball Diaries", "Void of Course" is a collection of poetry that vibrates with the details of everyday city life.

## Void of Course Details

Date : Published October 1st 1998 by Penguin Books

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Author : Jim Carroll

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# From Reader Review Void of Course for online ebook

## BC Batcheshire says

The nice thing about negative reviews is: we don't have to read them.

And if you're debating on reading the book, definitely skip the negative and just read it.

Yet again, Jim enchants and comforts me. Loved it, and I'm on a mission for everything he's written, even his music.

So there, naysayers and stinkeyes.

It is loved, despite you.

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## Cal40 says

s'ok

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## Duc says

Much more mature work but less abstract and not as fresh as his younger work.

The elegy for Kurt Cobain is perfect because Jim seems to have had a similar struggle in music and in altering chemical substances.

The love loss of his female companion is so personal. It is also another elegy. I have an imagine of him chewing on her strain of hair left behind.

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## Donald Armfield says

I watched the movie "Basketball Diaries" countless times and since I've come to a huge liking of poetry I never thought to pick up Carroll's work.

This may not be his best collection but I will seek more of his work.

Standouts

8 Fragments for Kurt Cobain

Train Surfing

Poem (pg 54)

The Ocean Below

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## Marc says

Jim's poetry is top-shelf

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## Crystal says

I put my faith in. I put my. I put mine in. I put my faith in you.

Poetry flows through his veins as sticky as heroin on a hot summer night. Worth a read.

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## Craig says

I'll be honest. I read this shortly after the Basketball Diaries was released as a film.

I'll be honest. I really liked Leonardo Dicaprio and his choices in film pre-Titanic.

I'll be honest. Part of me wanted to love this simply for the "rebellion" of buying a Jim Carroll book over Mark Strand or Marge Piercy.

I'll be honest. I just didn't like it as much as Mark Strand or Marge Piercy.

I'll be honest. I was young.

I'll be honest. It probably deserves another read.

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## Bert says

Carroll was pioneering a grungey post-punk poetry here with a romantic bent, you can imagine him in a run-down New York tenement scribbling away and smoking, at times he nails it and when he doesn't nail it he creates a good mess like those songs you skip on a Sebadoh album but you're still glad they're there. A little metaphor-heavy for me, ie. too many snakes, and a lot of water imagery which i guess you could call a bit lazy, and he could've done something with his hair for the front cover, but y'know he was doing important work.

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## SmarterLilac says

Um...I have a high threshold for the bizarre, graphic and extreme in poetry. Some of my favorite poets include Sharon Olds, Margaret Atwood and Ai, writers who never shied away from depicting violence and sexuality in vivid and visceral terms.

But this book? Pushed at even my far-flung boundaries for what constitutes extremity in art. It reads like one long acid trip. Some of the poems have remarkable clarity despite this factor, but some of the subject matter, which Carroll pursues with an absolutely obsessive eye, is flat-out weird. In a way which strains my ability to appreciate it, and undermines the quality of the collection as a whole.

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### Nicole Goodwin says

I'm not a huge poetry fan, but after my first heartbreak, a looonnnnggg time ago, I picked this book up and read the poems over and over.

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### Daniel says

I try to re-read this one every so often and it never fails to amaze me. Not every poem is perfect, but there is enough magic left in his pen to make the journey worth it and more.

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### Kaydence says

I kind of grew out of my poetry phase a while ago, but this book of poems is always classic to me. I love Jim Carroll and always have. These poems just get me every time.

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### Brandon says

Better than most poetry collection, but still uneven. I liked "8 Fragments for Kurt Cobain," "Facts," the poem that starts "Female as thunder," and "Film" the best. I liked the first few pages of "While She's Gone" as well.

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### Brendan says

Rating: Soft 4.

He repeats the title "Poem" often, which I found annoying. His line breaks are often oddly placed. Punctuation is rare on these pages. Topics include a romantic relationship and New York City. "While She's Gone" is an 11-pager, though the other pieces are of more normal length.

My favorites:

"Poem" (the one that starts *She was playing the french horn*)

"Poem" (the one that starts *Olivia of the ten thousand lesbian tears*)

"Grains of Sand" - at the beach

*The positions we use when making love*

*Determine the next day's weather*

- "Sick Bird"

*Just too many shadows for what's not there*

*And any second a knocking at the door.*

- "Easter Sunday"

*I hope that the syntax makes them squirm. I hope that they continue to laugh in the wrong places.*

- "The Big Ambulance"

*Your thighs moved smoothly as Latino gangsters*

- "While She's Gone"

*I'm tired too tired for conjunctions.*

- "While She's Gone"

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## **Gracie Bawden says**

Stunning, one of my favourite collections of poetry. At points shocking and uncomfortable, (just as it should be) yet it all felt entirely honest and real. I don't want to say too much because I think it should speak for itself. But so worth a read.

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