

## **Jim Carroll** **"Catholic Boy"**

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I was born in a pool, they made my mother stand  
And I spat on that surgeon and his trembling hand  
When I felt the light I was worse than bored  
I stole the doctor's scalpel and I slit the cord

I was a Catholic boy  
I was redeemed through pain  
Not through joy

I was two months early, they put me under glass  
I screamed and cursed at children when their nurses  
passed  
I was convicted of theft as I slipped from the womb  
They led me straight from my mother to a cell in the  
tombs

I was a Catholic boy  
I was redeemed through pain  
Not through joy

They starved me for weeks, they thought they'd teach  
me fear  
I fed on cell mates' dreams, it gave me fine ideas  
When they cut me loose, the time had served me well  
I made allies in heaven, I made comrades in hell

I was a Catholic child  
The blood ran red  
The blood ran wild

I make angels dance and drop to their knees  
When I enter a church the feet of statues bleed  
I understand the fate of all my enemies  
Just like Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane

I was a Catholic boy  
I was redeemed through pain  
An not through joy

I watched the sweetest psalm stolen by our choir  
I dreamed of martyrs' bones hanging from a wire  
I make a contribution, I get absolution

I make a resolution to purify my soul

I'm a Catholic boy  
Redeemed through pain  
Not through joy

And they can't touch me now  
I got every sacrament behind me  
I got baptism, I got penance  
I got communion, I got extreme unction  
Man, I've got confirmation

I was a Catholic boy  
Redeemed through pain  
And not through joy

And now I'm a Catholic man  
I put my tongue to the rail whenever I can

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