

# HERE COMES THE STORY OF THE **HURRICANE**

Bob Dylan and co-writer Jacques Levy wrote Hurricane as a means of protesting the wrongful arrest of prominent boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. The song, which was released as part of Dylan's 1976 album Desire, is over eight minutes long and details the acts of racism and profiling against Carter that led to his arrest. The song was a huge success, with Billboard declaring it "probably the most powerful song Dylan has recorded in a decade." In a bold move, Dylan did not change any of the names in the story.

The song begins with pistol shots ringing out in a bar, leaving two dead and one wounded. Carter and a few friends happened to be driving by the bar on their way back from another club on the other side of the town. They were pulled over, then released, but then arrested again after driving by the bar a second time. Carter and his co-accused John Artis were interrogated for 17 hours and ultimately served life sentences to be served at Rahway State Prison. The trial was a "pig-circus" with an all-white jury.

Carter spent almost 20 years in prison before he was acquitted for the crime he had not committed. Afterward, he spent 12 years serving as the executive director for The Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (now known as Innocence Canada). Dylan met with Carter in prison to hear his side of the story and begin writing the song.

**The Scene of the Crime**  
Lafayette Bar



E 18th Street

Lafayette Street

by **BOB DYLAN**  
**JACQUES LEVY**

Poster by Ash Reynolds

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*Bob Dylan and Jacques Levy*

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# THE HURRICANE



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