

**Yusuf/Cat Stevens opens up about his conversion**  
Posted by alisawhite123 - 2020/09/28 14:36  
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The singer who rose to fame as Cat Stevens, and is now known as Yusef/Cat Stevens, is getting candid about his conversion to Islam and the fallout that ensued.   
   
 On Sunday, the 72-year old musician ♦ born Steven Demetre Georgiou to a Swedish mother and Greek Cypriot father ♦ appeared on the BBC 4 radio program Desert Islands Discs to discuss his life, including the 1976 near-death experience that resulted in him turning to the Muslim faith.   
   
 ♦ I was an Englishman, ♦ he told radio host Lauren Laverne of nearly drowning in Malibu, Calif. ♦ I didn♦ know it wasn♦ wise to go out at that time of day and take a swim, so I did.   
   
 ♦ I decided to turn back and head for shore and, of course, at that point I realized, ♦ I♦m fighting the Pacific. ♦ There was no way I was going to win. There was only one thing to do and that was to pray to the almighty to save me. And I did.   
   
 ♦ I called out to God and he saved me. A little wave came from behind. It wasn♦ big. It was just simply pushing me forward. ♦ The tide somehow had changed and I was able to get back to land. So I was saved. I didn♦ know what was going to happen next. ♦   
   
 Following the incident, Stevens ♦ who had already explored Buddhism while battling tuberculosis as a teen ♦ was given a copy of the Qur♦an by his brother.   
   
   
   
   
   
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