

Death In The Garment District

— Case 20 —

Dr. Morris Netherton began specializing in what he terms “Past Lives Therapy” around 1970. He does not call what he does “hypnosis” as he relies on word associations rather than the more common types of trance induction, but his methods seem to work well for accessing traumas in past and pre-natal lives. In 1978 he published a collection of his cases that includes several with exceptional verification; one of these is the story of Rita McCullum.

During regression, a patient related numerous trials and tribulations of a personality named Rita, who was born in 1903. We shall limit our coverage of Rita’s tale to the period beginning in the late 1920s in midtown Manhattan. She and her husband, Keith McCullum, had finally brought their fledgling clothing company to the brink of success. In the winter of 1928, the overwork involved in this accomplishment resulted in Keith contracting pneumonia and dying. Only one year later, Rita’s son died of polio. That October, 1929, the stock market crashed and the Great Depression began. Despite her heroic struggles over the next few years, Rita ended up broke and alone and suicidal.

On the 11th of June, 1933, a destitute and dependent Rita McCullum went into the cutting room of her defunct factory, looped a rope over the bars that were used to hold garments, and hung herself.

Such is the tale that was told by a regressed patient in Dr. Netherton’s office in the mid-1970s. And such is the tale confirmed by a notarized death certificate that Netherton later obtained from the New York City Hall of Records. The certificate states that one Rita McCullum, age 30 (and thus born in 1903) committed suicide by hanging on 11 June 1933 at an address in the heart of the garment district in Manhattan.



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For Further Information

Past Lives Therapy by Morris Netherton and Nancy Shiffrin, 1978.

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