

# True Crime Club

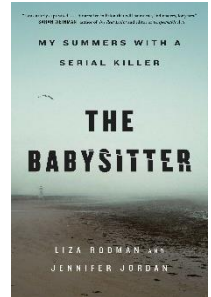
## "EVIDENCE"

Join us on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm as we discuss four serial murders in 1960s Cape Cod.



The Babysitter: My Summers with a Serial Killer by Liza Rodman

*This book is available through [the Michigan eLibrary](#) for free with use of your library card.*



The Babysitter will be our primary source of information on this case, however if you'd prefer to research further (or differently) you are welcome to! Check out the list of below for some suggested researching.

### Articles and Documents:

[Kurt Vonnegut wrote a 1969 LIFE magazine article on this case](#)



[Recent New York Post article and interview with Liza Rodman on her experience](#)



### Video:

[Born To Kill Episode on Tony Costa](#)



### Podcasts

[Morbidity: A True Crime Podcast Episode 194 on this case](#)



[Dark Downeast Podcast interview with Liza Rodman](#)



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# Relating our Reading to an unsolved Cold Case: **Missing: Rita Hester**

Her unsolved murder inspired Transgender Day of Remembrance



It's likely you've heard of The Transgender Day of Remembrance, but do you know the story of the woman who inspired it? Her legacy will live beyond her all too brief life. Rita Hester was born on November 30, 1963, the youngest of five children. She grew up in Hartford, Connecticut and her friends and family don't recall a specific "coming out as trans" moment, she simply was Rita. Her younger sister, Diana told NBC news, "I kind of always knew, just the very feminine ways that she was and everything," she said, adding that her family embraced her sister's transition. "My entire family, you know, even my nieces and nephew, everybody knew Rita," she added. "It was very receptive. Was no issue whatsoever. You know, it was fine.

While Rita's family might have embraced her, the community at large was not always welcoming. To that end, Rita headed to Boston in adulthood, where she fostered a large community of friends who still gush about her beauty, talent, and exuberance. She was a rock musician and even toured in Europe. She loved dancing and drag shows so much one friend said "She was always dancing... her life was a song." Rita lived in an apartment in the Allston neighborhood of Boston, where she frequently hosted friends for meals and dancing. She was also a regular at several bars— gay and straight — throughout the city.

It was Thanksgiving 1998 and normally Rita would go home to see family in Hartford, but this year she decided to stay in Boston. The next day she'd made plans with her friend, Wynne, to watch figure ice skating on tv. Before going there Rita called another friend to meet for a drink at Silhouette's, their favorite dive bar which was just blocks from Rita's place. Rita never made it to Wynne's and when Rita's friend made it to the bar, there was police tape up across Rita's street.

On the evening of November 28, 1998, Rita was murdered just two days before her 35th birthday. Police discovered her after responding to a call about a domestic dispute at Rita's apartment. Police found her stabbed in the chest a staggering 20 times. Rita was alive, but barely. The police waited more than an hour to bring Hester to the hospital where she died from cardiac upon arrival. Reopened by Boston Police in 2006, her case is described as "Unsolved" not cold. There were no signs of forced entry and nothing was stolen from her apartment. There are no suspects, only rumors that haunt her friends to this day. It is possible that her assailant is still alive.

Keep track of her case and help to solve it by viewing [her profile at uncovered.com](#)



[Listen to a podcast on Rita and the Murders of Black Transgender Women in America here.](#)



You can observe Transgender Day of Reembrace this year on November 20<sup>th</sup> and learn more about it at [www.glaad.org/tdor](http://www.glaad.org/tdor)



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