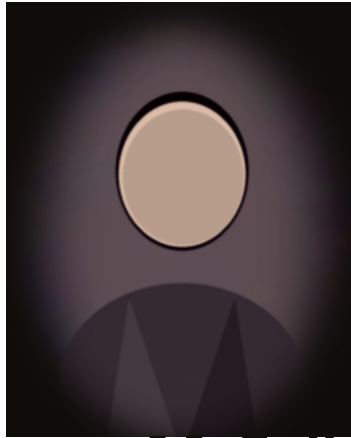




Carson McCullers

February 19, 1917 - September 29, 1967

Nyack, New York

Carson McCullers - American novelist and playwright whose Southern gothic pages held misfits, loners, and aching adolescents with a clarity that never mistook pity for understanding - died in Nyack, New York, on September 29, 1967. She was fifty. Born Lula Carson Smith on February 19, 1917, in Columbus, Georgia, she grew up piano-bent and story-hungry, then swapped Juilliard dreams for writing rooms when rheumatic fever and a restless mind redirected her toward fiction.

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter (1940), published when she was twenty-three, put a deaf-mute boarder and a mill-town chorus of longing onto the national bookshelf. Reflections in a Golden Eye, The Member of the Wedding, and The Ballad of the Sad Caf? followed, staging Army posts, kitchen tables, and freak-show carnivals where love arrived sideways and rarely answered. Strokes in her thirties left her partially paralyzed; she kept dictating, revising, and hosting friends in the Hudson River house that became both refuge and stage set.

Nyack was home when the long illness ended. She died after a cerebral hemorrhage, leaving a shelf of slim books that still feel crowded with people who cannot quite say what they need.

Columbus taught her the heat and hierarchy of small-city Georgia; Manhattan and Nyack taught her that exile could be a working method. She married, divorced, remarried the same man, and still wrote as if solitude were the truest weather.

She died in Nyack on September 29, 1967. Somewhere a character is still listening for a knock that will not

come.

McCullers's gift was merciful exactness - seeing the freakish and the ordinary as neighbors. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 29 remembers the Georgia-born storyteller who made loneliness sound American.

Services

Died in Nyack, New York, September 29, 1967. Novelist and playwright; *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*; *The Member of the Wedding*; *The Ballad of the Sad Caf?*.

NN-OBIT-2026-H186

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