

DORIS STOKES

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Doris Sutton was born in Grantham, Lincolnshire on 6 January 1920 and became a spiritualist and a psychic medium. Like [Helen Duncan](#), she displayed her alleged gifts to fellow pupils at school claiming that voices spoke to her. It was commonly reported that, as a child, her facial expressions were those as someone completely mad.

In 1949 she was accepted by the Spiritualists' National Union.

She had a mental breakdown in 1962 and gave up all her psychic activities. She trained to be a psychiatric nurse but this career did not last long for many reasons, one being that she was attacked by a mental patient.

She began to be a medium again and, in 1975, became accepted into the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain.

Her rise to fame was probably due to her appearances on Australian television and at the Sydney Opera House. She also appeared at the London Palladium to capacity audiences.

But she was a fraud and a crook and it has been proved that she planted accomplices in the audience, had staff and herself eavesdropping and using the deceitful method of cold reading.

In cold reading the medium tells the subjects nothing but makes suggestions and guesses and asks question and scores on the answers. Here is one example:

STOKES Did you husband linger in the hospital or did he die quickly?

SUBJECT No, he died immediately

STOKES Yes, that's right because he has told me that he didn't suffer and had no pain.

That is a typical con! But people would say, "How does she know that? She must be genuine".

Her husband, John Stokes was in on these deceptions. He would sell tickets to people for their private readings with Doris and collect information from them and pass it on to her.

She claimed that her powers had solved two murder cases in England. The Police officers stated that this was completely untrue and that she made no contribution to the detection of either murder! She was a liar!

When in Los Angeles, she claimed that the murder Vic Weiss had contacted her with details of his murder. But all these details were already in the public domain. This is a case like that of another fraudster, Helen Duncan. Both of them were liars!

She wrote several books and an autobiography.

As with [Helen Duncan](#), fellow psychics were fully aware that she was a fraud and she underwent a lie detector test and hypnosis and tests showed that she was a ruthless moneymaking con artist. This statement must not be taken to imply that any spiritualist or psychic is genuine.

In her last years, her health was very poor. She had strokes, a mastectomy and a brain tumour.

She died at Lewisham, London on 8 May 1987.

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