

[Download free pdf] The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion

The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion

Von Tracy Daugherty

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Von Tracy Daugherty : The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fragile...Von Jill MeyerThe author Joan Didion has always seemed to be fragile. Physically fragile, emotionally fragile, and, probably, literary fragile. Her writing seemed to careen between "precious" and "tough" - often in the same book or magazine article. Married to the author John Gregory Dunne, they were the parents of an adopted

daughter they rather fancifully named "Quintana Roo", after their favorite place in Mexico. Didion lost both husband and daughter in the mid-2000's and wrote about the searing experiences. But, who really is Joan Didion? In his excellent biography, "The Last Love Song", Tracy Dougherty looks at the life of Didion and examines what made her the inexplicable literary figure she is. Joan Didion was born in Sacramento of parents who were both descended from long-time California families. The infamous Donner Party figures into Didion's ancestry and the searching for a place to settle also seems to have been a part of her life. She seemed never to completely feel she fit in to where she was, whether in Sacramento, Berkeley, New York, or, eventually, Los Angeles. Now, this may be my interpretation of Dougherty's analysis of Didion, but perhaps what seemed like eternal searching for her place might explain Didion's own perceptive writing. As a college student, Didion won two prestigious competitions and landed in New York City as a writer for Vogue. Her years in New York - most of the 1950's - included time spent in a hopeless romance with enfant-terrible Noel Parmentel and honing her writing. She finally married writer Greg Dunne and they eventually found great success by moving to Los Angeles in the early 1960's and writing for both magazines and films. Their marriage stayed intact but like most couples, they had their ups-and-downs. Their daughter also lived a life of emotional problems that might have come from her parents' raising her in a rather unconventional manner. Quintana was expected to fit into her parents' life. Eventually they moved back to New York City, where both father and daughter died and thin, fragile Joan Didion lives on into her 80's. Tracy Dougherty's book is a beautifully written look at both Joan Didion and John Gregory Dunne. It is also an examination of the changing and often difficult times in American history the two lived through and how Didion tried to interpret those changes to her own readers. I don't particularly care for Joan Didion after reading the biography, but I feel I understand her better. I still think she's fragile...but made of steel.

Kurzbeschreibung In *The Last Love Song*, Tracy Daugherty, the critically acclaimed author of *Hiding Man* (a *New Yorker* and *New York Times* Notable book) and *Just One Catch*, delves deep into the life of distinguished American author and journalist Joan Didion in this, the first printed biography published about her life. Joan Didion lived a life in the public and private eye with her late husband, writer John Gregory Dunne, whom she met while the two were working in New York City when Didion was at *Vogue* and Dunne was writing for *Time*. They became wildly successful writing partners when they moved to Los Angeles and co-wrote screenplays and adaptations together. Didion is well-known for her literary journalistic style in both fiction and non-fiction. Some of her most-notable work includes *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, *Run River*, and *The Year of Magical Thinking*, a National Book Award winner and shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize, it dealt with the grief surrounding Didion after the loss of her husband and daughter. Daugherty takes readers on a journey back through time, following a young Didion in Sacramento, through to her adult life as a writer interviewing those who know and knew her personally, while maintaining a respectful distance from the reclusive literary great. *The Last Love Song* reads like fiction; lifelong fans, and readers learning about Didion for the first time will be enthralled with this impressive tribute.

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