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slouching towards bethlehem is a 1968 collection of essays by joan didion that mainly describes her experiences in california during the 1960s it takes its title from the poem the second coming by w b yeats the contents of this book are reprinted in didion s we tell ourselves stories in order to live collected nonfiction 2006 67 628 ratings 6 619 reviews the first nonfiction work by one of the most distinctive prose stylists of our era joan didion s slouching towards bethlehem remains decades after its first publication the essential portrait of america particularly california in the sixties a preface this book is called slouching towards bethlehem because for several years now certain lines from the yeats poem which appears two pages back have reverberated in my inner ear as if they were surgically implanted there the widening gyre the falcon which does not hear the falconer the gaze blank and pitiless as the sun those have the joan didion many people know is constructed from a few artifacts the real slouching towards bethlehem 1968 was didion s second book her first was the 1963 novel run river it is the phrase everyone knows joan didion by slouching towards bethlehem is a classic of what was later named the new journalism didion used a vernacular voice that mimicked the celebrated iconic and indispensable joan didion s first work of nonfiction slouching towards bethlehem is considered a watershed moment in american writing first published in 1968 the collection was critically praised as one of the best prose written in this country joan didion who died on thursday at 87 is best known for her essay collections slouching towards bethlehem the white album and after henry to name a few though she also books slouching towards bethlehem joan didion macmillan 1990 literary collections 237 pages a half century after its initial publication in 1968 joan didion s slouching overview slouching towards bethlehem is joan didion s 1968 collection of essays that document her experiences living in california from 1961 to 1967 it is her first collection of nonfiction many of the pieces originally appeared in the saturday evening post and is hailed as a seminal document of culture and counterculture in 1960s california slouching towards bethlehem didion joan free download borrow and streaming

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