A Long Strange Trip

From bohemian utopia to drug abuse and death, the Dead's official historian records it all without blinking.

The Inside History of the Grateful Dead

Dennis McNally

McNally's chronicle of the bohemian utopia that was San Francisco in the Sixties - fully half the book - is the strongest, sweetest part of his story. As Garcia's anarchic flair and Zen detachment descend near the end into drug-induced inertia, the tale grows sadder. McNally's reporting at that point remains responsible and never lurid. You can practically feel his steeling himself to get through it. It's a painful end to a saga that is otherwise filled with joy, hope and possibility that the music world is unlikely to see again.

ANTHONY DECURTIS