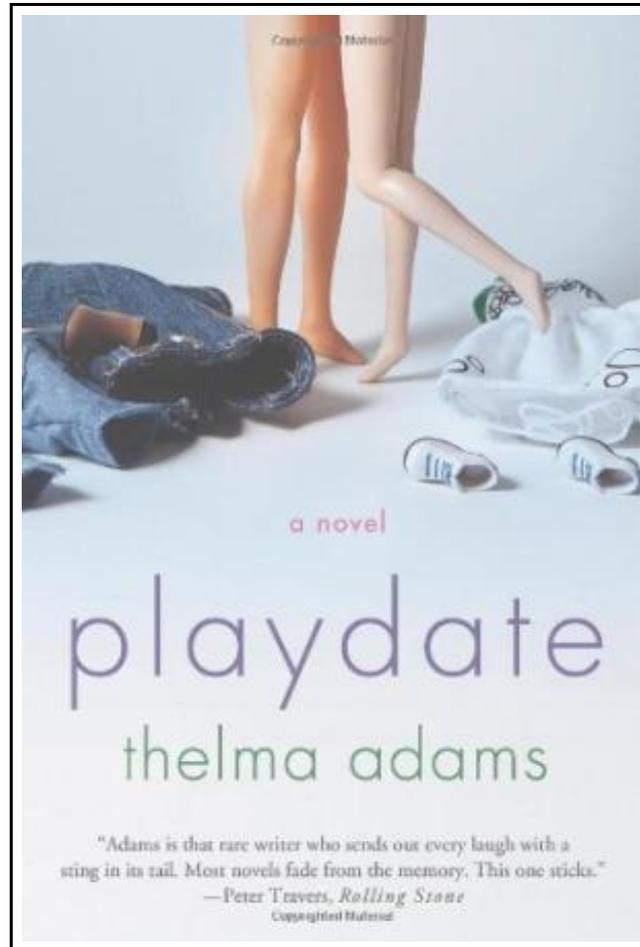


## Playdate



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***(Lula Graham IV)***

## PLAYDATE



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Thomas Dunne Books, 2011. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: When a novel starts with the Santa Ana winds about to bear down on a well-groomed California suburb, you know havoc will ensue. In the manner of Tom Perotta's *Little Children* (2006), *Playdate* follows the complicated, about-to-explode life of a modern-day, stay-at-home, suburban dad. Nice-guy Lance has given up his career as a TV weatherman to help his high-powered wife, Darlene, start a new business. His days are consumed with caring for their daughter, Bella; trying to impregnate his reluctant wife; and having tantric sex with the wife of his wife's business partner. The early introduction of tantric yoga (i.e., sex) puts the novel squarely in the satire category, but Adams is not completely content to let the story rest there. Discussions of modern parenting, marriage, and gender roles fill almost every chapter as the impending storms threaten everything from Darlene's new business to Bella's birthday party. The novel is an enjoyable romp through modern suburban life. --Booklist Hyde Park resident Thelma Adams knows and loves the movies. She's film critic for *Us Weekly*, and hosts the annual Amazing Women In Film panel at the Woodstock Film Festival. As her very California novel opens, the hills begin to burn, a box turtle awakens inside a Barbie Dream House, and an 11-year-old walks in on a classic primal scene. Astute readers might get the distinct impression that they're in for a red-hot and wildly comic ride, and astute readers would be right. Our hero Lance is an at-home dad to Belle, unfortunate witness to the primal scene and owner of the aforementioned box turtle. She's turning 11, and is at a loss in the "finely calibrated scale of playground fabulousness" at Rancho Amigo Elementary (or "Raunchy...")



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