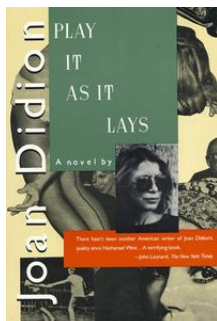


# PLAY IT AS IT LAYS



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## Play It As It Lays

Author	Joan Didion
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## Peek Inside the Book

He would say something and she would say something and before either of them knew it they would be playing out a dialogue so familiar that it drained the imagination, blocked the will, allowed them to drop words and whole sentences and still arrive at the cold conclusion. Joan Didion, Play It As It Lays //

You talk crazy any more and I'll leave.Leave. For Christ's sake leave.She would not take her eyes from the dry wash. All right.Don't, he would say then. Don't. Why do you say those things. Why do you fight.He would sit on the bed and put his head in his hands. To find out if you're alive. Joan Didion, Play It as It Lays //

## Reader's Opinions

There was silence. Something real was happening: this was, as it were, her life. If she could keep that in mind she would be able to play it through, do the right thing, whatever that meant. Joan DidionWhenever Maria called, it was as if the ringing of the phone heralded the end of any conviviality I might have been harboring. I always...

The city burning is Los Angeles's deepest image of itself.Joan Didion, quoted not from Play It As It Lays, but from Vanessa Place's LA MEDUSA, which I happened to read just before this\*. Here, L.A. is not in flames but a void. Nothingness lies at the heart of everything and everyone here, chilling even when constrained by ostensibly...