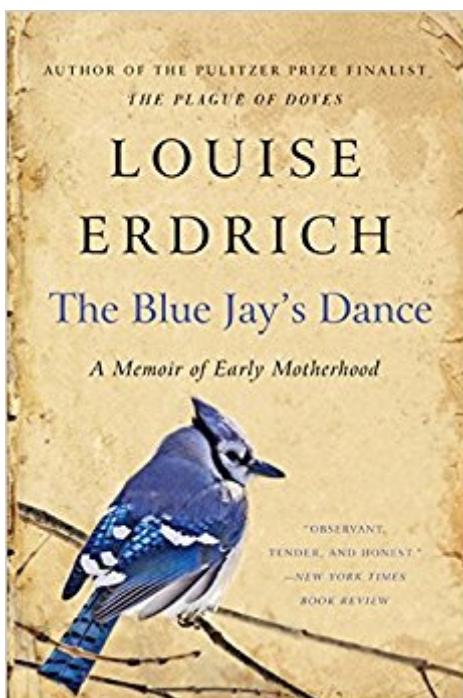


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# The Blue Jay's Dance: A Memoir Of Early Motherhood



## Synopsis

New York Times bestselling and award-winning author Louise Erdrich's moving meditation on the experience of motherhood—the first nonfiction work by one of the most acclaimed authors of our time. Louise Erdrich's first major work of nonfiction, *The Blue Jay's Dance*, brilliantly and poignantly examines the joys and frustrations, the compromises and insights, and the difficult struggles and profound emotional satisfactions the acclaimed author experienced in the course of one twelve-month period—from a winter pregnancy through a spring and summer of new motherhood to her return to writing in the fall. In exquisitely lyrical prose, Erdrich illuminates afresh the large and small events that every parent will recognize and appreciate. "Pregnancy, birth and caring for an infant inspire Erdrich's reflections on being a woman, a mother and a writer in this affecting memoir of a daughter's first years." •People

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mothers often cling to single moments, small gestures, and specific memories in order to grasp all that happens in the first blurry year of a baby's life. In *The Blue Jay's Dance*, writer Louise Erdrich has assembled a photo album of snapshots such as these: the days and images that collectively define the passion, ambivalence, yearnings, and satisfactions of carrying, birthing, and nurturing a baby. "Any sublime effort has its dark moments," says Erdrich, referring to a rather bleak snapshot of mother isolation. "Perhaps, if anything, the meaning in this book for others may be this: Here is a

job in which it is not unusual to be, at the same instant, wildly joyous and profoundly stressed." The Blue Jay's Dance is a fresh and masterful book that avoids all the sticky clichÃ©s while still managing to articulate the depths of mother-baby love. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Erdrich, who has published poetry and critically acclaimed novels (Love Medicine, The Beet Queen), here describes her experience with giving birth and the joyful year of mothering that follows. The baby whose arrival she chronicles is the youngest of her three daughters but is also a composite of the biological children among the family's six. A keen observer of nature, Erdrich also movingly evokes wild-animal life and the seasonal changes that take place outside the secluded New Hampshire home of Erdrich and her husband, writer Michael Dorris. Although her mystical side is evident in her descriptions of the natural world and in her account of the strong bond she formed with her new baby, she also looks at life with refreshing common sense. She dismisses the "pseudo spiritual advice" that refers to intense labor pain as "discomfort" and admits to occasionally feeling resentment at her baby's screams. Erdrich lightens her prose with several recipes that she and her husband prepare together, as well as a menu for an all-licorice dinner. An enchanting, lyrical rendering of a "mother's vision." Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love Louise Erdrich. I have read eight of her books. I have trouble putting her down.

This is by far the best book I've ever read on the emotional struggles and rewards of mothering. The Blue Jay's Dance is full of poetic descriptions that are so powerful you feel like you are there with the author, watching through her eyes. This book changed the way I see the world, my children and myself. I highly recommend Louise Erdrich. Her books are meticulously researched and written from more than one point of view.

I have recommended this book to several female friends in order to get a report on how it was received. Not being able to carry out the reproduction exercise I can only say- WOW it gave me a new positive perspective on motherhood.

terrific little book ! i lapped up every word--then sent it to a native american friend who's pregnant and she adored it ! one of my favorite erdrich books !

bought it for my pregnant daughter whose husband is an ojibwe canadian. not sure if she read it yet, but i did and i enjoyed it. i had thought it was about the birth of ms. erdrich's youngest daughter , but actually it was a much older book talking about her older 3 daughters' births. sadly her late husband michael dorris is mentioned and his suicide is in the future.

I highly recommend this book as a real account of what it's like to be a new mother. Buy it for all the moms in your life, it makes a great Baby Shower or Mother's Day gift. Erdrich is engaging, funny, poignant, and captures the beauty of that first year with your child.

This is a must read for new parents. Beautiful, deeply insightful, funny, and haunting. The book made me wish she had been my neighbor when my kids (and her kids) were small.

great book

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