

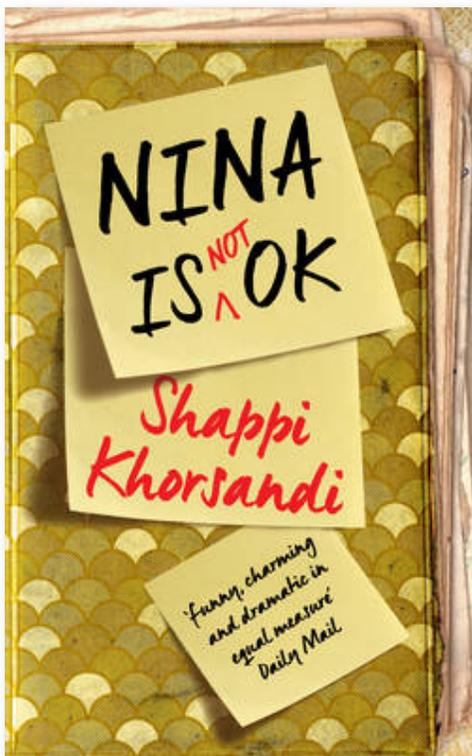


Helping you choose
your next book

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Nina Is Not Ok** by Shappi Khorsandi



Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Rachael Anderson

An excellent, and somewhat different, coming of age story.

The central character of Nina, is a bright teenage girl, who uses binge drinking as a crutch. One evening, she has so much to drink she cannot really remember what happens to her. The story revolves around the consequences of that evening.

'Nina Is Not Okay' is absolutely heartbreaking at times. The only reason that you can bear to keep turning the pages is because of Shappi Khorsandi's sharp sense of wit and great characterization, which is evident throughout the novel. Different from the majority of coming of age stories in that it looks at life from the

perspective of a promiscuous alcoholic teenager and our culture of victim shaming. I imagine the novel makes for an uncomfortable read if you have a young daughter. However, it is probably something that teenagers should be encouraged to read.

Helen Claire

Brilliantly tackles several very difficult subjects and uses humour well to detract from the severity of them.

I connected with Nina from the beginning and was willing her on throughout

the book. Would highly recommend this one.

Beth Kemp

*Not what I was expecting - in a good way! Yes, **it's wittily told, as expected, but this is no light humorous book. It is dark, as billed, but not dark comedy - just downright gritty.***

Nina's life is pretty awful and I was easily on her side, although I can see that not all readers will be, as she is a complex and not immediately 'likeable' character. This, however, adds to her realism I think – how many of us are truly likeable when we are 'not ok'?

The novel functions well as a modern Bildungsroman, with much to say about our culture. It is clearly critical of how many aspects of our culture work and the impact they have on young women in particular, but this is achieved relatively gently and would be likely to make most readers think without putting off those who are prejudiced against feminism.

I think it will appeal to a wide range of readers and will be enjoyed by teens and adults alike. It's clear in places that it's written by an adult for adults (some of the school details are less up-to-date/specific than they would be in a teen novel, for example, but the role of social media in teen lives is spot-on), but I think the tone is appropriate for both kinds of audience. All in all, I'm definitely recommending this.

Follow Beth on Twitter: @Bethkemp

Shriya Khambhaita

*Nina is a girl we all know of or even have been at some point in our lives. She is care free and a step daughter of a strict step father who is conservative. Her friends are of opposite nature to her. **Shappi has written a thought provoking read about teenagers who consume a lot of alcohol and the social/ family dynamics that take place in modern day life.** I have never read or seen any of Shappi's work but I do hope to read her début sometime in future. This would make a great holiday read.*

Follow Shriya on Twitter: @Shriya_Kham

Hannah Ward

*I was lucky enough to be chosen to read and review an advanced copy of this book by Lovereading, so thank you for sending me the book. I have heard of the comedian Shappi Khorsandi before and didn't realise she wrote books. This is her second book. I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would. I think I must have been expecting more laughs, I mean there were a few but not many. I found some parts slightly cringey and wasn't sure if I should continue but I did as I wanted to see what happened to Nina. **This book wasn't really for me but I am sure other people may like it.***

<https://echoesinanemptyroom.com/2016/05/01/nina-is-not-ok-by-shappi-khorsandi/>

Jenny Duffy

A cross between 'Rachel's Holiday' and 'Asking For It'. Like Keyes and O'Neill, Khorsandi does not hold back when showing us her protagonist's pain.

Nina does not have a drinking problem. She's like any other seventeen year old: partying, drinking, having fun. Her mum and her friends worry about her, as her drunken exploits become worse and worse and she remembers less and less of what has happened the night before. However, when a night gone wrong is broadcast on social media Nina's world comes crashing down around her.

Louise O'Neill has described this book as a YA 'Rachel's Holiday'. I would say it's a cross between 'Rachel's Holiday' and 'Asking For It'. Like Keyes and O'Neill, Khorsandi does not hold back when showing us her protagonist's pain. At times it is hard to keep reading and to witness Nina spiralling out of control. Nina's voice is fresh and honest, and her story feels very real. I liked that a lot of the book was given to her recovery, and what a struggle this can be. Nina is far from perfect but she is a likeable and sympathetic protagonist, someone the reader wants to help and protect. The other characters are also nuanced and interesting. This is a book about drinking, about consent and social media, but it also a coming of age novel that has a lot to say about family, friendship and self-worth.

This is an engaging read with a strong voice at its core. Highly recommended to older teens, and to adults also as this book has definite crossover appeal. I look forward to reading more of Shappi Khorsandi's writing.

Humaira Kauser

Outrageously funny and equally heart wrenching/warming!

This book was out right funny from the very first page. The humour was rude and hilarious - made me laugh out loud more than a book has ever made me laugh. What I love most about this book is that it's so serious and comical at the same time. You laugh and cry with Nina and feel sorry for her at times. I've never read a book where the plot is simple but the character is so complex and just makes the whole story so worthwhile. Praise to Shappi Khorsandi!

https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie/