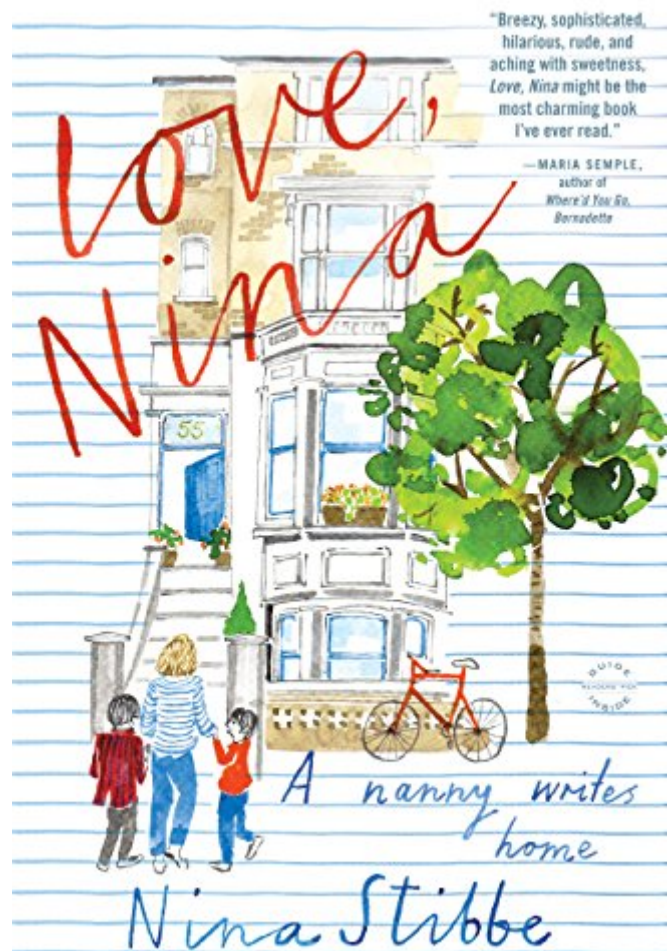


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# Love, Nina: A Nanny Writes Home



## Synopsis

"Breezy, sophisticated, hilarious, rude and aching with sweetness: LOVE, NINA might be the most charming book I've ever read." --Maria Semple, author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* In 1982, 20-year-old Nina Stibbe moved to London to work as a nanny to two opinionated and lively young boys. In frequent letters home to her sister, Nina described her trials and triumphs: there's a cat nobody likes, supertime visits from a famous local playwright, a mysteriously unpaid milk bill, and repeated misadventures parking the family car. Dinner table discussions cover the gamut, from the greats of English literature, to swearing in German, to sexually transmitted diseases. There's no end to what Nina can learn from these boys (rude words) and their broad-minded mother (the who's who of literary London). A charming, hilarious, sweetly inspiring celebration of bad food and good company, *Love, Nina* makes a young woman's adventures in a new world come alive.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I loved this book and hated it when I got to the end. Ms Stibbe forms very loving pictures of all the diverse characters she interacted with in North London. I would have loved to have had some meals at Ms Wilmer's. And drinks. It gladdens me to know that there are such wonderful, funny and

intelligent folk out there. I had started Mary Kay's book on her family, "The Eitingons", about 2 years ago and kind of stalled out. Based on my new found knowledge of her many personality quirks, I have gone back to that book with real enthusiasm. I look forward to more work from Nina.

My constant cracking up while reading this book prompted my husband to buy it too although he loathes doing this so that we have to pay for it twice on kindle. But his reaction was the same as mine. We both howled with laughter all the way through. Hated to finish it. This is the only book Nina Stibbe has written? She makes the recounting of every day conversations between herself, her employer, her charges as a nanny and the friends who wander in and out of their home in London excruciatingly funny. I am relying on this book being a huge success so that she will be moved to write more. She is a great comedic talent. Of the 300-odd books on my kindle this is the first that overcame my preference for getting on with the next one to bothering to review the last. I really really want her to write another. Please.

Getting real mail was fun. Whatever today's electronic connections are, they can't compare with the arrival of a chatty letter from someone you know--a letter neither urgent ("Where R U?") nor briskly demanding ("Pick me up ASAP!"), but leisurely, chock full of casual details, giving you a personal moment with someone who matters to you, and vice versa. Under these circumstances, anything and everything can be interesting--who threw up and why, what caps and hats are in vogue this month, or what the Famous Man Next Door is really like when he's at supper with two small boys, a sassy young nanny, and the Mum, who seems well-loved but very much an after-thought in the group. Nina Stibbe's book is the kind of thing you take to bed at night to leave a pleasant, relaxing aura over your soon-to-be-sleeping head. It's the perfect book to carry in your bag and read on the train, or while waiting in the hair salon. It will be on a first-name basis with all the pleasures of your vacation at the beach. You will finish it with satisfaction while much heavier, more probing works lie with their bookmarks permanently out of gas on p. 35.

Hilarious. I had so many laugh out loud moments reading this book, and I'm completely enamored with it's characters. When the book ended I felt sad that I wouldn't know Nina, W&S, MK, and AB any longer. I think this is one of the rare books that I will read twice just because I enjoyed it so much. There are a lot of references to British culture in the 1980s, that as an American were unfamiliar to me but the references were not enough to take away from the enjoyment of the book. I could get the general gist. I am still thinking about this quirky family and their hilariously dry nanny

weeks after finishing the book. I have already recommended it to my friends. Nina is a real life, funnier Bridget Jones.

A fun, fresh and loving tale told through the eyes of Nina, a young nanny to a delightfully eccentric London family, taken from the letters Stibbe wrote home to her sister at the time. It's funny and sweet, with the sub-text of a young girl's intellect beginning to bloom in an encouraging hothouse. Subtle, clever and entirely winning, a great book for when you want to be uplifted and encouraged.

I am enjoying more than I thought I would. Starts kind of slow, but definitely an interesting read, especially if you haven't lived in England. There are terms I am not remotely familiar with and product names....but it has been fun to look them up and get to know new "stuff" about life in London.

I would never have picked this book to read simply because I usually find that these personal accounts of life events to be amusing only to the writer. This book is the exception. It is truly laugh out loud funny. The letters that Nina Stibbe wrote to her sister during her nanny days in London with a wealthy, eccentric family are so open and guileless that I just completely fell in love with Nina and the whole entourage. It is just fun and light and I highly recommend.

Wonderful book. I have to explain that I have two Kindles. One in my purse and one on my bedside table. The purse Kindle spends a lot of time in doctor's offices waiting rooms (helping my elderly Mom) and I like having something great to read that can easily be put down. Marvelous letters, all written to Nina's sister Vic about her life as a Nanny in London in the early 1980's. Witty people, including the children. The letters often left me smiling if not downright laughing (as I escorted Mom and her walker down medical office corridors). Very soon Mom insisted I read the letters to her while we waited. More than once, as Mom's name was called, someone else in the waiting room (or the doctor's staff) would beg "what's the name of that book??".

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