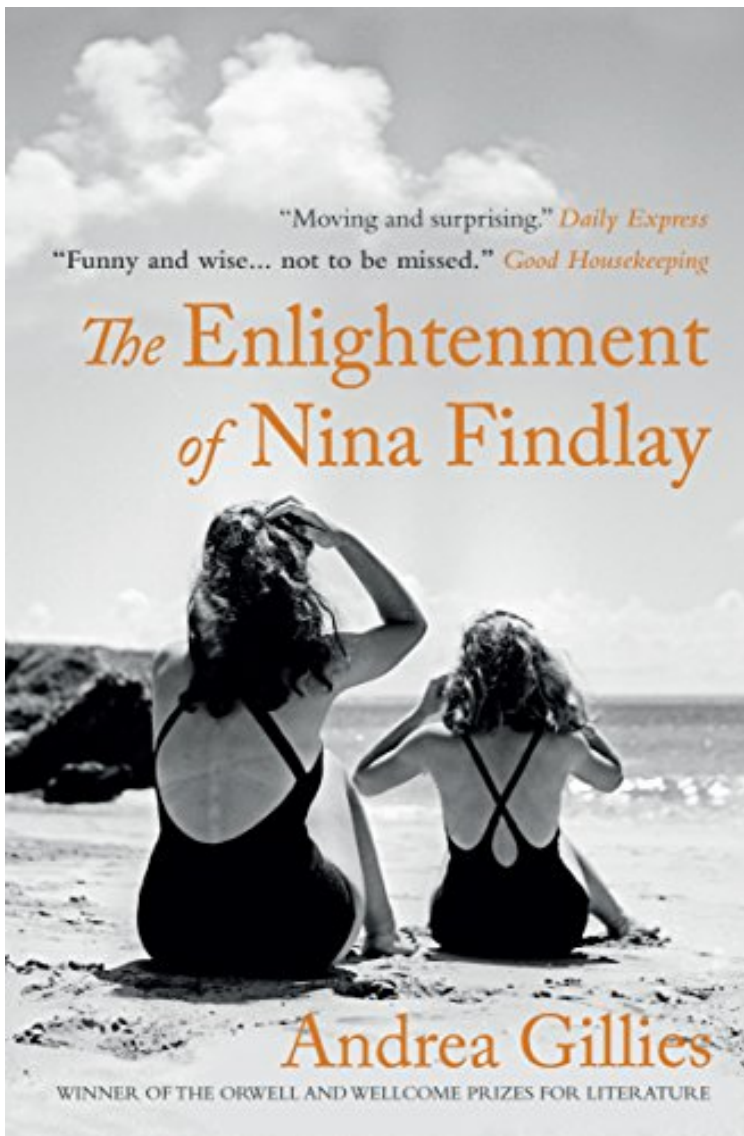


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# The Enlightenment of Nina Findlay



Par Andrea Gillies  
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2014-03-27Sorti le: 2014-03-27Format:  
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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurNina Findlay, alluring, accomplished, deluded, always the heroine of her own life, has found an irresistible safety in being adored by two men, brothers she's known since childhood. But when her sister-in-law becomes gravely ill, the triangle that Nina's depended on becomes catastrophically unstable. The life she's known begins rapidly to unravel, and odd things begin to happen which those around her insist are all in her mind. Separated from her husband, she goes on holiday to a tiny Greek island, the honeymoon island of 25 years earlier, and is involved in a serious road accident. There, while recuperating, she becomes close to her doctor, who's also on the point of divorce. A new relationship seems possible - but what's real in the situation, and what's imagined? Pressed in at all sides by other people's truths, how can Nina be sure of identifying her own? A diary that was her mother's proves to be a turning point. Perhaps romantic love is

always a kind of undiagnosed madness. Face to face with the facts behind her assumptions, the time has come for Nina to unravel the taut knot of her past. Their main courses arrived, and Luca ordered more wine, and they ate and talked about other things. Nina steered the conversation elsewhere, into their respective trips and what they'd seen and eaten. But when the plates were taken, Luca reverted. Promise me one thing. If ever you decide you need a divorce, you think of me first. He thought he saw in her eyes that she took him seriously. What else could it be, that strange intense look in them? He went on, But you're right, of course you're right. Our marriage is only perfect because it never happened. We haven't had to deal with dishwashers and bills and recycling and dull sex. Dull, is it? That's a shame. The back of her neck felt as if it was seizing up. Francesca lost interest years ago. Even before she got ill. The cancer has been a big sex drought, and now she's losing interest in me in general, I think. Oh I see, you're in need of a quickie. It wasn't possible to smile. On the way home from the office. I think the French are an enlightened nation. Shall we say five o'clock tomorrow? But I'm getting on a bit. I may not need two hours. She hid her disappointment in him in checking her phone. A quickie on the way home. Lovely. It's these little adjustments in life that make it tolerable. I'm glad I know that you're joking. Luca could have joined her there. It might still all have been salvageable but instead he said, We should get another bottle. *Revue de presse*"In her second novel, Gillies explores...the fallibility of memory and the often heartbreaking half-truths we tell ourselves by way of compensation." Kirkus sA rich, intricate, utterly convincing portrait of one woman's midlife meltdown. Lisa Zeidner, author of *Layover* and *Love Bomb* This mesmerizing, intelligent work overturns traditional assumptions about love, family, and loss and delivers a series of twists that are as unexpected as they are richly satisfying. Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Birds of Paradise* "The Enlightenment of Nina Findlay is at once lyrical and riveting. Unfolding on a radiant Greek island, with darker echoes of Scotland and Norway, this lushly transporting, thoughtful novel moves through overlapping time periods in an intricate series of themes and variations. Despite its graceful cadence, it courses with suspense; Andrea Gillies has given us something rare, an exquisite page-turner." Hilary Reyl, author of *Lessons in French* The Enlightenment of Nina Findlay is a sure, poised, relentlessly honest novel that carries the reader through multiple layers of deception and revelation, showing us the hidden heartbreak in families and marriage. Fernanda Eberstadt, author of *Rat and The Furies* Gillies writes magnificently on everything she touches. *Sunday Times (UK)* [The Enlightenment of Nina Findlay] moves backward and forward across several decades, uncovering intergenerational secrets and the holes in the stories people tell themselves. *The Guardian (UK)* Funny and wise . . . not to be missed. *Good Housekeeping (UK)* An intelligent, thoughtful, grown-up romance about second chances and the complications of relationships. *The Herald (Scotland)* Winner of the Orwell and Wellcome prizes for her first book, *Keeper*, Gillies combines a wonderfully unreliable narrator with a deeply layered love story. *Scottish Book Trust* Romance is everywhere, there is love filial, parental, platonic, amorous and flirting and coupling and unraveling. But *The Enlightenment of Nina Findlay* is not chick lit. There's a provocative intelligence in Gillies's tale that challenges perceptions and beliefs about love, honesty, and betrayal.

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