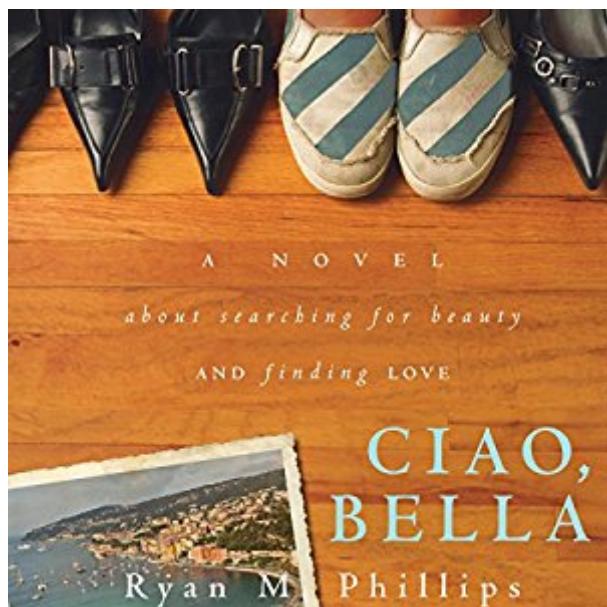


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# Ciao, Bella: A Novel About Searching For Beauty And Finding Love



## **Synopsis**

Isabelle Mackenzie always imagined herself married with kids. Instead, at 30, she's chronically single and lives alone in a cramped condo on Chicago's north side. Sure, she's got her beloved bookstore and her two best friends, Cameron and Oliver, but even they can't make up for the fact that her life hasn't turned out anything like she expected. The weighing disappointment has her questioning everything she once felt certain of, including her faith in God. So when Olly and Cam secretly volunteer her for a nationally-televised makeover, Mack decides to use the opportunity to reinvent herself. What follows is an unlikely romance with famous actor Cooper Young, a cross-continental adventure, and the long-awaited chance to make all of her dreams come true. Will Mack be able to keep her faith amidst the glitz and glamour of Cooper's lifestyle, or will she lose herself and abandon everything and everyone she cares about in the process? *Ciao, Bella* is the story of one woman's unexpected revelations about faith, love, and true happiness. It's a novel for all who have ever been granted the desires of their hearts, only to discover that what they thought they wanted could never compare to what they already had.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

*Ciao, Bella* is about Isabelle Mackenzie a bookstore owner in Chicago who is turning 30 and unhappy that she's still single and going through a crisis of faith. Her two best friends, Cameron and Oliver set her up for a makeover on a television show. She agrees to the makeover and is whisked away to LA where she meets Cooper Young a famous actor who sweeps Isabelle off her feet. Isabelle

thinks that what she has been doing following the path she believes her faith has led her has made her miss out on life - maybe it's even prevented her from finding the meant she was supposed to be with? She sees Cameron coasting through life so easily and without a faith to hold her back and hopes that by letting go and being with Cooper will give her a chance to find that easier life. Meanwhile Oliver who has just declared his love for her is more like her conscience or her faith she needs to hide from. Ciao, Bella is not a story I would normally have chosen but one that I was glad to have read. The characters were believable and I could connect to Isabelle's struggles with her faith. I also liked how casually Isabelle witnessed, it was as natural as talking about the weather - that is a true testament of faith.

Not going to rehash the plot or give a synopsis, but Ciao, Bella was only so-so for me. I have read all of RP's other books, so the 'Grace' books set the bar for my hopes and expectations. I just adore those books and have turned friends on to them. I just could not get fully invested in this book. The lead character, Mack/Bella, just wasn't relatable to me, so I didn't find myself attached to her plight. I wasn't really concerned about who she ended up with (although it was obvious early on, and I actually began skimming around the 30th or so chapter. None of the characters seemed three-dimensional to me, so I was a bit disappointed. I really wanted to love this story.

Has your life-long plans been shackled? Have your friends disappointed you? What, if you as a young girl had marriage plans and then as you became a woman were your plans changed? This is a novel about a life of a woman who thru the revelation of our Lord truly learned about Faith and God's Love that resulted in true happiness. Read and enjoy without me giving you too much more of the plot, etc. This is an excellent novel!

WELCOME BACK RYAN!!!! I was very pleased to FINALLY see this long awaited follow up to Ms. Phillips' collection. The writing was brilliant and as usual she captivated me with her story telling and character development. This plot was a little more "fantasy" than the previous "every-day" realism of the lifestyles of the characters that I personally relate to; however Ms. Phillips brought the characters to life and delivered yet another moving Christian Novel that left me tearfully praising God...I am looking forward to book #5! ~Don't stay away so long! Ciao

A roller coaster of emotions, this book brings me through the pain and heartache involved in living outside of Christ, learning to be content in every situation, and that true love really does forgive our

past and the hurts. Encouraging novel from a perspective we can understand even if we ourselves will probably never get to kiss a movie star.

This was just what I needed after months of reading nothing but bar exam study guides. I purchased this book on Saturday and finished it today (2 short days later). It was SO good I didn't want to put it down when I went to bed. The spiritual love story between the main character and her faith and the love story that played out between her and the leading men was SO moving. I saw bits of my own struggles in the characters and the stories. The characters were pretty well defined, but I would love to see the next story in the series give leading man Olly some legs...a past, a deeper storyline and a few more revelations would be nice. Still, all in all, this was a great read; perfect for a wholesome, mental escape.

Many ordinary people dream about what it would be like to be rich and glamorous. Women dream about being swept away by their favorite celebrity. This book was a good reminder to celebrate the life we have and love ourselves as we are. The main character has an ordinary life, and has given up on anything special happening to her. She is also ready to give up on God. Through a series of events, she is given the opportunity to have a completely different life. Over the course of the story, she struggles with her faith, and with loving herself as she is. The character is very likable, and the story flows so smoothly. I love this author's writing style and hope she comes out with new books soon. I would strongly recommend this book to anyone. If you are getting older, and have given up on your dreams, then this is a book you can relate to. Hopefully it is also a book that will encourage you.

Be true to yourself and don't be tempted by the pulls of the world. Listen to godly friends, God's word and your conscience. God will not let go of us, so don't let go of Him. Sometimes God allows detours that bring us even closer to Him.

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