



Bella

Lisa Samson , Alejandro Monteverde (Screenplay by) , Patrick Million (Screenplay by) , Leo Severino (Screenplay by)

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"If you want God to laugh, tell him your plans."

For Jose the cook and Nina the beautiful waitress life has not turned out the way either had planned. Living with the weight of guilt and lost dreams, each struggles to survive and to make sense of what life now holds. But the events of one ordinary day in New York City turn into an unforgettable experience that changes both of their lives forever.

Based on the #1 top-rated movie of 2007 and one of the most honored films of the year--winning the highly coveted People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival, Best Picture and Best Actor at the 2008 MovieGuide Awards--*Bella* is a story about redemption, family and finding love unexpectedly.

Bella Details

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From Reader Review Bella for online ebook

Brenna Bonner says

The best novelization of a book I have read to far. Read it in 2 days- very good.

Marjanne says

This book turned out a lot better than I expected. I have not seen the movie, and when I picked it up it didn't realize that it was a novelization of a movie (generally I try to avoid those). But the story was very touching and ended in a way I was not expecting. I think most readers would enjoy this book. It's a good story, no language and no sex.

Melissa says

I love the film but the novelization doesn't do it justice...still, made me cry.

Jodi says

Oh my. It shows how one accident can impact so many lives. A guy just starting to realize his dreams ends up with nothing. He ends up broken and unable to forgive himself for the accident. He blames himself everyday. He is lost in his own world a world that even his family can not help him escape. A girl that finds out she is pregnant and has no one to help her. She is lost and finds the unlikely friendship of a man with his own problems. They spend the day together and learn that they both need help. It was a great story about family, friendship and forgiveness. I didn't love the choice she made but I love that their was a new start for them all.

Colleenduggan says

Thought the movie was beautiful.

Joyce says

this is a novelization of a screenplay.it is a story about redemption,family, and finding love unexpectedly.it is a story of life not turning out the way you expected it would. one of the quotes from the story "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." i am planning own watching the movie, soon.

Deborah says

Life just didn't turn out the way Jose and Nina had planned. Jose struggles with the guilt of his past despite the support of a big and loving family. Nina cannot get away from the memories of her childhood, and it is aiding her in making bad decisions. With no one but herself to take care of, she lives one day at a time, dreams of becoming a dancer a distant memory. Jose fights the the memories of the past, and Nina helplessly watches her dreams slowly slip away into the past.

But just one day can change a person's life, and when Jose steps forward to protect the naive Nina, they are both pleasantly surprised by the outcome. But can Jose's friendship be enough to help Nina make the right choice - especially when a lot more than dashed dreams are at stake? Will Jose finally find his place in the world, or is the past going to haunt his future forever?

This was a delightful book to read, despite it's short length. While I have not yet had the privilege of seeing the film version of this story, Samson gives a brief but pleasant overview of events in this novelization of the film. An enjoyable read with a wonderful cast of characters that mirrors the memories of my own family.

Silver Swan says

It's just like its title . . . bella ("beautiful").

Drea says

I REALLY LIKE THIS BOOK...ME GUSTO MUCHOOOO ESTA MUYY BUENO

Jenna says

Good for a quick read, took about an hour. Ending was semi-predictable; not sure I'd buy this book new, but if I ever find a used copy I might. I am interested in seeing the movie, as the book is a novelization of the movie.

Debbie says

If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.

Bella is a short and bittersweet book about life and second chances. Everyone dreams of one life and yet sometimes the universe (God) has another plan. That's what this book is really about. I don't want to give it all away so.. That's it.

It's a very short read. If one has a day to spend reading it could probably be accomplished in no time. It started well and then there was a little time getting toward the middle that I felt a little detached but once I reached the middle it did climax and gain my attachment. From the back of the book I understand that this is a book based on the screenplay for this movie. I have yet to see the movie but have seen the trailers online

and it did help to mentally manifest the characters.

I'll give it a 3 although I wish I could give it a 2.99. It was good. It was nice. I liked the writing but I'm sure I'll forget it. No hard feelings but I just think I may. Yup, I recommend it. Quick. Not draining. Something to read in between books or to get from one book to another and a movie to boots.

As I always say... Next!!!

Eddie says

This was an easy, short read. A quick jaunt through New York telling the journey of a young girl facing the biggest challenge of her life. Joining her is a young, troubled man with his own past haunting him. Together they discover the answers to their problems and direction for their respective futures.

Cindy says

A moving book involving redemption, an unordinary friendship and self discovery. I enjoyed the two main characters and their desire to heal by reaching out to each other. It does not end in the typical way, but is satisfying all the same. I especially enjoyed "Jose's" character. Although his life took a sad and unexpected turn, he persevered and saw an opportunity to redeem himself by helping another.

Ashley McDonald says

I loved this beautifully written story full of broken, realistic characters on a journey to piece themselves together.

Vicki says

Bella was a movie before it was a book. It is our Book Club selection this month. It is the story of a young woman who has come to New York to break into show biz as a dancer. In the blink of an eye, years have passed and she is making a living as a waitress in an upscale restaurant. As the book begins she is realizing that she is pregnant, desperate and alone.

It is also the story of Jose. He is the cook in the restaurant where Nina works. His life was forever changed several years prior when he ran over a child due to his distracted driving. He spent time in prison, but is unable to forgive himself for taking the life of a child. He's a loner at work, but is excellent at his job. The restaurant is owned by his brother, so his idiosyncrasies are overlooked because he is so dependable.

Jose's brother Manny is a stickler for rules and decides to fire Nina when she shows up late to work. He not only fires her but humiliates her in front of her fellow employees. No one stands up for her and so she leaves, carrying the contents of her locker and not knowing what to do. Jose follows her, catches up with her, and offers to listen and provide some companionship.

Throughout the day they share their stories with one another and grow to appreciate the strengths and

difficulties that each of them has come through.

This is a touching story of the very real issue of unexpected pregnancy and the difficult choices the mother must make. It is a story of redemption through sacrifice and unselfish love. It won't take long to read...see what you think.
