

Hello?

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For 5 months Tricia lived in a place she could no longer call home, longing to be with her grandmother, the last family she had left. However, when she dials her deceased grandmother's phone number, she meets Emerson, the boy with her grandmother's phone number, over the phone early in the morning. They talk through each other's troubles and form a surprising new bond, finding that they each can give the other something—hope. Their new sudden bond and trust leaves them wonder if it is fate that really brought them together. The phone call transforms the lives of 5 teens, Tricia, Emerson, Angie, Brenda, and Brian, unexpectedly intertwining them as they are all forced to test the odds, searching for their happy endings. As their lives are thrown out of balance, they all find the need to face their pasts, accept the reality of the present, and hope for the future.

Hello? is a story of not only the hardships of life but also what makes us human. Built of the relationships of the 5 teens, the book rides on a theme of friendship and its importance in overcoming challenges, reminding the reader that no matter what you may face, you don't have to go through it alone. Heart wrenching yet hopeful and genuine, the complex networks the story builds as it twists and turns will leave you clinging on not wanting to let go. Laced together by mysterious serendipity, the book is ultimately a story of humanity but at its heart is a question: do you believe in fate?

What makes this novel so special is how genuine and yet surreal it feels. I was fascinated by the way that the stories of all the teenagers slowly knitted together by fate as they struggled through their own difficulties. Slowly all of the mystery and secrets hidden within the stories were slowly revealed as they peeled away their facades and became true to not only themselves but also those around them. The book does contain hints of romance, death, and trauma so I would recommend this book as a gift for teens 13 and up who carry a burden, however big or small, in their hearts or think they need a little serendipity.

Recommended Titles:

Harmonic Feedback by Tara Kelly

The Lucky One by Liz Lawson

Fear of Missing Out by Kate McGovern

Seven Ways We Lie by Riley Redgate