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Me Before You

Will Traynor is energetic, adventurous, and loves life, until a tragic accident happens that will forever change his life. In Jojo Moyes' novel Me Before You readers are shown how precious life can be and how to not take everyday things for granted. They also discover how their attitude can change the situation for the better or for the worse. Will is in a motorcycle accident from which he became a quadriplegic, causing no mobility anywhere from the neck down. He wants to end his life but he promises his mom he will wait six months. While he waits, he needs a caretaker to look after him, and that's where Lou comes in. After spending the six months with Lou, his mind was almost changed as she tries her best to help him discover all the things he can do in his wheelchair. Although she tries her best and almost changes his mind, the end is not the result everyone wanted. When Will becomes a quadriplegic after he is hit by a motorbike, he becomes depressed and doesn't enjoy doing the adventurous stuff he once did; however, when he meets Lou she brightens his spirit and makes him feel that there are still reasons to live.

Will Traynor is a thrill seeking man who is always looking for his next adventure, but one day when he gets into a life changing accident he realizes just how blessed he really was. On March 19, 2007 while distracted by his phone Will was hit by a motorbike when he walked into the street to get a taxi. "He hears a shout which may be his own. The last thing he sees is a

leather glove, and the shock in the man's eyes mirroring his own" (Moyes 4). This accident caused him to become a quadriplegic which means he is completely dependent on other people, and can never go back to the extreme way he used to live because he cannot move anything below his neck. It is ironic that it's not any of his wild expeditions that got him injured, but the simple distraction of his phone that causes him to become a quad. "I thought it would have been skiing or bungee jumping or something," Lou says. "Everyone does," he says. Will refers to his accident as "God's little joke" (Moyes 81). This is why Will has such a hard time adapting to his situation, because it happened so suddenly, and it wasn't even from one of his risky outings.

Being cooped up in a chair for the past two years has not done Will's mental health any good. Before the accident he was an independent and international business man who was used to doing what he wanted when he wanted. For example when his girlfriend suggests going to a spa for vacation he says, "I can't do those sorts of holidays. I need to be doing something" (Moyes 1). Will has become very depressed over the past two years because he feels as if he has completely lost himself. Although things will never be the same again there are still some things he can do in his chair that compare to what he used to do. However he hates trying to do these things because they only remind him of what he can't do now and how much he misses it. He hates having attention on him which is the only thing you're going to get when you go in public in a wheelchair, "Clark, every single place I go to now people look at me like I don't belong" (Moyes 158). Therefore he'd rather sit alone in his room and not have to deal with anyone or anything that'll remind him of what he can't do anymore.

When Lou comes to work for the Traynors she is just expecting to work for the six months they need her, while she keeps searching for a permanent job. Little does she know what an intimate and life changing relationship she is going to form with Will. When Lou finds out

that Will is planning on killing himself in six months she makes it her goal to change his mind. Lou's sister Trina encourages her goal by saying, "You change his mind. Start with something small, then once you get him out and about again, you think of every fabulous thing you could do for him, everything that might make him want to live— adventures, foreign travel, swimming with dolphins, whatever— and you do it" (Moyes 125). At first it's a bit of a struggle to get him out of his comfort zone but after some trial and error she is able to discover some things that Will would consider fun. Through her time with the Traynors Lou and Will form a very close bond, they just get each other. Even Mrs. Traynor begins to notice how much happier he is when she's around. After having worked with Will in very close proximity for the past six months nothing becomes too personal, and they just might have fallen for each other. Lou confesses her love for Will but he says they can't be together because he's not able to be his best self. " I know this isn't a conventional love story. I know there are all sorts of reasons I shouldn't even be saying what I am. But I love you. I do"(Moyes 323). The bond they have formed cannot be broken even by the unfavorable circumstances towards the end of the book.

Jojo Moyes' novel *Me Before You* is a story of tragedy, joy, love, and sadness. It shows readers not to take the small things for granted because in the blink of an eye someone's whole life can change. It also shows that your attitude matters, and the situation is only as bad as you make it. Will and Lou's bond shows that having good people around you when bad things happen can turn the whole situation around, and that no one should give up on life, or the people that love them no matter how hard it is just keep pushing through the hard days because there is always good to come.