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Mrs. Graning

English 11

26 August 2024

### Me Before You

In the book *Me Before You*, author Jojo Moyes explores many themes through the eyes of her characters Louisa Clark and Will Traynor. Will is a smart successful ladies man who was involved in a terrible motorcycle accident causing him to become a hurtful blunt quadriplegic person who hates his life. Lou is a full of life, beautiful, and quirky woman who comes into Will's life as his caregiver. Although they seem to contrast each other the two learn about each other's interests and grow a heartfelt connection. Will Traynor is a quadriplegic due to a gruesome accident, causing him to go from an outgoing, social, and adventurous person to being isolated and depressed wanting to end his life; as a result of meeting Louisa Clark his mood brightens and he will do anything to keep her happy while he's still hurting inside.

What started all this was Will's wreck that caused to become a quadriplegic. It was on a rainy morning he awoke with his former girlfriend Alicia, a leggy blonde in his bed with him and noticed if he didn't get up he would be late for work he had a new client coming in from New York. He got up and got dressed and when he was about to leave Will decided he was going to take his motorcycle out in the rain to work. He picked up his motorbike jacket and walked down to the garage. Upon his arrival Will is greeted by his security guard and says "What's it like out there mick." As stated in the story it was a rainy day it was raining cats and dogs mick stated.

Will made a conscious decision not to take his motorcycle out and take a taxi. The garage door opens and he tucks his neck into his collar and begins to jog to the junction in the rainy, and dark weather. While talking on his phone he does not pay attention to where he is on the street, in the stormy car ridden streets he realizes he's directly in the path of a speeding motorcycle, the blackberry in his hands drops to the ground and all he can see is the light and hear the screams of which are likely to be his. The last thing Will remembers seeing is a leather glove, a face under a helmet, and his own eyes through the reflection of said helmet.

Through Will's life he was always an active and fun person but this accident has changed his perspective on life, and his personality drastically changed to this self-hating, pitiful, and dreadful person who hated his life. Before the accident Will used to go on extravagant trips, take drastic risks, and he led an adventurous life while leaving a trail of broken hearts of leggy blondes behind him. He had pictures of him bungee jumping as Lou stated in the story on page 64 “It was the picture of him bungee jumping.” The most noticeable change about will was his demeanor. He didn't like to go anywhere, he pushed away anyone that would put up with him, and he said hurtful things. Although he was still alive he felt as though his life was pointless to say the least. Will despised the way his life had taken, he didn't smile and had no reason to get out of bed. At a point in his miserable sad life he decided it would be best he committed suicide. He had tried once before and failed. After trying to end his life Will made a choice and gave his parents six months before he would go off to switzerland to have a physicians assisted suicide.

In becoming a quadriplegic there are obviously certain tasks that you are unable to do like eating, self hygiene, and putting clothes, so there are people who come and help do those things that's where Louisa Clark comes in, and in doing so she changes Will's mood and personality back to the happy person he was. During his time with Louisa Will wasn't exactly a joy to be around for the first couple of weeks. After a visit from Will's former girlfriend and best friend saying they are getting married. When they leave Lou hears a loud noise come from Will's bedroom, he had broken the pictures of him and Alicia ( his ex). A couple of days later Will catches Lou repairing the pictures. Will made it known that he doesn't want those pictures put back together as he states on page 65 “ Me smashing those photographs was not an accident. It was not an attempt at radical interior design. It was because I actually don't want to look at them.” He wanted to make it known that those pictures reminded how far his life had fallen. After this altercation Lou defends herself telling Will he doesn't have to be a self pitying wallowing piece of crap to everyone that's trying to help him. Will's mood towards Lou drastically improved. He smiled and started joking with her a lot more. He feels like he had to do anything to make her happy but at the same time he realizes Lou gave him a sense of purpose and a reason to get up in the morning as he states on page 270 “Sometimes, Clark, you are pretty much the only thing that makes me want to get up in the morning.” Will was willing to do whatever to make Louisa happy at every turn. Even if it was just going out and staying out all night, he was going to risk his own health to make sure she kept a smile on her face. He faced pneumonia to keep her happy. He did everything she asked. He went on every trip. Participated in every activity she brought him to, but in the end Will still believed he'd be better off if he just ended his life. As he was straining to keep her happy, his happiness was withering away.

Will Traynor was a person who made the most of his life he was the person who saw doing extravagant and adrenaline driven activities to be the best part of living; due to a heart-wrenching crash with a motorcycle causing him to change into a terrible person to be around He's rude, insensitive, and refuses help and love from anyone. Nonetheless meeting his personal caregiver Louisa Clark brightens his mood and day; although Lou feels things are getting better for them both Will is still suffering internally. In the end the story *Me before You* acutely demonstrates that love and connection can reveal the light but pulls back the curtain for the circumstances reassuring the reader that one person can make all the difference.