

Emma Dawkins

Mrs. Graning

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Me Before You

In the book of *Me Before You*, the streets of a busy night in Central London were cold and rainy. Will is a British quadriplegic man who was in a motorcycle accident in the streets of London. Having this tragedy caused him to not get to things he wanted to do in life and made him suicidal. His family “The Traynors” are devastated by the fact that he wants to kill himself to relieve his misery. Will told his parents to give him six months to figure out what he wants. His new caregiver Louisa Clark, tries everything to help him change his mind. Louisa Clark is a talkative, vibrant, cheerful lady who is different from everyone else. Through the changes Will underwent after his accident he became overbearing and stubborn; however, after meeting Lou he became more talkative and a brighter person.

Will was in a traumatic motorcycle accident that changed his life forever. Will Traynor left his house in the rainy streets of Central London. He was going to take his motorcycle until he realized it was too rainy to drive it. He sees the headlights of a taxi and looks both ways to cross the street to catch the taxi. When he was in the middle of the street he glances up at the screeching sound and realizes he has no time to move out the way. His phone falls out of his hand and all people see is a leather glove and the sound of an explosion. In the book *Me Before You*, Jojo Myoles states, “He turns toward it, and in that split second he realizes that he is in its path, that there is no way he is going to be able to get out the way,” (4) This indicates how life can change in a split second. Because of the outcome of this traumatic accident, it caused Will to

be quadriplegic. He has to have someone feed him, dress him and do everyday things. In the article *Analysis Of Characterization of Will Traynor* it states, "He is paralyzed and feels that he lives an imperfect life." Imperfect life here means he lives in pain and wants to end his life which he thinks will never get better. This evidence shows how painful of a life Will has. He can't do anything for himself and has to get his caregiver, Lou to help him with everything. Because of the outcome of this accident, it caused Will to become very depressed and suicidal. Will is deeply distraught by the fact he is stuck in the wheelchair for the rest of his life. Will has many medical check ups and lots of medication he has to take because of the accident. In the book *Me Before You* it states: "I've adjusted those anti spasm meds and I'll make sure someone calls you with the results of the tests" This explains how he has to improve his medication to stop a problem that was caused by the accident.

There are many complex characteristics Will Traynor portrays throughout this book. Will is a depressing and stubborn man. He always has something to say, and wants everything his way. Will shows how he really feels and isn't afraid to tell someone that they are in the wrong. He always makes fun of someone but in a joking way, as this takes off the pain of what he is going through. Will shows his stingy personality in this line, "And what if I told you I didn't want you here?" (Moyes 57). Will shows his irritation toward caregiver Lou which indicates how rude he can be, but he can't help it because of how much pain he is enduring. Although Will can be a stingy man he is also a charming man. He can bring out the good side out of someone even if he is still joking around with them. Will was a ladies man and was a very attractive man. In the book *Me Before You* Lou points out, "His face began to emerge and I could see how easy it must have been to attract someone like Alicia," (Moyes 98). This shows how much of a charming man he was, as Lou was surprised to see how handsome he was under the beard and the long hair

after the haircut. Although Will has a stingy and harsh personality Lou improves his character and changes Will for the better.

The traumatic event of the motorcycle changed wills life in many complex ways throughout the book. Will was an adventurous, successful, and hardworking man. He was a broker and went on many exotic adventures before his accident. In the article "Analysis Of Characterization of Will Traynor" it states, "He also sees that life is full of enjoyment considering that before the accident, he is an athletic man who likes physical activities." This indicates how much he loved the outdoors and took his life for granted before the accident. Will's life may be very painful because of this accident, but it changed him to become stronger and have more faith in himself as a person. However, it also changed him in a bad way. Will became aggressive and was in total misery. In the book *Me Before You* Lou explains, "It was then I heard the crash. I ran out into the corridor just in time to hear another, followed by the sound of shattering glass. It was coming from Will's bedroom." This indicates how frustrated he is by the fact that his ex-girlfriend is now getting married. He knows he would have married her if he wasn't miserable and stuck in a wheelchair with a normal life.

Will's character changed drastically throughout the book once he met his new caregiver Lou. Lousia Clark was in need of a job after her former job was closing down. She went to the job center and found a caregiver job. The next day she meets Will as his caregiver. She was quite nervous and when she walks in the room to meet Will he starts screaming. Lou was quite startled and was now even more nervous than she was before. She is trying to start up a conversation with Will but he is being stubborn and giving snarky comments to Lou. In the book *Me Before You* Lou points out, "The man was grimacing, his head tilted and sunk into his shoulders as he stared at me through contorted features" (31) Lou talking about the way he acted when he met

her shows how unsettling it was for her to meet him the first time. Throughout the days of working with Will they start to have many arguments. Will would say rude comments to Lou or try to make her life harder. Lou explains in the book *Me Before You*, “I am probably going to finish my book. Will glanced at Nathan, “Tenner,” he said grinning. Nathan reached into his pocket. “Everytime,” he said.” (201) Obviously Will has a sense of humor but he can be rude to Lou. He likes to make fun of her and how she doesn’t do much when she gets home, and Lou doesn’t like him making fun of her for that.

However, Will and Lou both changed throughout the book and overcame multiple challenges. They both overcame many fears such as going through the maze, going out into public and meeting new people. Before Will met Lou, he was in deep depression and didn’t want to go out or even to talk to his own family at times. After he met Lou he became a more vibrant person and also got out of the house and went on trips. In the book *Me Before You* Lou explains: “You’re glad you came, right? I said tentatively. He nodded. “Oh yes”, This shows how much Lou got him out of his comfort zone and got him to actually go on a trip for once. Lou also changed throughout the book, Lou was a nervous but bright girl. Will brought out a different side of her and made her overcome her fear of heights and help her go through the maze she once was assaulted in. Lou says “Thank you for coming to get me.” This points out that Will helps her get through the maze and try to overcome her fear.

In conclusion Will’s character has many complex characteristics, even though he was a stubborn, depressed and snarky of a man his personality improved throughout the book. Even though the accident changed his life forever and he and his caregiver Lou found the bright side in his unstable life. They both grew a strong relationship with each other even though they had a bumpy start. They went through rough challenges but they also overcame many obstacles.

Works Cited

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