

Tripp Wimberly

Mrs. Graning

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Analysis of Will Traynor

On a rainy day in England, JoJo Moyes's novel, *Me Before You*, tells of Will Traynor on the day of his tragic accident. Will Traynor's family attempts to persuade Will to stay alive. Mr. and Mrs. Traynor hire a caregiver, Louisa Clark, for the sole purpose of keeping him happy. Louisa and Will become great friends throughout this novel, but ultimately Will's decision to die remains. The character transformation of Will Traynor involves the wreck that changed his character, how this horrid wreck affected his character, how Louisa changed Will in the end, and how Will influenced Louisa to live a more adventurous life.

Will's tragic wreck changed his life in many different ways, and it most of these changes haunt Will every day. Before the wreck Will was an exciting guy with many friends. Will liked to live an adventurous life and travel the world to various places. Louisa sees this when looking at the photos, "There was a man who might have been Will in what looked like a jungle, and him again in the midst of a group of drunken friends," (Moyes 36). Will was a happy person and enjoyed spending time with friends. Additionally, on the day of the wreck Will chose to take a cab instead of his motorcycle because of the rain. While he was getting a cab a motorbike hit him. Will talks to the security guard Mick to see if the weather is okay for the motorbike. Mike responds that it is raining and Will decides to take the cab. (Moyes 3). Will's decision to take the cab ends up being the worst decision of his life. As Will makes his way to the cab he describes

the last thing he sees, “ The last thing he sees is a leather glove, a face under a helmet, the shock in the man’s eyes mirroring his own. There is an explosion as everything fragments. And then there is nothing,” (Moyes 4). This traumatic life experience changed Will’s life majorly.

Consequently, Will’s character after the wreck takes a turn for the worse, as he cannot move from the neck down. Louisa finds out quickly that Will is not very well mentally after Nathen tells her to try and cheer him up and that she will have to have fairly thick skin.(Moyes 34). Will’s character can be described as depressed, gloomy, and overly angry at the world. Louisa finds cheering up Will’s angry and depressed attitude quite challenging, but she decides to try her best anyway.

When Louisa first met Will, she was skeptical, but she developed a plan to try and change Will for the better. The first time Louisa met Will, he was angry at everyone who tried to get in his life. Louisa tried her best, but she states, “ But, oh Lord he was vile to me. Everything I said, he had a sharp answer for,” (Moyes 45). Louisa was trying to support her family, but she was wondering whether or not she was going to stay working for the Traynors. Despite this, Louisa decides to stay, and devises a plan to take Will on an adventure to try and persuade him to live. Louisa and Katrina come up with the idea, “ You change his mind. You said he spends most of his time indoors, right? Well, start with something small, then once you’ve got him out and about again, you think of every fabulous thing you could do for him, everything that might make him want to live,” (Moyes 125). Louisa made her calendar full of plans attempting to get Will to change his perspective about being a quadriplegic. Because of Louisa’s plan to get Will going out more, Will started to become more comfortable being with Louisa. After some outings, Louisa describes Will's character changing, “some days I thought Will was happier—he went out with me without a fuss, he teased me, prodded me mentally, seemed a little more engaged with

the world outside the annex—”(Moyes 198). Will got more comfortable with Louisa, and even caught some feelings for her. Will and Louisa grew close, but Will ultimately decided at the end of his six month deal to leave this world. Although Will’s decision wasn’t Louisa’s favorite, Will changed Louisa’s life more than she had expected.

Louisa’s character evolved the more time she spent with Will, until he ultimately changed the rest of her life after his passing. Louisa was just an ordinary, boring character before taking the job for the Traynors. According to JM, Louisa’s character is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life with a steady boyfriend, close family, and never left their tiny village. Before Louisa took this job, she was perfectly fine with living her ordinary life, but she had never traveled to see the alternative to a more adventurous life. On the other hand, Louisa became open to a different culture when she started to spend time with Will. JM describes it perfectly by saying, “ After getting hired, Lou starts to develop into a very sophisticated young woman.” Louisa started to listen to different music, read different books, and watch different movies all because of Will. Although Will’s life had concluded, he still found a way to affect the way that Louisa lived her life. In Will’s final letter, he states, “So here it is: the check you got in the initial envelope from Michael Lawler was not the full amount, but just a small gift, to help you through your first weeks of unemployment, and to get you to Paris,”(Moyes 367). Will gave a large sum of money to Louisa so that she could go to college and live an adventurous life like he would have wanted her to.

Will Traynor’s character development includes the tragic wreck that paralyzed Will, how Will’s emotions were affected by this wreck, how Louisa helped get his character closer to normal, and how Will changed Louisa’s life by his sometimes harsh words and his generous gestures. Will’s character went from this adventurous, ladies man, and joyful person to this

depressed, angry at the world kind of person. Louisa changed this gloomy version of Will into a happier version of himself.