

Houston Edwards

Mrs. Graning

English 11

26 August 2024

Will Traynor's Character throughout the book "Me Before You"

Jojo Moyes book "*Me Before You*" is an intricate array of emotion and change. This book has two major protagonists that are polar opposites, these protagonists being Will Traynor and Louisa Clark (Lou), though these two characters could not be farther from one another in the beginning of the book, they end up getting closer to each other and learn from one another how to become better versions of themselves. Will Traynor has a very complex personality, and over the course of the book it changes in three major ways such as him being a normal and outgoing person, to a depressed quadriplegic, with no hope of ever doing anything he enjoys again; in the end, meeting Lou makes him a nicer version of himself and gets him back out of his comfort zone.

Will Traynor, coming from a wealthy family has always lived a life some people can only dream of skiing, ziplining and many more adrenaline filled activities crowded his schedule. He was living well with his girlfriend in a lavish apartment in the heart of London. All of this came to a brutal stop as a blinding light approached him on the way to his cab. As the light got closer Will's life started to move slower, the light approached closer and closer until Will's world went black. Will wakes not being able to walk or move his arms but he doesn't give up hope just yet. He attends physical therapy. After months of physical therapy he loses all hope to regain the abilities he lost. This is where he starts to become cold and pushes away his family, friend, and

his girlfriend. The book officially starts 2 years later with a near unrecognizable Will Traynor. He has long hair that looks unattended, with a scruffy beard. At this point Will had already tried to commit suicide, at this point he has completely given up. Even to a point where he has tried to kill himself by slitting his wrists on rusty nails to try and take him out of his misery. This is the part where his parents make a deal with him. They said that he could go to Sweden and get euthanized a year after the attempt suicide .

Will's mother hasn't given up yet, this is where she hires Lou. Lous job is to cheer Will up to where he wont commit suicide. Finally Will is introduced to Lou in which Will is really snappy and cold. He is nothing but mean to Lou. Until his best friend and Ex girlfriend announce to him that they are getting married. In response to hearing this news he lashes out on all the pictures he has of them, this action alarms Lou as she thinks that he has attempted to hurt himself again. Which causes them to get into a heated argument where in the end Lou finally sees Will smile. After this altercation will starts to open up little by little to Lou even to where Will starts to bring up topics. You can see this when he asks about her bumbe bee tights and about her life and ambitions. Although Will is getting to be quite fond of Lou he wasn't always. In their first few encounters Will only spoke when necessary or something meant to upset Lou. He did this because he believed she was almost too nice and bubbly. He did this because he had already given up and wanted to make it clear that he wasn't happy in the state he was in. Will did in fact change due to the presence of Lous nice and bubbly attitude and towards the end of the book he started to enjoy living again, which was a feeling he had long forgotten.

Although in the end of the book Will decides to go forward with his plan. He found peace in the joys of the life he had missed. Will Traynors character changed in major ways, from being taken away from the life he loved, to him wanting to die, eventually leaving this world with

peace, all due to the kindness of another person who showed him that his life didn't end when the motorcycle hit him. Life is a fading thing and can change in an instant, but it is what you do with the short time you have and how you treat people that makes life worth living. If Will Traynor can go from a outgoing person with everything they want to not being able to anything that he once loved, to finding peace with the help of others, then we as fully functioning people should take advantage of the time we have to explore the world in which God placed us in to enjoy.

Work cited

Moyes, Jojo. *Me Before You (Movie Tie-In)*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2016.