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Mrs. Graning

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### The tragedy, and symbolism of Will and Lousia

The themes and impacts of Will and Louisa's trauma in the book by Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You* is a novel about a young, lower-class girl named Lousia who needs a job to support her family. She finds a job for a quadriplegic man named Will, who is very depressed with how his life has become since his injury. They connect with each other after watching Will's favorite movie, "Of Gods and Men." This marked a turning point in their relationship when Will found enjoyment in life and became active again. Louisa thinks she's helping him get back to his former mindset, but then finds out the shocking truth about Will's plan to kill himself. The drama unfolds when Lousia has a traumatizing experience in the maze, which leads to her eccentric personality. This was displayed by her wardrobe changing from being well-dressed to oversized casual attire. Will's accident caused him to go from being an adventurous, exciting person to being gloomy and depressed. Louisa and Will's bond formed when she found out about Will's scheduled assisted suicide. Lousia's Trauma Without the story changing her clothing choices and the way she acts, Lousia's growing up in a lower class influenced the way she views the world and acts towards other people. Lousia shows that she has financial problems throughout the story. Lousia had to leave her job at a bakery after it had to close. With this and her dad not having a job, Louisa had to go looking for a new job to support her family. This action is what makes her get the job of being a caretaker for

Will. These actions that she has to go through show how much Louisa's family needs the money and how hard she'll work to get it for them. In addition to this, Louisa was also sexually assaulted in a maze, leading to major changes in her personality. This is shown through the way she dresses and how it changed from a well-dressed, classy manor to an odd, almost childish way of dressing. This is especially pointed out by Will, who would call out Louisa for the way she dresses, call it ridiculous, and make fun of her because of it. This really shows how her personality has changed due to the actions that happened in the maze. Will's accident and his Character and his character. Will was on his way to work on a rainy morning. He called for a taxi, and when he ran to catch it, he was hit head-on by a motorcycle. This results in Will being paralyzed from the neck down, making him quadriplegic. I will become extremely depressed due to this.

This is all shown through Will saying that he wants to go to Switzerland and have assisted suicide. This shows how much Will hates his life now and how he misses all the activities he did before his accident. Will, before his accident, was an adventurous and outgoing person. He would go on skiing trips and go all over the world. This is such a drastic change from his old personality to his present one, as he is now a depressed and angry version of himself. This is shown when Will rams into the side of his dresser, knocking over the pictures of him and his friends after they came over to see him. This heavily implies that Will is depressed and angry at everything because of how awful he thinks his life has become because of his accident. Will's secret with his parents. Will made a deal with his parents that, in 6 months, he would kill himself through assisted suicide. Louisa finds out by dropping Will's parents' conversation over the mail, and his mom is angry that he still wants to go through with his plan to kill himself in Switzerland.

Will has tried to kill himself before but it didn't work; this is shown through the cut on his wrist that Lousia sees and Nathan saying not to leave him on his own for long. This shows that Will has had this idea in his head for a long time, and he's ready to die. Lousia tries her hardest to change Will's mind. Lousia takes him on a bunch of trips that she thinks will make Will have his old mindset. This doesn't end up working, and he tells her in person that he still wants to die. This is shown when Will tells her he still wants to die while on their beach trip. This shows how much Louisa loves and cares for Will, and she wasn't just doing the job for the money for her family. *Me Before You* is a sad and tragic story by Jojo Moyes about a paralyzed man who needs a caretaker, and a girl named Lousia is hired to help him and try to cheer him up from his usual gloomy and depressed attitude. They have a rough start at first, but then start to connect over a movie Will picks out for them to watch. This is the beginning of them flirting and starting to fall in love with each other. Lousia makes it her job to make sure Will changes his mind and wants to stay with her. This ends up not happening, and she can't expect it, but then decides to be there for him when he dies. Lousia's character is the way it is through this story because of the changes she has faced in her past. This is because of the problem she had with the boys in the maze and the problems with money in her family. Will was an outgoing and happy person before his accident. That event changed his whole life and attitude toward everything he does. These events make Will suicidal, and he is planning to die by assisted suicide. Lousia overhears this and wants him to live, so she tries her hardest to change his mind.

Works Cited

Moyes, Jojo. *Me Before You*. Penguin Random House LLC, 2013, United States of America

- Me Before You Book
- Mrs Kraning slideshows