

Walker Probst

Mrs. Graning

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Me Before You

In a normal small town in the United Kingdom, lives the Clark family in Jojo Moyes novel, *Me Before You*, where Louisa Clark's dramatic and adventurous life unfolds. Within this town Louisa finds trouble with her work life and trouble with her love life. Louisa's bravery and determination leads her to events that change her for the better and losing someone she loves in Will Traynor. Louisa Clark is a twenty-six year old protagonist who evolves and changes throughout the course of the story by becoming more outgoing, falling in love with Will, and caring more about her work life.

At the beginning of the story Louisa does not associate herself with many others and does not travel outside of her small town much, but throughout the story she becomes more outgoing and comfortable with herself. Louisa became more outgoing by telling Will what happened to her in the maze when she was younger. When Louisa was younger her and some friends went into the maze with some tourists from out of town and they got her drunk. When she was drunk the guys forced her to kiss every last one of them before she could leave. After she kissed all of them they left her there. She was unable to get back out until later that night when her sister Katrina came and found her in the maze. Later in life Louisa got lost in the maze again and Will had to come save her. When he did she told him the story and her feelings. Deep secrets keep us from doing lots of things and when Louisa gets this off her chest she feels more free. Further,

Louisa and Will travel to Alicia, Will's ex-girlfriend, and Rupert's wedding, not far from their small town, which helps them with their social life. There Louisa meets many new people and does not care what others think about her. Louisa becomes friends with Mary Rawlinson, one of Will's old friends, who used to campaign for disabled people. The wedding helps Louisa connect with others and become less self-conscious about herself. In addition, Louisa, Will, and Nathan take a trip out of the country to the island of Mauritius. On this trip Louisa realizes that there's more to life than just her small hometown and family. Louisa shows she's started to care less about unnecessary worries and problems when she finally tries not to think about her future and just tries to live in the moment on her vacation (Moyes 318). Louisa becomes more easygoing and this trip helps change her for the better. Louisa becoming more outgoing and comfortable with herself, also has an effect on her relationships and love in her dramatic life.

Louisa's relationships and love life change tremendously throughout the story, she had a strong relationship, but just like many others do she wanted something different. Louisa and Will's relationship at the beginning of the story is not the best and they do not know each other that well. Louisa shows how bad their relationship is while talking on the phone with her sister Katrina saying, "Treen, he hates me. He looks at me like I'm something the cat dragged in," (Moyes 38). Their relationship was not the best and the conversation over the phone was just one of the ways she showed it. Furthermore, Louisa and her boyfriend Patrick's seven year relationship comes to an end shortly after Louisa moves in with him. When Patrick asks Louisa not to go on the trip with Will she says, "But he needs me," (Moyes 287). This statement causes Patrick to walk out of the room ending his and Louisa's relationship. As a result, Louisa and Will become very close throughout the story and this tremendously affects Louisa's life. Louisa falls in love with Will, and while on a trip to the Island of Mauritius and says, "But I love you. I do. I

knew it when I left Patrick,” (Moyes 323). Louisa uses the word love, one of the strongest and most meaningful words, to tell Will how she felt about him. Louisa’s relationship with Will helps change her for the better and encourages her to start caring more about her future and living her life how she wants to live it.

Louisa only wants to work a job around town and help her family with the bills, but throughout the story her jobs help her realize that she can do more than that and that she has potential to be a very successful woman. Louisa begins her work life working at a cafe for six years, enjoying her job even though it did not offer much money. When she comes into work one day her boss tells her they are closing down and gives her three months severance pay. This causes Louisa to stress out and panic about how she is going to help her family pay their bills. Therefore, Louisa goes to the job center and becomes a caretaker of Will Traynor on a six-month contract. She thinks her job just consists of going to the Traynor’s house to take care of Will, but it leads to her trying to save Will from committing suicide. This job helps Louisa learn many new things and shows her that she wants more out of her life and her future. As a result, Will convinces Louisa to apply for an interview at a nearby college. Louisa gets into college, but tells Will and her family, “I don’t think I can afford four years of study,” (Moyes 340). Later in the story Will commits suicide at a suicide clinic in Switzerland. Before he died Will left Louisa a note telling her he left enough money in his will for her to pay for college and living expenses. This opportunity will help Louisa live her life out more and her family in the future with money.

Overall, Louisa changes for the better by evolving and becoming a stronger person, while falling in love with Will. At the beginning of the story, Louisa cares how others perceive her, but Will changes her perspective on life which causes her to become more of an extrovert. Will’s impact on Louisa’s life causes her to care more about her future which will allow her the

opportunity to attend college. Without meeting Will, Louisa may have never come fully out of her shell and never lived her life to the fullest.

Works Cited

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