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Me Before You

The author of the novel *Me Before You* Jojo Moyes wrote this story when she heard of a rugby player who got in an accident that made him quadriplegic. The main protagonist Will Traynor is an extremely outgoing and adventurous person who lives in the South Wales town of Pembroke, United Kingdom. He was a remarkably successful banker who came from a very wealthy family. When Will was thirty-five, he got in a very tragic motorcycle accident that caused him to be a quadriplegic. After Will became a quadriplegic, he needed twenty-four-hour care. He was taken care of by a twenty-six-year-old named Louisa Clark or Lou. Will Traynor becomes a quadriplegic from a motorcycle wreck, and through this his character has changed from a very outgoing or adventurous person to a very hopeless person; however, Lou helps improve his loneliness.

At the beginning of the story, Jojo mentions that when Will Traynor was thirty-five years old, he got in a very tragic motorcycle accident. This motorcycle accident caused Will to become quadriplegic, which means he completely lost the usage of his leg and had limited usage of his hands and arms. Will shows his pain when “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 of its way.” (Moyes 4). The author uses similes and metaphors to show how big of an impact this accident had on Will. Not only did the accident take a toll on Will’s life, but it also affected the people around Will.

The effects of becoming a quadriplegic can completely change your life, as Jojo states, “I think if you live with that situation on a daily basis, you cannot fail but to ask yourself questions about quality of life and what we are doing for people alive, because of the advances in medical science but without necessarily the quality of life to offer them” (Warner). Will’s appearance was forever changed after getting into the accident. The accident also changed Will’s mindset, not just his appearance.

The consequences this accident left on Will's body caused him to get very down on himself and affected the rest of his life. Will was very adventurous, outgoing, and he often described his life as amazing before the accident. Louisa describes the agony Will is in when she says, “Oh God, Treen. It's worse than I thought. He is so miserable” (Moyes 40). The way Will got depressed so quickly had a large impact on the rest of the story. It caused him to think about his life in a very negative way. As a result of this accident Will never wanted to go outside or do anything. All he wanted to do was sit inside and do nothing. Will’s life became very boring, uneventful, and very dull. He starts to think no one cares about him as Louisa states, “No. I want him to live But I want him to live if he wants to live” (Moyes 392). Hearing Will’s words about giving up or wanting him to die shows what all Will has gone through and how his life has changed. Consequently, Will often had many suicidal thoughts, he thought no one loved him or even cared for him. As Louisa asks, “How did they assist someone who could not move their own limbs? I found myself gazing down at his wrists, which were always covered by long sleeves. I had assumed for weeks that this was because he felt colder than we did. Another lie” (Moyes 114). Hearing these lines shows how the accident takes a toll on Louisa and how she cares for Will. This realization of thoughts helps Louisa realize she must help get Will out of the house and do more stuff.

The overall impact of Louisa helped Will improve his loneliness. Louisa does everything she can to try and get Will out of the house. Louisa and her sister Katerina discuss ways to improve his loneliness, Katrina states, “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— adventures, foreign travel, swimming with dolphins, whatever— and then you did it. I can help you, I’ll look things up on the Internet at the library. I bet we could come up with some brilliant things for him to do. Things that would really make him happy” (Moyes 125). Louisa brought out some of the best parts of Will. However, since Louisa is trying to bring the best parts of Will out, she also fails sometimes. No one is perfect no matter how hard they try. Along with Louisa’s extensive ideas of things for Will to do, she also creates small activities for him. For example, Louisa says, “a walk around the castle, or a visit to the pub. If we end up swimming with dolphins in Florida, then that’s lovely” (Moyes 127). Louisa tries everything she can to try and make Will happier. On the other hand, Will comes out and tells Louisa how thankful he is for her and how much she changed his life. Will claims that Louisa made him happier by stating, “you Clark, are the only person I have felt able to talk to since I ended up in this bloody thing” (Moyes 246). Will is very thankful for Louisa because she helped him get out of the house and do things he liked to do. The overall demeanor of Will before and after Louisa not only makes you realize how much a person can change you, but also makes you realize your future can still shine.

Through the novel, you can determine how Will's character changed from outgoing and adventurous to a very hopeless person from a motorcycle accident, and how Louisa helps improve his loneliness. The novel highlights the key points of Will and how much one's life can

change in such a short amount of time. Will and Louisa's love for each other conjoins as Louisa is taking care of Will.

Works Cited

Moyes, Jojo. *Me Before You*. Penguin Books, 2013.

Warner, Kara. *Me before you: Real story behind Jojo Moyes' best-seller and New Movie*.

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