Jojo Moyes - *Me Before You*

In Chapter 1 of "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes, we are introduced to the protagonist, Louisa "Lou" Clark. Lou is a 26-year-old woman living in a small town in England with her close-knit family. The Clark family is not wealthy and relies heavily on Lou's income to make ends meet. Lou works at a local café called "The Buttered Bun," where she enjoys her job and the interactions she has with the regular customers. Lou's life is simple and predictable, but she feels content with it.

Her world turns upside down when the café unexpectedly closes, leaving her without a job. This is a huge blow to Lou, as her job was not just a source of income but also a part of her identity. The closure of the café throws her into a state of uncertainty and anxiety, as she feels the pressure from her family to quickly find another source of income. Her parents depend on her earnings, especially since her father is facing the threat of redundancy at his own job.

Lou embarks on a series of unsuccessful job interviews, illustrating her struggle to find a suitable replacement for her beloved café job. As her desperation grows, she reluctantly accepts help from the local job centre. There, she is presented with an unusual job opportunity: a six-month contract to care for a disabled man named Will Traynor. Although she has no prior experience in caregiving, Lou is drawn to the position due to the attractive salary, which would greatly help her family's financial situation.

Lou's initial hesitation about taking such a demanding job is evident, but her financial situation leaves her with little choice. The job description is deliberately vague, adding to her anxiety. However, Lou has a strong sense of duty towards her family and decides to go through with the interview.

The chapter concludes with Lou preparing to step into an entirely new world, one that promises to challenge her in ways she has never imagined. Her family, particularly her sister Treena, provides her with the necessary encouragement to take on this new role. As Lou heads into the unknown, the stage is set for a transformational journey that will test her limits and redefine her understanding of compassion and connection.