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Me Before You: A Novel (Movie Tie-In)



Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestseller, now a major motion picture. Look out for Jojo's new book, *Paris for One and Other Stories*, coming October 18, 2016. They had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose . . . Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life "steady boyfriend, close family" who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex "Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life "big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel" and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is. Will is acerbic, moody, bossy "but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living. A Love Story for this generation" and perfect for fans of John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Me Before You* brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common "a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart? From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My heart was not prepared for those kind of feels... *sigh*"The thing about being catapulted into a whole new life - or at least shoved up so hard against someone else's life that you might as well have your face pressed against their window - is that it forces you to rethink your idea of who you are. Or how you might seem to other people.'Louisa's life is lackluster and she's completely content with 'playing it safe' at life. Not that she's ever allowed herself to contemplate how different things

could possibly be. She goes to her job at the tea shop, she goes home to her windowless room at her parents house, and she occasionally spends time with her boyfriend Patrick who is far more concerned with his exercise regiment than he is with her. But when she loses her job at the tea shop she accepts a temporary 6 month position as a caregiver to a quadriplegic, Will Traynor. Louisa and Will are complete opposites and the first few weeks of them knowing each other they quite truly hated each other. Will was oftentimes irrationally difficult and Louisa was ready to quit, but she stuck it out and slowly they developed an extremely touching friendship. All I can say is that you make me...you make me into someone I couldn't even imagine. You make me happy, even when you're awful. I would rather be with you- even the you that you seem to think is diminished- than with anyone else in the world.' Their blossoming romance was one of the most convincing I've read in a long time and was truly uplifting. They changed each other in massive ways in such a short period of time. Louisa gave Will happiness that he hadn't experienced for a very long time and Will gave Louisa the determination to do something with her life and not let it go to waste.

(There's some spoilerish stuff in here) I realize I am massively in the minority on this one. 99.9% of the people who have already read *Me Before You* absolutely disagree with me. Prior to reading, I read no other reviews. As I was aware of how rabidly people love this book, I wanted my initial opinion to be unadulterated. So when I finished reading, I started skimming reviews. A lot of positive reviews have valid points, especially ones that applaud Moyes' writing style (though I have issues with its tone and unoriginal bent, it does strike me as capable). Where positive reviews jive most with my thinking is their emphasis: Will's decision, how sad this book is, and the touching lessons we can learn from it. Huh. Gave me pause. I went back and thought, while reading, did I feel changed by this book? Has this in some way altered my perspective on living? I did give it a fair thought, and no is still the answer. For the people who did feel that way, I think that's great and I wish *Me Before You* could have resonated on so personal a level for me. But it just didn't. So here I am, teetering out on a limb, amidst the blinding praise, contemplating why this was such a tepid read for me. Here's where I'm at... Reason 1: The first half was intriguing, the second half was boring. I'm not gonna lie, I gobbled up the first 135 pages or so. It seemed fresh to me and had a bit of that self-deprecating humor that makes me wish I was British. But then it got increasingly predictable and trite, and I found myself skipping whole paragraphs, and then pages, just to get to the place where the main action cuts through all the expected lead-up. Lou describing every facial movement, every little mundane activity multiple times throughout the novel started wearing on my patience.

Upon starting this book, it didn't take long for me to begin to loathe it. I was born with a physical disability and have been unable to walk since the age of 4. Therefore, I can say without hesitation that this book was written by a person with limited exposure to the disabled community... and it was written for people with limited exposure to the disabled community. The overdramatized and unrealistic sensibilities of this novel surely appeal to the Twilight-and-50-Shades-of-Grey-kind-a-reader, but most people with a working brain will see this book for what it really is: "tragedy porn." Let's do a little plot recap, shall we? (Spoilers ahead...) Handsome and successful Will Traynor is living the perfect life... great career, oodles of money and long-legged women arguing over who gets the privilege of shagging him next. But, oh no! Tragedy strikes! God-like Will ends up in a motor accident and becomes a quadriplegic. *gasp* What will he do next?! Err, nothing. He moves into his parents' guest house and proceeds to stare into space for the next half of the book. He leaves his job, his friends abandon him, and he does his damn best to lose every neuron of intelligence that had characterized his life up to this point. Enter Louisa Clark - a working-class girl that has recently lost her job in a diner. She's sharp and spunky, but has made nothing of her life other than complaining about how annoying her mother and sister can be. Louisa gets sent by an employment agency to Will Traynor's house to be a temporary (but, really, really well-paid) care assistant. But, she's hired to be more than a care assistant...

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