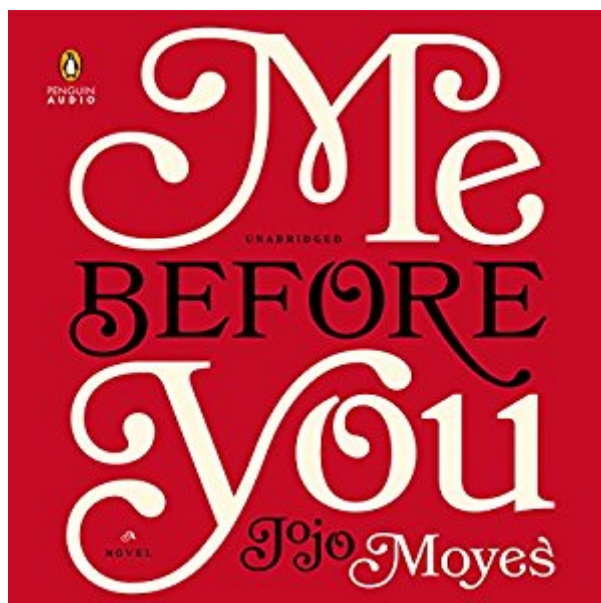


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# Me Before You: A Novel



## Synopsis

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 never been farther afield than her 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, *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?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

#Daughternumber2 read *Me Before You* by JoJo Moyes back at the End of April, Beginning of May. She gave it 5 stars and was such an emotional mess after reading it that I think I was taken aback by it. I am ashamed to admit that it took me weeks to pick up the book. I think part of it was because I was afraid that I wouldn't like the movie (and I really wanted to like the movie!) or that it wouldn't live up to all the hype. I did however pick up the book. I made plans with #DaughterNumber2 to see the movie on a Sunday afternoon. So Friday night I picked the book up. I was impressed, and loved being in a English (British) book. There is just something about the language that I love. I started

feeling connected to the main character, but also started to feel the pain, and sorrow that must of been going through Will and his parents. While this was a super interesting and REAL story, I was caught off guard by all the feels I had. I went through every emotion possible while reading this story! I latterly finished the book 20 minutes before leaving to see the movie! Now I am vary familiar with book to movie adaptions. And as far as those go, this was a pretty good adaption. I understand the scenes that were cut, and can understand why. I however had a few issues with the near end of the story and how things were changed for the movie verses the book. I wish that part was closer to the story. Overall I give the Book 4 1/2 Stars and the movie 4 stars.

I read *Me Before You* about two years ago and enjoyed it but decided to re-read it because I plan to watch the movie. I'm someone who reads the book before seeing the movie because I feel that books have so many more details and it's nice to see how close the book and movie are to each other. This is still my first Jojo Moyes book but after reading it twice now, I am definitely interested in reading some of her other books. "You only get one life. It's actually your duty to live it as fully as possible." Louisa Clark is a 26-year-old who lives with her parents in their small, comfortable English town. Louisa is a quirky sort of person. She has her own style and she's not afraid to say what's on her mind. She also has a sunny disposition, making her a likable person. After recently losing her job, she heads to the Job Center since her family is dependent on her income to help make ends meet. Louisa's only stipulation is that she wants nothing to do with wiping anyone's bottom. She interviews for a job about which she knows nothing and ends up meeting the person who will change her life completely. "You are scored on my heart, Clark. You were from the first day you walked in, with your ridiculous clothes and your bad jokes and your complete inability to ever hide a single thing you felt. You changed my life so much more than...will ever change yours." Will Traynor is a quadriplegic and doesn't have the use of his limbs, with the exception of a small amount in one hand. Will completely depends on others for everything, from eating to helping him sit up. He was once a very successful businessman who loved the outdoors and lots of sports. Now he is bound to his wheelchair for life and spends his days listening to music and watching films. Louisa is hired to be his caregiver and, after she is assured that she won't be wiping his bottom, she agrees to work for the Traynors for six months. Will is very difficult, understandably so given his circumstances, and Camilla Traynor hopes that Louisa's happiness will give her son a reason to smile. "I know we can do this. I know it's not how you would have chosen it, but I know I can make you happy. And 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." After I got partway into the book, I started remembering what I had read a couple years ago. Jojo Moyes is a British author so the dialogue and writing style are slightly different than books written by American authors. Even if you aren't too familiar with British vocabulary, it won't be like you are reading a book completely written in a foreign language. British humor is also different in that it's a dry, witty humor rather than laugh-out-loud humor. There are times when this book drags on a bit which is why I rated it four stars but most of the time it's fairly engaging and entertaining. I feel most of the characters are likable, except for maybe Patrick, but I think many books have at least one character who is annoying or strange and that person ends up influencing the plotline. The story is narrated mostly by Louisa but also is told by a few of the other characters. I'm glad I took the time to re-read this book because I enjoyed it. *Me Before You* is a combination of happiness and sadness, humorous and contentment. I feel it's most closely characterized as a contemporary fiction novel but has aspects of romance to it as well. I think this book will appeal to adult readers of all ages. I certainly enjoyed it and my 67-year-old mother-in-law also liked it. It contains some sad, emotional parts as well as beautiful, happy scenes so be prepared to have some tissues handy in case you are an emotional reader, like me! Overall, I'd recommend this book if you are looking for something new to read. I plan to read more of Jojo Moyes' novels and see the *Me Before You* movie soon!

Every summer I like to read a book like this – it's popular, a page-turner, and something I can read with the women in my family that everyone would probably like. This fits the bill. Within the first 100 pages of the book I thought, "This will either be a good book, or a horrible book – depending on the ending." Although the ending was predictable in my opinion, I still found that it validated my declaration of *Me Before You* as a GOOD book. In fact, the last 100 pages had me oblivious to the world, as I desperately needed to know how it ended. The author allowed a couple of random chapters to be narrated by other characters – a technique that is done a lot, but this was not alternated or done in any kind of methodical way. I'm still not sure if I can say it worked or not, but felt it was an inventive way to allow us to see how others viewed the main character (infinitely more positively than she views herself). The main character's insecurity and severe low self-esteem may be irritating to many people – especially in this day and age of such powerful female characters in literature, television, and cinema. However, her softness and openness to the experiences in the book was believable and endearing because of these qualities. Overall, a good, satisfying summer read.

I cannot write much about this book for fear of giving too much away. This masterpiece forces you to dive deep into the depths of your soul and ask yourself, what would you do? What would you do if you were Will and had to live each day with such horrible pain? What would you do if you were Clark and had to decide to be present and accounted for or refuse a loved one's final request? Would you even really know what you'd do because you, as the reader, are just an outsider looking in? It makes you explore the depths of your soul, though. I promise you that! What if this was you and your loved one? Everyone should read this book so they could explore the possibilities of what they would do if they were backed into an impossible corner.

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