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Opinion

Me Before You review

What would you do if everything you thought you knew disappeared forever? What if your whole life was changed in an instant? In Jojo Moyes young-adult romance novel, *Me Before You*, the questions that arise soon become a reality for the protagonist, Will Traynor. Once a successful businessman, Will is severely injured in a traffic accident, confining him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life and limiting mobility of his arms and legs.

With people having to assist him in everything he does in his daily life, Will comes to the conclusion that his life is meaningless and wants to end it, much to his parents' dismay. With no hope and no sense of purpose, Will plans to go to Dignitas, a medical center in Switzerland and commit suicide, until Louisa Clark comes along.

After losing her job at a well-known bakery, Louisa is desperate to find work anywhere she can. After what seems like forever, Louisa is appointed by the Traynors as Will's primary caretaker. Initially dismissive of Louisa's lighthearted and spunky nature, Will eventually overcomes the depression he has entered and the two fall in love.

The film adaptation remains pretty true to the novel, but there are still some differences between the movie and the story. One major difference is the film's choice to leave out Louisa being sexually assaulted in a maze she once played in as a child. While this was a minor subplot, it still would have helped to add this scene for Louisa's character development and added an essential backstory.

Another change to the film is the absence of Will's overprotective, but well-meaning sister, Georgina Traynor. Many may question how a minor character is essential to the overall plot, but it would have helped to add a little more perspective to an already fragile situation and a juxtaposition to Will's personality. Perhaps the addition of another antagonist would have made the resolution of the movie better.

One final plot change from the book to the film is the exclusion of Stephen Traynor's, Will's father, affair. While this was probably not essential to the overall plot, it still adds some backstory to the parent's lives for character development, and contributes to the portrayal of the broken life Will lives in. Since Will has seen broken love before, his relationship with Louisa could have been affected.

While the movie was true to the main plot of the book version of *Me Before You*, the addition of a few backstories that were included in the book could have enhanced the plot of the movie. While it was disappointing to not see these, the movie was still enjoyable. When people see their favorite film being brought to the big screen, they want to see it being done with justice, and *Me Before You*, filled with a great cast and stellar acting, accomplished this. The film could not have been a better adaptation, and the life that was brought to this novel by the film is truly magical.