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Jojo Moyes

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Jojo Moyes : Me Before You: A Novel (Movie Tie-In) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Me Before You: A Novel (Movie Tie-In):

159 of 176 people found the following review helpful. A waste of two lives and an ending
By M.L
Let me start by saying that I know I'm in the minority here, but I did not care for this novel at all. I'm not going to get into the movie trailer that was recently released, but I must say that a lot of moviegoers are going to be deeply disappointed. I have to applaud Moyes' high-quality writing, the way she seems to effortlessly string words together to tug the reader in whichever direction she pleases is impressive and the beginning of the book seemed promising, akin to the fault in our stars' plot line where the characters' illnesses provide them with a depth and humanity that makes their relationship and interactions intriguing. But it all goes downhill from there. Lou's character is so precious, her perseverance and love for Will was strikingly beautiful. However, her efforts are all pointless and the message we are left with is that a life with disability is not worth living. This book had the chance to inspire and challenge the reader, to bring them close to the realities of living with physical challenges while proving that life can go on and there is beauty and hope in what others would deem tragic. Will is surrounded by a family that cares for him, he has financial stability, he can still do countless activities despite his condition and most importantly, his life is enhanced by the presence of a character who is willing to give up absolutely everything for the slim chance to change his mind. I was furious as I read the book's ending. (which was predictable but still undesirable) Lou is willing to give up everything because she learns to see beyond the wheel chair, she can see Will as the man he can no longer see himself as. Will's letter at the end was especially infuriating. He asks her to fulfill her potential and pursue a life she'd missed out on, to live the life she "deserves". He spends his last months telling her that nothing would make him happier than seeing her flourish outside

their hometown, yet he is unable to understand that the only life she wants is one with him in it. He urges Lou to expand her horizons and challenge her limits and yet he can't seem to see beyond his wheelchair. It was cowardly of him to give everything up when he had a chance at life with someone who could see him for who he truly was, he is haunted by an image of his old self and fails to realize that Louise is in love with the man he is now, and asks for nothing more than his will to live. It is NOT a heroic act, it is arrogant to decide when his life should end and the suffering he caused Lou far outweighs any "opportunities" he could have given her with the inheritance. It seems that only those that are close to or have witnessed the struggle of someone living with physical disabilities see the atrocities being discussed in the novel. That despite all the reminders that his life can still be filled with joy and love, he has the right to choose when to end it, regardless of who he hurts in the process. I've read many books that don't end in happy ever after, but there was not point to the depressing, suicidal ending. No reason could have justified his choice but his decision to die is summed up as his inability to cope with the fact that he can no longer live the adventurous life he used to have or behave as the successful, athletic, popular, rich kid he once was. Will despises the fact that he can not make his own choices, and yet he urges Louisa to go back to school, move on with her life, and witness his death without regard for her only request - his presence. The final scene is selfish and cruel, Lou is left suffering quietly because of her love for him. It goes against everything ethical and moral Lou's family stands for and yet she stands by him as he fails to see the life he could have led with her. Life already has its downsides and challenges, I don't need a novel that celebrates suicide and contemplates that tragedy makes life pointless.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. heartbreakingly poignant
By Cheryl
When Louisa Clark loses her comfortable job as a waitress at a local cafe, she is forced to seek new employment. Money is tight in her family, and Louisa is having difficulty finding a job that is a good fit, especially given her lack of training. She reluctantly accepts a position as a day-time caregiver to Will Traynor, a man who had once lived a big life, but is now a cripple and cannot even feed himself. At first, Will seems to want nothing to do with Lou, but he gradually seems to accept her and begins to teach her to look outside of herself for the bigger possibilities her life might hold. One day, Lou overhears a conversation, and her blood runs cold. It seems the six-month term on her employment has a reason, a very sinister one. If Will does not change his mind about his life in six months, he will travel to Switzerland and commit assisted suicide. Lou tries everything to change his mind, widening her own horizons in the process, but can she convince Will life is worth living?

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good Summer Read
By MyHumbleOpinion
Every summer I like to read a book like this - 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.

#1 New York Times bestseller, and major motion picture. Read the sequel *After You* and Jojo's new book, *Paris for One*. 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?

.com Best Books of the Month, January 2013: Before Louisa met Will, her plans didn't reach beyond their tiny English town. Will, when he wasn't closing multimillion-dollar deals, blew off steam scaling mountains, leaping from planes, and enjoying exquisite women--until an accident left him paralyzed and seriously depressed. When his mother hires Lou to keep his spirits up, he meets her awkward overtures with caustic contempt, but she's tenacious and oddly endearing. Their fondness grows into something deeper, gaining urgency when she realizes his determination to end his life, and her efforts to convince him of its value throw her own bland ambitions into question. Plumbing morally

complex depths with comedy and compassion, Jojo Moyes elevates the story of Lou and Will from what could have been a maudlin weepie into a tragic love story, with a catharsis that will wring out your heart and leave you feeling fearless. --Mari MalcolmFrom BooklistIn *The Last Letter from Your Lover* (2011), Moyes presented a heavily plotted novel that spanned decades and featured parallel romances. Her newest work dials down the intricacy, and the result is a far more intimate novel. Moyes introduces us first to Will Traynor, a formerly high-flying, thrill-seeking executive now confined to a wheelchair as a quadriplegic. Twentysomething Louisa "Lourd" Clark has been hired as his caretaker, despite a total lack of experience. As the prickly Will and plainspoken Lou gradually warm to each other, she learns that the six-month length of her contract coincides with the amount of time Will has agreed, for his parents' sake, to postpone his planned assisted suicide, a subject Moyes treats evenhandedly. Armed with this information, Lou sets about creating adventures for Will, hoping to give him a reason to live. Simultaneously, Will encourages Lou to expand the expectations of what her life could be. All signs point to romance and a happy ending for the pair, but Moyes has something more heartbreakingly truthful in mind: Sometimes love isn't enough. --Patty Wetli Praise for *ME BEFORE YOU*: "A hilarious, heartbreaking, riveting novel . . . I will stake my reputation on this book." --Anne Lamott, *People Magazine* "When I finished this novel, I didn't want to review it: I wanted to reread it. . . . an affair to remember." --*New York Times Book Review*, Liesl Schillinger "An unlikely love story . . . To be devoured like candy, between tears." --*O, The Oprah Magazine* "Funny and moving but never predictable." --*USA Today* "Funny, surprising and heartbreaking, populated with characters who are affecting and amusing . . . This is a thought-provoking, thoroughly entertaining novel that captures the complexity of love." --*People Magazine* "Masterful . . . a heartbreaker in the best sense . . . *Me Before You* is achingly hard to read at moments, and yet such a joy." --*New York Daily News* "READ IT AND WEEP: Heartbreak collides with humor in Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*." --*Good Housekeeping* "There are books that you cannot put down. There are also books where you become so invested in the characters, you force yourself to stop reading to prolong the experience because you don't want the story to end, and that's what can happen when you read Jojo Moyes' latest book, *Me Before You*. . . . You'll find yourself laughing, smiling, feeling angry and, yes, crying. My only suggestion: *Me Before You* should be sold with a pack of tissues." --*The Associated Press* "Jojo Moyes has written the perfect modern love story. . . . You will be astonished at what you feel, and what you hope for when you are forced to face the possibility of your own dreams. It's that good. Read it now." --Adriana Trigiani, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Shoemaker's Wife* "ME BEFORE YOU is a delicious surprise--funny and hopeful and heartbreaking, the kind of story that will keep you turning pages into the night. Lou Clark and Will Traynor will capture your heart and linger there long after their story has ended." --Eleanor Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Weird Sisters* "Some books make you stop and think, compel you to examine your own take on life or your position or stand on an issue. . . . Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You* will surprise you--it is impossible not to put yourself in the characters' shoes and you will find yourself thinking about the choices you might make if life changed in an instant. . . . I loved it." --Lee Woodruff, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Those We Love Most* "A lovely novel, both nontraditional and enthralling." --*Publishers Weekly*, starred review "Moyes' twisting, turning, heartbreaking novel raises provocative moral questions while developing a truly unique relationship between two people brought together by chance. With shades of David Nicholls' beloved *One Day*, *Me Before You* is the kind of book you simply can't put down--even when you realize you don't want to see it end. . . . A big-hearted, beautifully written story that teaches us it is never too late to truly start living." --*BookPage* "Moyes' latest is made heartwarming, thanks to the vibrancy of its main characters, both of whom will keep readers on their toes with their chemistry and witty repartee. . . . humorous and romantic through and through." --*Romantic Times*

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