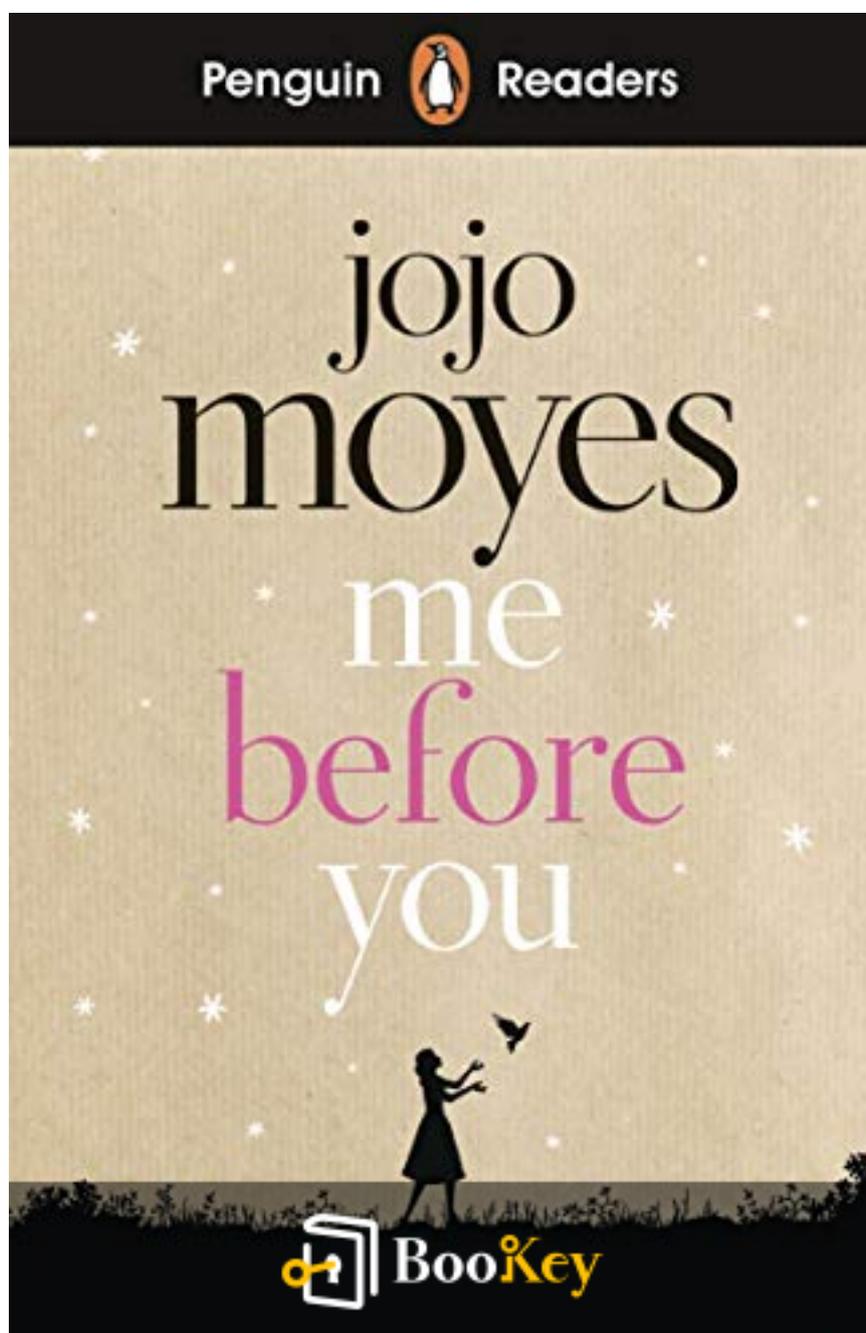


Me Before You PDF (Limited Copy)

Anna Trewin



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Me Before You Summary

A journey of love and the choice to live.

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About the book

In **Me Before You**, Anna Trewin weaves a poignant tale of love, loss, and the transformative power of human connection as it follows the unexpected bond between Louisa Clark, an eccentric and vivacious young woman, and Will Traynor, a wealthy businessman left wheelchair-bound after a tragic accident. Set against a backdrop of societal expectations and personal aspirations, the narrative explores profound themes of autonomy, the right to choose one's fate, and the impact of choices on the lives of those we hold dear. As Louisa steps into a role that challenges her own beliefs and dreams, readers are drawn into a heart-wrenching journey that raises crucial questions about the meaning of living fully, loving deeply, and letting go. This captivating story invites you to reflect on how we define true happiness and the lengths we go to help those we love reclaim their lives.

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About the author

Anna Trewin is a gifted British author known for her poignant storytelling and complex character development, with a focus on the theme of human connection. Though she is often compared to contemporary literary giants, Trewin's unique voice sets her apart as she navigates the emotional landscapes of love, loss, and the challenges of life. Her debut novel, "Me Before You," captures readers with its sensitive portrayal of a relationship that transcends physical limitations and societal expectations. Through her adept prose and heartfelt narratives, Trewin invites readers to explore the depths of resilience and empathy, firmly establishing herself as a talented storyteller in the world of modern literature.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

In Chapter 1 of "Me Before You," we meet Will, a man who thrives on adventure and excitement, as he prepares for a holiday with his girlfriend Lissa. While she dreams of a relaxing beach getaway in Bali, Will insists on thrilling activities like mountain climbing and bungee jumping. Their playful banter reveals a caring relationship, but also a disconnect in their desires. As Will heads out into the rain, alert and busy, he receives urgent work calls and discusses potential plans to fly to New York for business. In a moment of distraction, he sprints across the street to catch a taxi, only to be struck by a car, leaving readers on the edge of their seats as everything fades to black.

The narrative then shifts to two years later, where we meet Louisa "Lou" Clark, who works at a café named the Buttered Bun. Despite the modest setting and a steady routine, Lou enjoys her job and the familiar faces she encounters. However, her world is shaken when the café owner, Frank, informs her he's closing down to care for his sick father and that tourists will no longer frequent his place. This news devastates Lou, setting a grim tone as her family faces financial struggles. With her sister heading to college and her mother busy caring for their grandfather, Lou feels the weight of responsibility resting heavily on her shoulders.

Reeling from her job loss, Lou confides in her boyfriend Patrick, a

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self-assured personal trainer who suggests she pursue a more ambitious career. However, her desire to relax clashes with his insistence that she must act swiftly to change her life. Feeling pressured, Lou reluctantly visits the job center, where her experiences in various low-paying jobs expose the stark realities of her situation. After a series of interviews, she's presented with a potential role as a care assistant for a disabled man, which offers a glimmer of hope in her otherwise uncertain future. This chapter nicely balances themes of ambition, responsibility, and personal growth, setting the stage for Lou's next steps and how they intertwine with Will's fate.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace change and uncertainty in life as opportunities for growth

Critical Interpretation: As you reflect on Lou's unexpected journey after losing her job, consider how this moment of upheaval could inspire you to embrace change in your own life. Just as Lou finds herself navigating unfamiliar territory, remind yourself that life often presents challenges that push you beyond your comfort zone. Instead of fearing the unknown, see it as a chance to rediscover your passions or explore new paths that may lead to personal fulfillment and unexpected adventures. Let Lou's resilience motivate you to step confidently into the uncertainties of life, transforming potential setbacks into opportunities for growth.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

In Chapter 3 of "Me Before You," Louisa Clark prepares for a job interview at Granta House, where she is expected to assist Will Traynor, a young quadriplegic man. Her mother insists that she wear a suit for the interview, a significant change from her usual quirky style. Arriving at the luxurious house, Louisa meets Will's mother, Camilla Traynor, and is quickly confronted with the reality of Will's condition. Despite her warmth and humor, Louisa struggles to convey her suitability for the job, feeling overwhelmed when her skirt tears during the interview.

Mrs. Traynor explains that Will needs constant care, as he cannot move much beyond his hands. Louisa humorously comments that it is a bigger problem for Will than for her, but her attempt at levity falls flat. After some tension, she is offered the job and agrees to start the next day.

The following morning, Louisa is introduced to Will's living space and receives a brief overview of her responsibilities. Mrs. Traynor explains the importance of Will not being left alone for more than fifteen minutes. As they approach Will's room, tension builds when he is described as difficult; however, upon entering, Louisa is met with a startling outburst from Will. Their initial interaction is fraught with unkindness from Will, making it evident that he is struggling with his new reality. Although he seems aloof, the humorous dynamic hints at potential for an eventual friendship.



As Louisa navigates her new role, she often feels isolated and unwanted, especially after realizing Will's bitterness towards his situation. Meanwhile, her family pressures her to maintain the job for financial reasons. Despite initial tensions, she begins to establish a routine, caring for Will while trying to learn more about him.

Will's scathing remarks about her chatty nature create a humorous yet painful backdrop to her work, underscoring the challenge of connecting with someone so embittered by life's circumstances. Over the course of two weeks, Louisa's perseverance slowly begins to yield some progress; Will starts to engage with her, asking about her life. Yet, the shadow of Will's struggles becomes more pronounced when he falls ill, and Louisa steps up to care for him, showcasing her growing sense of responsibility and compassion.

The chapter ends on a poignant note, revealing the challenges both characters face, with Will grappling with despair and Louisa striving to break through the walls he has built around himself. Themes of resilience, the weight of dependency, and the complexity of human connection imbue the narrative, setting the stage for their evolving relationship.

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Chapter 3: 3

In Chapter 6 of "Me Before You," Louisa decides to resign from her job caring for Will Traynor after overhearing a conversation that reveals his family's plan to send him to Dignitas, a clinic for assisted suicide. Feeling betrayed and realizing that the Traynors are treating her like a mere employee rather than a friend, she writes a letter and leaves her position, which prompts Mrs. Traynor to approach her outside her home, pleading for her to return. Mrs. Traynor expresses a belief that Louisa brings joy to Will's life, but Louisa is adamant about her feelings and refuses to accept a higher salary.

Upon returning home, Louisa confides in her sister Treena about Will's situation, leading Treena to suggest an idea: helping to change Will's perspective on life by taking him out for various activities. This sparks a moment of excitement for both sisters, who see a plan for Will's happiness taking shape. Louisa then pitches this idea to the Traynors, who are taken aback but ultimately agree to support her vision.

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Chapter 4 Summary: 4

In this chapter of "Me Before You," May unfolds with a mix of uncertainty and change. The discussions around assisted dying grow prominent, particularly as Will engages with the news about individuals seeking to end their lives at Dignitas. His increasing interest in these stories adds weight to the shared concern from Louisa and his mother, Mrs. Traynor, regarding Will's intentions and mental health.

Louisa and Will's friendship deepens as they spend more time together, exploring theaters, concerts, and walks in their town, which reveals a more vibrant side to Will's character. However, Louisa faces turmoil at home as her father loses his job, leading to a new chapter for her family when he secures a position helping Will's father with the furniture at the castle. Though this development is positive, it simultaneously stirs anxiety in Louisa about her own role in Will's life and her fear that he may not reconsider his decision about Dignitas.

As Louisa grapples with these pressures, the narrative showcases a critical moment when a lawyer named Michael Lawler visits Will, raising alarm about Will's plans for his will—an unspoken confirmation of his desire to die. Louisa shares her worries with Mrs. Traynor, who suggests planning a holiday for Will in an effort to lift his spirits. This idea culminates in their unexpected decision to attend a wedding together.



The wedding of Lissa and Rupert becomes a significant turning point. Will, initially indifferent about attending, ultimately agrees, possibly as a testament to his complex feelings surrounding his own life and choices. Louisa carefully prepares for the event, opting for a dress that Will admires, highlighting her desire to make him happy. Their day unfolds amidst a backdrop of joyful yet bittersweet moments, as Will reconnects with old friends and participates in the day's festivities, all while Louisa fears the emotional toll it might take on him.

As the evening progresses, the atmosphere shifts with laughter, conversation, and music. When Louisa sits on Will's lap to dance, there's a moment of intimacy and joy that stands in stark contrast to the impending conversations about Will's choices. Their connection deepens with Will expressing that Louisa is a reason for him to wake up each day, prompting Louisa to propose a getaway together—an invitation for spontaneity and freedom. The chapter ends on a hopeful note as Will agrees, hinting at a turning point in their relationship and perhaps a last chance for adventure before the looming shadows of his choices come to light.

Overall, this chapter encapsulates themes of friendship, the struggle for independence, the weight of choices, and the bittersweet nature of love and loss, marking a poignant shift in Louisa and Will's journey together.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In Chapter 11 of "Me Before You," Louisa Clark faces a pivotal moment in her life and her complicated relationship with both Patrick and Will. While on a run with Patrick, she reveals that she won't be attending his triathlon in Spain because she's going away with Will. When she explains that Will is contemplating suicide, Patrick becomes visibly angry, feeling threatened and confused about their relationship after seven years together. This confrontation leads Lou to assertively end her relationship with Patrick, emphasizing the gravity of Will's situation.

Quickly transitioning to the hospital, Lou finds Will unwell and declining, yet she remains steadfast, committing to support him through his struggles. As days stretch into weeks, Lou makes it her mission to find a perfect getaway for Will to help him heal, leading them to a beautiful resort in Mauritius.

As they embark on this holiday, both Will and Lou grow closer. Enjoying the stunning surroundings, they develop a routine that includes lounging by the pool and sharing intimate moments, which culminates in a heartfelt encounter on the beach. Will, however, is conflicted; despite the happiness they share, he is reminded of his limitations and his upcoming decision regarding Dignitas—the assisted suicide facility.



On the last night of their trip, their connection reaches a peak as they share a kiss, but Will quickly pulls away, unable to reconcile his feelings for Lou with the harsh reality of his situation. He expresses that he can't be the man he wants to be in a relationship with her because of his disability and suffering. Though Lou professes her love and her desire to support him, Will insists he must pursue his own choice to end his life, asking her to accompany him to Dignitas.

The distress of this revelation sends Lou into emotional turmoil, and upon returning home, she isolates herself, grappling with her feelings and the reality of Will's decision. However, a call from Mrs. Traynor and a deep reflection on her love for Will prompts Lou to change her mind, deciding to support him in his final choice.

When Lou arrives at Dignitas, she sees Will in a room that feels deceptively ordinary. A profound moment of connection occurs as they share intimate words and reminisce about their time together. Will asks Lou to tell him something good, and she narrates a heartfelt story, conveying the depth of their bond. In a touching exchange, Will expresses his gratitude and affection for Lou, encouraging her to pursue her dreams. He subtly gifts her the means to attend college, demonstrating how profoundly she's impacted his life despite his own struggles.

The chapter closes with Lou in Paris, reflecting on Will's letter, which

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encompasses both love and an urge for her to live fully. Will's words echo his belief in Lou's potential and courage, urging her not to be sad and to embrace life after he's gone. This bittersweet blend of love, sacrifice, and the reality of life choices is key to the evolving themes of the narrative, emphasizing the poignant connections formed in the face of adversity.

| Key Events | Description |
|----------------------------|---|
| Louisa's Decision | Louisa informs Patrick she won't attend his triathlon in Spain because she is going with Will, revealing Will's suicidal contemplation. |
| Confrontation with Patrick | Patrick reacts angrily to Lou's decision, leading Lou to end her long-term relationship with him due to the seriousness of Will's situation. |
| Support for Will | Louisa visits Will in the hospital, where she pledges to support him, despite his declining health. |
| Mauritius Getaway | Louisa plans a holiday in Mauritius to help Will heal; they develop a close bond during their vacation. |
| Emotional Conflict | While they share joyful moments, Will struggles with the reality of his disability and his impending decision regarding assisted suicide at Dignitas. |
| Last Night & Kiss | On the last night in Mauritius, they kiss, but Will pulls away, expressing he can't be the partner Lou deserves because of his condition. |
| Lou's Emotional Turmoil | After returning home, Lou grapples with her feelings about Will's decision to pursue assisted suicide. |
| Decision to Support Will | A call from Mrs. Traynor and reflection prompts Lou to support Will in his choice at Dignitas. |
| Final Meeting | Louisa meets Will at Dignitas; they share intimate words and reminisce, |



| Key Events | Description |
|---------------------|---|
| at Dignitas | illustrating the depth of their connection. |
| Will's Gift | Will encourages Lou to pursue her dreams, revealing a gift for her college education, highlighting his gratitude. |
| Reflection in Paris | The chapter ends with Louisa in Paris, reflecting on Will's letter, which encourages her to embrace life after his passing. |

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