

Me before you by Jojo Moyes

1. A very compelling read, funny and moving.
2. The ambiguity of the title is reflecting the ambiguity of the ME and YOU. Who does ME refer to and who does YOU refer to?

ME might be seen more easily as the character Will, and You as Louise. But in fact, the two characters are both ME and YOU, and are therefore interchangeable. Both characters place themselves first in their action and reactions. Louise who believes to be altruistic when refusing to let Will die is in fact failing to see Will's point of view. She believes that love is sufficient. Will is more 'honest' as he knows what the future entails and doesn't want that kind of life, for himself but in some ways for Louise too.

Both characters are credible but with flaws.

I personally find Will the more convincing throughout the book. Louise is less so at times. She is depicted as a working-class girl with little experience of the world outside where she lives and has lived all her life. However, her judgemental view of wealthy people is actually quite sophisticated while being preconceived. She can be intuitively very perceptive in relation to Will and yet lack seeing his real needs in terms of activities that could help him as well as his need for people to respect him in his new situation.

The book raises many questions:

What would I do, feel if I were Will. How would I react and behave?

Ditto if I were Lou, her parents, Will's parents?

It touches on many subjects: the power of wealth; the power of knowledge; world experience; the inquisitive mind; the influence of our background on our decision making; people's expectations in life; parental influence and expectations; siblings' rivalry and support... It is much more than a love story.

Sabine Deering