



Name of Movie: Me Before You (2016)

Directed by: Thea Sharrock

Major Cast: Emilia Clarke
Sam Claflin

Movie Genre: Romance
Drama

Plot

Louisa Clark (starred by Emilia Clarke) was a cheerful and charming 26-year-old lady living with her working-class family. After losing her job as a waitress, she was hired as a caregiver by Will Traynor who was hit in a motorcycle accident and became a quadriplegic and he was a very successful banker before the accident. He lost his will to live due to depression and hopelessness as he knew that he couldn't regain the use of his body.

In the beginning, the relationship between Louisa and Will was not good, Will treated Louisa with contempt. One day, Will's former best friend paid a visit to him with his girlfriend. After the visit, Will was full of anger and smashed all the photographs. Louisa tried to repair them all; however, Will didn't accept it and even had an argument with Louisa. Later, Will started developing a close connection with Louisa by inviting her to watch a movie together and they started chatting with each other and shared everything. Will thought Louisa's life was too boring with no hobby and interest. He suggested Louisa to broaden her horizons and it was her responsibility to live her life as fully as possible.

While Nathan, a private nurse of Will, was having treatment with Will on one of his occasional illnesses, Louisa noticed that his wrists were full of scars which showed that Will had attempted to commit suicide. Sometime after, Louisa learnt that Will had given his parents six months before taking legal euthanasia in Switzerland, as he thought that his life was hopeless and he refused to accept he had to spend his whole life in the wheelchair and be taken care of by others. Louisa was shocked by his decision and decided to change his mind of ending his life, so she organized various activities and tried to brighten him up.

No matter how much effort Louisa put in to change Will's mind, he still insisted on taking legal euthanasia in Switzerland as he didn't want to spend his whole life in the wheelchair. He even invited Louisa to accompany him to Switzerland to be with him in his final moment. Louisa immediately quit as she was too sad to accept it. She hid at home and didn't communicate with Will. Later she was encouraged by her father and decided to find Will in Switzerland.

Some weeks after Will's death, she read the letter written by Will mentioning that he had left her a huge amount of money for her to start a new life. At the end of the letter, Will declared his love to Louisa.

A. Highlights of the movie

Answer the following questions after watching the clips.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLHx2vVa1HA&t=101s>

1. How did Patrick respond to Louisa's unemployment?
2. Do you think Patrick cared about Louisa's feelings?
3. What did Patrick suggest after Louisa said she could toast the tea cake?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLHx2vVa1HA&t=101s>

4. What was Louisa's favourite outfit when she was little?
5. How did Louisa feel after she had asked Will a question?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44IAkVVOVv8>

6. Name the thing which made Will's neck feel stung and what did Louisa do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLHx2vVa1HA&t=101s>

7. Where was William's favourite place before he got into an accident and why?
8. Why didn't he like to go to that place again?
9. Which place/ event did William want her to go with him?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-bc638nD_g

10. Why did Louisa want a whirl with William?
11. Why did William agree with Louisa that he was an arse?

B. Reading and discussion

In the movie, Will had a motorcycle accident and became a quadriplegic. In Hong Kong, a person called Lai Chi Wai who was a professional rock climber and once ranked eighth in the world, was injured in a car accident. Read the news article below and identify the similarities and differences between these two people.

Channeling the spirit of Lion Rock: a Hong Kong climber's journey from 'heaven to hell' and back again

Lai Chi-wai was ranked eighth in the world before a road accident left him a paraplegic

On December 9, 2011, Lai Chi-wai was driving his motorcycle home when he was struck by at least two cars and thrown onto the road.

The then professional rock climber, who was once ranked eighth in the world, can remember waking up in his Tuen Mun Hospital room, looking up at the pale white ceiling and smelling the disinfectant. But he had no sensation in the lower part of his body. The car accident had left him a paraplegic.

"The first thing in my mind was: Oh crap! I can't be an athlete anymore," Lai, now 34, recalled.

"I lost everything in one night. I fell from heaven to hell," he said.

With part of Lai's thoracic spine broken and 98 percent of nerves surrounding the area damaged, doctors had to insert six screws into his back just to keep it supported.

He has since been bound to a wheelchair and is unlikely ever to walk again.

At the time of the accident, Lai's wife was staying in the same hospital, heavily pregnant with their son.

"My son is the only reason I chose to live on. I want to stand up, hold him in the air and do things that other ordinary dads can do," Lai said.

Such a devastating injury would be enough to dampen anyone's spirits. But Lai refused to leave the sport he loved behind, and after three months in hospital, he began working as a full-time coach for the Hong Kong sports climbing team.

But it did not satisfy his love for the sport, and after two years he quit coaching for something much bigger and far more physical.

"Coaching is too comfortable. I want to get out of my comfort zone," he said.

In 2014, when Lai was selected as one of Hong Kong's 10 most outstanding people, he announced his plan to climb Lion Rock – something that many thought was impossible.

On December 9 last year – exactly five years after his life-altering accident – Lai proved the naysayers wrong and hauled himself and his wheelchair up the cliff face using only his arm strength.

"I want to show others the Lion Rock spirit. Nothing can stop us if we put our mind into it," he said.

Lai was introduced to rock climbing as a teenager at secondary school, and by the age of 17, he had already claimed his first title at the Asian Junior Climbing Competition held in Beijing.

“In the past, I did everything for myself – the scholarships and the medals. Now I have lots of ‘angels’ helping me to get through different challenges and I think it’s time for me to influence other people in a positive way,” he said. “My life is no longer just about me.”

Since the accident, Lai has given more than 80 inspiring talks to schools and communities about his experience. But there is one person that he finds it much harder to discuss it with – his five-year-old son.

“Sometimes he asks why I am always in a wheelchair and if I could be fully cured. I don’t know what to say. I don’t want to lie about the fact that I am not going to recover fully,” he said, while his son climbed walls at an indoor gym.

In search of this generation’s Lion Rock spirit

For Lai, the only solution is a HK\$3 million wearable exoskeleton that provides powered hip and knee motion and would enable him to stand upright and walk. He estimated that he would be able to raise HK\$600,000 by mid-July from book sales and to speak at seminars, saying he would turn to crowdfunding only as a last resort.

Come June, he will travel to the United States to test the exoskeleton and said he aimed to raise the money needed by the end of this year – marking the sixth anniversary of the accident.

“In the future, I hope to set up a fund to subsidise the cost of this kind of expensive medical equipment for the disabled, so they too will be able to stand up again,” he said.

B1. Identify the similarities and differences between Will Traynor and Lai Chi-wai.

	<i>Will Traynor</i>	<i>Lai Chi-wai</i>
Similarities		
Differences		

B2. If you became a paraplegic, what would your attitude be towards your future life? Would you act like Will or Chi-wai?