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**КОНЦЕПЦІЯ БЕЗУМОВНОГО КОХАННЯ У ТВОРАХ ДЖОДЖО
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Qualifying Paper

**THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE CONCEPT IN JOJO MOYES' LITERARY
WORKS (ME BEFORE YOU, AFTER YOU, STILL ME)**

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Introduction

Unconditional love is a form of affection and care that is given freely, without expectation of reciprocation or conditions. It exceeds flaws, mistakes, and imperfections, offering unwavering support and acceptance to the significant other.

The exploration of the unconditional love concept in Jojo Moyes' literary works, particularly in novels like "Me Before You", "After You", and "Still Me", holds significant importance in contemporary literature studies. Moyes's portrayal of love transcends conventional boundaries and offers profound insights into human relationships, making it a topic of important **relevance** for literary analysis.

Despite the widespread acclaim and popularity of Moyes's novels, there exists a notable gap in scholarly research regarding the specific theme of unconditional love within her works. While critics have discussed various aspects of her storytelling and character development, a focused examination of how Moyes conceptualizes and represents unconditional love remains largely unexplored.

To address this inconsistency, further research is needed to delve into the nuanced depictions of unconditional love in her novels. This could involve conducting close textual analyses, exploring recurring motifs and symbols, and examining character dynamics to decipher Moyes's thematic intentions and the implications of unconditional love within her narratives.

Existing **literature** on Jojo Moyes's works predominantly focuses on broader themes such as love, loss, and identity. While scholars have praised Moyes's ability to evoke emotional resonance in her storytelling, few have specifically examined the theme of unconditional love and its significance across multiple novels within her oeuvre.

It is now generally recognized that the analysis of love as a pivotal literary driving force continues to captivate researchers, shedding light on its multifaceted nature and enduring influence on human behavior and relationships. The effect of love has attracted the interest of renowned scientists such as Helen Fischer (1992, 2004, 2008), Bell Hooks (2014) or Yuri Miyamoto (2018).

The general **focus** of the research is to explore and analyze the portrayal of unconditional love in Jojo Moyes's literary works, with a particular emphasis on the trilogy of "Me Before You".

Specific **aspects** of the problem include identifying instances of unconditional love within Moyes's narratives, examining how these instances shape character development and thematic resonance, and exploring the broader implications of unconditional love within the context of contemporary literature.

The **aim** of the research is to deepen our understanding of Jojo Moyes's portrayal of unconditional love and its significance within her literary works. By analyzing specific examples and themes, the research seeks to illuminate Moyes's thematic intentions and the ways in which unconditional love contributes to the overall narrative landscape.

The following **tasks** need to be discussed: to conduct a comprehensive review of Jojo Moyes's novels, focusing on instances and representations of unconditional love; to identify recurring motifs, symbols, and character dynamics related to the theme across multiple novels; to analyze selected passages and scenes to elucidate Moyes's thematic intentions and the emotional impact on characters and readers; to consider critical perspectives and theoretical frameworks relevant to the exploration of unconditional love in literature.; to synthesize findings to develop a coherent interpretation of Moyes's portrayal of unconditional love and its broader implications.

The research will primarily employ theoretical **methods**, drawing on literary criticism and theory to analyze Jojo Moyes's novels and interpret the theme of unconditional love within her works.

The research contributes **novelty** by offering a focused examination of the theme of unconditional love in Jojo Moyes's literary corpus, shedding light on an underexplored aspect of her storytelling and enriching discussions on contemporary literature and themes of love.

Theoretical value lies in advancing the understanding of how unconditional love is conceptualized and represented in literature, particularly within the context of contemporary fiction. **Practical value** involves offering insights into Moyes's thematic intentions and providing readers with a deeper appreciation of the emotional depth and complexity of her narratives.

The **structure** will include an introduction, the first part presents the literature review, the second part focuses on the biography of Jojo Moyes, the third part delves into the discussion of the trilogy, the fourth part analyses the love themes, and the conclusion summarizes the key insights and implications for further research.

Part 1

The multi-component concept of love

In the intricate tapestry of human emotions, one thread weaves itself into the very essence of our existence – unconditional love. Unlike its conditional counterpart, which often hinges on specific circumstances or actions, unconditional love transcends boundaries and defies expectations. It is a profound and boundless force that extends beyond the realms of judgment and stipulations. In exploring the depths of unconditional love, we embark on a journey that leads us to the purest and most profound expressions of compassion, acceptance, and connection. This extraordinary form of love has the power to shape relationships, foster understanding, and illuminate the human experience in ways that resonate across time and culture.

1.1. Concept of love

“All our actions are driven by the desire for happiness.” (Nydahl, 2008). Love is both the height and the depth of human emotion. It raises the being to the heights of heaven, while its absence can push it to the depths of hell. It is the fullness and the ultimate test of the emotional world. Love, a concept as ancient as humanity itself, defies easy definition, encapsulating a myriad of emotions, experiences, and expressions that traverse the spectrum of human connection. It is a force that shapes relationships, molds personalities, and breathes life into the otherwise mundane fabric of existence.

At its core, love is a multifaceted phenomenon, encompassing a range of emotions, from the exhilarating heights of joy and passion to the profound depths of empathy and compassion. It is not merely a fleeting sentiment but a dynamic and evolving force that can manifest in various forms throughout the diverse landscapes of human experience (Nydahl, 2008).

1.2. Love in dictionaries

The lexical formulation of love, approached from any direction, is the result of a complex but positive process of emotions. Emotion, referred to as the apex of the emotional world, is described in the major dictionaries as follows:

Love “n. 1. A state of being in which a person is preoccupied with, is unrealistically positive about, is intensely sensitive toward, and has intense feelings of tenderness, warmth, affection and lust toward another person. 2. A sense of connection with and feelings of warmth and concern for another person, animal, plant, or thing. 3. Warm but disinterested concern for the well-being of another.” (Mirza, 2009, p. 291).

Love “An intense feeling of fondness or attraction, deeper and stronger than liking, especially when associated with a romantic or sexual attachment to someone.” (Colman, 2015).

Love “a complex emotion involving strong feelings of affection and tenderness for the love object, pleasurable sensations in his or her presence, devotion to his or her well-being, and

sensitivity to his or her reactions to oneself. Although love takes many forms, including concern for one's fellow humans (brotherly love), parental love, erotic love, self-love, and identification with the totality of being (love of God), the triangular theory of love proposes three essential components: passion, intimacy, and commitment. Social psychological research in this area has focused largely on passionate love, in which sexual desire and excitement predominate, and companionate love, in which passion is relatively weak and commitment is strong." (VandenBos, 2015, p. 612).

1.3. Love in psychology

Love, within the realm of psychology, is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has captivated scholars, researchers, and practitioners for decades. It defies a singular definition, encompassing a spectrum of emotions, behaviors, and cognitive processes that shape human relationships. Exploring the psychology of love involves delving into various theories, examining neurobiological underpinnings, considering developmental influences, and understanding the impact of culture on our perceptions and expressions of love.

One influential model in the psychology of love is Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love, proposed by psychologist Robert Sternberg. Introduced in the 1980s, this theory conceptualizes love as a combination of three primary components: intimacy, passion, and commitment. By examining the presence and intensity of these elements, Sternberg identified several distinct types of love, providing a nuanced and dynamic perspective on the various dimensions of human relationships (Sternberg, 1986, p. 119).

The first component of Sternberg's Triangular Theory is intimacy, which refers to the emotional connection, warmth, and closeness shared between individuals in a relationship. This aspect involves feelings of trust, transparency, and a sense of security in revealing one's true self to a partner. Intimacy fosters a deep bond and a sense of shared experiences, contributing to the overall depth of the connection between individuals.

The second component, passion, encompasses the physical and emotional aspects of romantic attraction. Passionate love is characterized by intense feelings of desire, longing, and arousal. This element is often associated with the initial stages of a romantic relationship, where the excitement and novelty of the connection are particularly pronounced. Passion is a driving force that fuels the romantic and sexual aspects of a relationship.

The third and final component is commitment, representing the decision and intention to maintain a long-term relationship. Commitment involves the cognitive aspect of love, encompassing factors such as loyalty, dedication, and the conscious choice to invest in the future of the relationship. Commitment provides stability and endurance, as individuals actively choose to work through challenges and sustain their connection over time.

By combining these three components, Sternberg proposed different types of love, each characterized by a unique configuration of intimacy, passion, and commitment. The most complete and profound form of love, according to this model, is consummate love, which incorporates high levels of intimacy, passion, and commitment. This type of love represents the ideal balance and integration of all three components, reflecting a deeply fulfilling and enduring connection (Sternberg, 1986, p. 119-120).

Other combinations result in different types of love. For example:

- Romantic love involves high levels of intimacy and passion but may lack commitment, often found in the early stages of a romantic relationship.
- Companionate love emphasizes intimacy and commitment, providing a sense of deep friendship and companionship without the intense passion found in romantic love.
- Consummate love is defined as the ideal or complete form of love, consummate love is characterized by high levels of intimacy, passion, and commitment. It represents a balanced and fulfilling relationship where emotional closeness, physical desire, and long-term commitment coexist. Achieving consummate love is often considered an aspirational goal in romantic relationships.
- Empty love is characterized by commitment without the presence of intimacy or passion. In this kind of love, individuals may remain in a relationship out of duty or obligation, but the emotional and passionate aspects are lacking. It can occur in long-term relationships where the initial emotional and passionate elements have faded.
- Infatuation is a form of love characterized by passion without a significant level of intimacy or commitment. It often involves intense feelings of attraction and desire, but it may lack the depth of emotional connection or long-term commitment found in other types of love.
- Liking occurs when one experiences intimacy without passion or long-term commitment. This term denotes more than casual feelings towards acquaintances but signifies the set of emotions found in genuine friendships.
- Nonlove denotes the absence of all three components of love. It characterizes the majority of casual interactions in personal relationships, where love is entirely absent, representing a state of indifference or lack of emotional connection.
- Fatuous love is characterized by passion and commitment without the depth of emotional intimacy, often associated with whirlwind or impulsive relationships (Sternberg, 1986, p. 119-135).

Sternberg's Triangular Theory acknowledges that the balance of these components can change over time within a relationship. The initial passion of romantic love may evolve into a

more stable and enduring companionate love as the relationship matures. Additionally, external factors, life events, and individual differences can influence the dynamics of love within a relationship.

While Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love has received widespread attention and application in the field of relationship psychology, it is not without criticism. Some argue that the model oversimplifies the complexities of love by reducing it to three discrete components. Others suggest that cultural variations in the expression and interpretation of love are not adequately addressed in the theory.

Within the realm of attachment theory, developed by John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth, love is explored from a developmental standpoint. John Bowlby, a British psychologist and psychiatrist, laid the foundation for attachment theory in the mid-20th century. Drawing on psychoanalytic concepts and evolutionary biology, Bowlby proposed that the attachment bond between an infant and their caregiver serves a fundamental evolutionary function, promoting the survival and well-being of the child (Bretherton, 1992, p. 759-760).

Attachment is the emotional bond that forms between an infant and their primary caregiver. It provides a secure base from which the child can explore the world and develop emotionally and socially. Attachment is not only crucial for survival but also lays the groundwork for future relationships and emotional well-being (VandenBos, 2015, p. 86).

Bowlby conceptualized an innate attachment behavioral system in infants that motivates them to seek proximity to their caregivers when they perceive a threat or experience distress. This system includes behaviors such as crying, clinging, and seeking comfort. Attachment experiences contribute to the development of internal working models, which are mental representations of the self, others, and relationships. These models shape an individual's expectations, beliefs, and behaviors in future relationships. Secure attachment experiences lead to positive internal working models, while insecure attachments may result in negative or anxious models (Bretherton, 1992, p. 761-763).

Mary Ainsworth, a developmental psychologist and Bowlby's collaborator, expanded on attachment theory by conducting observational research, primarily through the development of the Strange Situation Procedure. This procedure allowed researchers to identify different attachment patterns based on infants' responses to separations and reunions with their caregivers (Bretherton, 1992, 760-761).

- Secure Attachment (B):

In a secure attachment, infants feel confident that their caregiver will respond to their needs. They explore their environment comfortably, using the caregiver as a secure base. When the

caregiver returns after a separation, the child seeks comfort, and once comforted, they resume exploration.

- Insecure-Avoidant Attachment (A):

Children with insecure-avoidant attachment appear indifferent to the caregiver's departure or return. They may avoid or ignore the caregiver, displaying a seeming independence. This pattern often results from inconsistent caregiving, where the child learns that their needs may not be met reliably.

- Insecure-Ambivalent/Resistant Attachment (C):

Insecure-ambivalent attachment is characterized by heightened anxiety and uncertainty. Children may be clingy and hesitant to explore their environment. They may display anger or resistance to the caregiver upon reunion, reflecting a lack of trust in the caregiver's availability and responsiveness.

- Disorganized Attachment (D):

Disorganized attachment is characterized by inconsistent and often contradictory behaviors. Children with disorganized attachment may exhibit freezing, erratic movements, or unusual behaviors, reflecting a lack of a clear strategy for dealing with stress. This pattern is often associated with severe disruptions in caregiving, including abuse or neglect.

Attachment theory emphasizes the critical role of early attachment experiences in shaping various aspects of development, including emotional regulation, social competence, and the formation of future relationships. Secure attachment provides a foundation for positive socio-emotional development, while insecure attachment patterns may contribute to difficulties in relationships and emotional well-being. The theory has been criticized for potential cultural biases, as its early research primarily focused on Western, middle-class populations. However, researchers and practitioners have acknowledged the need to consider cultural variations in attachment practices and interpretations. Cross-cultural studies have highlighted the importance of cultural context in understanding attachment dynamics. While widely influential, attachment theory has faced criticisms. Some argue that it may oversimplify the complexities of human relationships, overlooking individual differences and cultural variations. Additionally, the theory has been challenged for its deterministic implications, emphasizing the impact of early experiences on later development (Bretherton, 1992, p. 762-771).

1.4. From biological point of view

The study of love extends into the realm of neurobiology, with researchers exploring the brain mechanisms associated with romantic love. The work of Helen Fisher, a biological anthropologist, has contributed significantly to this field. Her theory of love, often referred to as the "biological anthropology of love", combines neuroscience, genetics, and evolutionary

biology to explore the complex interplay of brain chemistry and human behavior in the realm of love.

Fisher's theory of love is grounded in the idea that love is not a singular, monolithic emotion but rather a complex set of interconnected systems. She proposes that three primary brain systems are associated with love: lust, attraction, and attachment (Fisher, 2008).

The lust system is associated with the sex drive and is primarily fueled by sex hormones such as testosterone and estrogen. It represents the initial stage of romantic attraction, characterized by a strong desire for sexual gratification.

The attraction system involves the euphoria and obsession typically experienced in the early stages of a romantic relationship. Neurotransmitters such as dopamine and norepinephrine play a crucial role in this phase, contributing to feelings of excitement, focus, and increased energy. Fisher argues that this phase is similar to being "in love" and is often marked by infatuation and intense emotional experiences.

The attachment system is associated with the long-term bond that forms between romantic partners. Oxytocin and vasopressin, hormones related to social bonding and trust, are prominent during this stage. Attachment is characterized by a sense of security, comfort, and commitment in a relationship (Fisher, 1992, p. 108-109).

Building on these three brain systems, Fisher has identified distinct "love types" that result from different combinations and intensities of the lust, attraction, and attachment systems. These love types reflect individual differences in how people experience and express love.

a. Explorer (Dopamine Type):

Individuals with a dominant dopamine system are often characterized as explorers. They seek novelty, excitement, and adventure in their relationships. This type is associated with risk-taking and a high tolerance for uncertainty. Explorers may experience the highs of passionate, romantic love but may also be more prone to the lows associated with relationship instability.

b. Builder (Serotonin Type):

The serotonin system is linked to a sense of calm and stability. Builders are individuals who prioritize comfort, routine, and security in their relationships. They are often practical, reliable, and focused on long-term commitments. Builders may experience a gradual and steady development of love, building a strong foundation over time.

c. Director (Testosterone Type):

Individuals with a dominant testosterone system are classified as directors. They are goal-oriented, assertive, and often value independence. Directors may approach love as a project to be managed and may be less emotionally expressive. They may prioritize personal achievements and may experience love as a partnership that supports their individual goals.

d. Negotiator (Estrogen Type):

The estrogen system is associated with empathy, intuition, and a focus on social connections. Negotiators are individuals who value communication, empathy, and mutual understanding in relationships. They may be attuned to emotional nuances and seek harmony in their connections. Negotiators may experience love as a deep emotional connection with their partner (Fisher, 1992, p. 29-30).

While Fisher's theory has garnered attention and acclaim, it is not without criticism. Some scholars argue that the biological and evolutionary underpinnings of love are complex and multifaceted, and reducing them to specific neurotransmitter systems may oversimplify the intricacies of human emotions and relationships.

1.5. Culture and Love

Culture plays a significant role in shaping the way love is perceived, expressed, and experienced. The influence of culture on love is profound, impacting not only individual attitudes and behaviors but also social norms, expectations, and the very definition of what constitutes a meaningful and fulfilling romantic relationship.

Cultures vary along a spectrum from collectivism to individualism, and these orientations profoundly impact attitudes toward love and relationships. In collectivist cultures, the emphasis may be on familial and community approval, and the well-being of the group is prioritized over individual desires. In individualistic cultures, personal autonomy and the pursuit of individual happiness often take precedence in matters of love and relationships. Many cultures place a strong emphasis on familial ties and intergenerational relationships. In such cultures, the family's opinion and involvement in romantic relationships are highly valued. Marriages are often seen as not only a union between individuals but also between families, reinforcing social cohesion and continuity (Matsumoto, Yoo, & Nakagawa, 2008, p. 925-926).

Emotions are multifaceted, encompassing subjective, physiological, and behavioral elements. While there is substantial evidence suggesting shared aims in certain emotional aspects across all humans, recent insights underline the cultural shaping of emotions. Culture plays an essential role in defining the preferred emotional experiences, termed "ideal affect", and imparts guidelines on when, where, and how to express them, known as "display rules". (Ekman et al., 1987, p. 712-717).

The concept of ideal affect reveals significant cross-cultural variations, particularly in studies comparing Western and East-Asian participants. For instance, research indicates that European Americans express a preference for high-arousal emotions like excitement and enthusiasm, whereas East-Asian individuals lean towards desiring low-arousal emotions such as

calmness and serenity. Notably, these preferences extend beyond individual choices and are influenced by cultural teachings and social learning.

Empirical studies illuminate the impact of cultural backgrounds on ideal affect. Comparisons between American and Japanese mothers showcase distinctive preferences in interactions with infants. American mothers tend to favor high-arousal interactions characterized by chatting and playing, while Japanese mothers exhibit a preference for low-arousal interactions involving comforting and soothing behaviors. This demonstrates how cultural norms shape even early emotional interactions within families.

In examining emotional regulation, research by Miyamoto and colleagues (2014) uncovered that Asian Americans displayed lower motivation to down-regulate negative emotions following online negativity compared to their European American counterparts. This suggests that cultural influences persist in shaping emotional responses to challenging situations, extending beyond immediate interpersonal dynamics (Miyamoto, Ma, & Petermann, 2014, p. 804-815).

The concept of display rules, which govern the expression of emotions, reveals distinct differences between Western and East Asian participants in emotional expression. Japanese participants, for instance, tend to express fewer negative emotions like fear, anger, and disgust both alone and in the presence of others compared to European Americans. Cultural variations are evident in responses to tasks; Asian Americans exhibit less intense anger during a laboratory counting task than European Americans. Moreover, individualistic societies, such as the US, Australia, and Canada, exhibit higher emotional expressivity than collectivist ones like Hong Kong, Russia, and Greece. Cultural influences extend to the pressure to express positive emotions, with Westerners feeling stronger pressure than East Asian participants (Matsumoto, Yoo, & Nakagawa, 2008, p. 925-937).

Cultural variances are also apparent in romantic relationships. Asian couples tend to display more passive emotional expressions during problem discussions, while European American couples exhibit more direct and verbally explicit emotional expressions. The cultural shaping of ideal affect and display rules is evident in the distinct emotional behaviors learned within specific cultural contexts.

Examining relationship goals across cultures reveals that while romantic love is a universal experience, its manifestation varies globally. Conceptions of love differ, with Bosnians emphasizing intimacy and passion more than Turkish participants. Cultural nuances influence conflict approach styles; collectivist participants prefer avoidant approaches, while Westerners opt for more direct strategies. Expressions of love differ across cultures, from non-verbal declarations such as sacrifices in international students to differences in saying “I love you”

between American and Chinese students. Cultural information shapes what individuals learn about romantic relationships and what is deemed appropriate or inappropriate, emphasizing the crucial role of culture in guiding the experience, expression, and practice of love in relationships. Understanding these cultural aspects is imperative for comprehending relationship dynamics (Allendorf, 2012, p. 527–544).

1.6. Love in neurology

While often explored through the lenses of literature, philosophy, and art, love also has a biological basis deeply rooted in the intricate workings of the human brain and body. Understanding the biological underpinnings of love involves unraveling the complicated dance of neurotransmitters, brain regions, and evolutionary mechanisms that compose this profound emotion.

At the heart of the biological basis of love lies the neurochemical symphony within our brains. Dopamine, often referred to as the “feel-good” neurotransmitter, takes center stage in the realm of romantic love. When individuals experience the euphoria of being in love, the brain’s reward system is activated, leading to a surge of dopamine. This heightened dopamine activity creates a powerful reinforcement loop, reinforcing the desire for closeness and connection with the loved one. It is this neurochemical cascade that underlies the pleasure, motivation, and sense of reward associated with love (Fisher, 2004, p. 55-57).

Moving to the more evolved regions of the brain, the prefrontal cortex becomes a pivotal player in the narrative of love. Known for higher cognitive functions, the prefrontal cortex is engaged in decision-making and judgment related to love. It assesses the desirability and compatibility of a partner, manages expectations, and influences the long-term commitment associated with love (Fisher, 2004, p. 76-77).

Another set of key players in the neurobiology of love are oxytocin and vasopressin. The hypothalamus, situated at the base of the brain, acts as a crucial link between the nervous system and the endocrine system. It regulates the release of hormones involved in love and bonding, including oxytocin and vasopressin. In essence, the biological basis of love is a finely orchestrated interplay of various brain regions and neurochemicals, each contributing to different facets of this multifaceted emotion. Oxytocin, often dubbed the “love hormone” or “bonding hormone”, is released during activities like hugging, cuddling, and physical touch. It fosters feelings of trust, empathy, and social bonding. Vasopressin, particularly prominent in males, is associated with territorial behaviors and the formation of long-term pair bonds (Fisher, 2004, p. 78-79; 87-90).

The brain regions involved in love extend beyond a mere chemical dance. The limbic system, a complex network that includes the amygdala and hippocampus, takes center stage in

emotional processing. The amygdala, a crucial player in emotional responses, is involved in the processing of emotional stimuli and the formation of emotional memories. The hippocampus, on the other hand, plays a key role in creating and consolidating memories associated with love experiences (Fisher, 2004, p. 137-140).

1.7. Types of love

The ancient Greeks were boasting over ten distinct words to define different types of love. Psychologist John Alan Lee condensed these categories into six, yet each seems to represent a unique amalgamation of the brain's three fundamental mating circuits: lust, romantic love, and attachment.

Eros, the most renowned, embodies passionate, sexual, erotic, joyful, high-energy love for a special partner. It appears to be a fusion of both lust and romantic love. Mania, on the other hand, is marked by obsessive, jealous, irrational, possessive, and dependent love—a common experience in passionate relationships. Ludus, meaning “game” or “play” in Latin, signifies playful, unserious, uncommitted, and detached love, often characterized by a capacity to love multiple people simultaneously. Storge, similar to a deep and affectionate companionship, represents brotherly, sisterly, or friendly love that lacks overt displays of emotion. It seems to be a form of attachment, emphasizing special friendships that focus on shared interests rather than emotional expressions. Agape, a gentle, unselfish, dutiful, all-giving, and humane love, reflects another aspect of attachment. Those experiencing agape view their sentiments as a duty, sometimes sacrificing the relationship for the beloved's well-being. Lastly, pragma, categorized as pragmatic love, is based on compatibility and common sense—a form of “shopping list” love. Pragmatic lovers assess the perks and flaws of a relationship, emphasizing friendship as a core element while avoiding excessive sacrifice or emotion. This conceptualization does not necessarily align pragma with love (Fisher, 2004, p. 93-94).

1.7.1. Difference between love and unconditional love

Love is a complex and multifaceted emotion that can manifest in various forms and degrees. It encompasses a wide range of feelings, from romantic and familial love to platonic and self-love. Unconditional love, on the other hand, represents a specific and profound dimension of love that goes beyond conventional boundaries and expectations.

At its core, love is often characterized by affection, care, and a sense of attachment towards someone or something. It is a dynamic and evolving emotion that can be influenced by numerous factors, including personal experiences, cultural norms, and individual differences. Love can be conditional or unconditional, depending on the nature of the relationship and the expectations attached to it.

Conditional love is love with limitations and fundamentals. It is often dependent on certain behaviors, actions, or conditions. In relationships where love is conditional, individuals may feel loved only when they meet certain expectations or fulfill specific criteria set by the giver of love. Conditions may include adherence to social norms, meeting certain standards of behavior, or reciprocating affection in a predetermined manner.

Unconditional love, in stark contrast, is a type of love that transcends conditions and expectations. It is characterized by a boundless and all-encompassing affection that persists regardless of external factors or the actions of the recipient of love. Unconditional love is often described as love without strings attached, where acceptance and care are not contingent upon meeting certain standards or expectations (Fromm, 2019, p. 40-41) (Hooks, 2018, p. 184-186).

The key distinction between love and unconditional love lies in the presence or absence of conditions. Love, in its conditional form, can be influenced by external factors, and it may fluctuate based on the actions or behaviors of the individuals involved. In contrast, unconditional love remains steadfast and unwavering, persisting even in the face of challenges, flaws, or mistakes (Fromm, 2019, p. 43).

Unconditional love is often associated with the concept of *agape*, a term derived from ancient Greek philosophy. *Agape* represents a selfless and altruistic form of love that extends beyond the boundaries of the self, embracing others with compassion and acceptance. This type of love is often considered the highest form of love, embodying qualities such as forgiveness, understanding, and an enduring commitment to the well-being of the loved one (Arend, 1996, p. 17-35, 38-39).

While unconditional love is an ideal that many aspire to, it is essential to recognize that human relationships are complex, and achieving complete and unwavering unconditional love can be challenging. People may strive to express unconditional love in their relationships, particularly in familial bonds or deep friendships, but the realities of human nature and interpersonal dynamics can introduce complexities.

1.8. Love in literature

Love, a perennial theme in literature, has been explored, dissected, and celebrated across genres, cultures, and epochs. Its presence in literature is a testament to its universal significance, resonating with readers through the ages. From epic poems and classic novels to contemporary stories, the portrayal of love in literature reflects the complexities, joys, and challenges of the human experience.

One of the earliest examples of love in literature can be found in ancient Greek mythology. The tales of gods and mortals in works like Homer's "Iliad" (2007) and "Odyssey" (2009) are replete with instances of love's transformative power. From the passionate love of

Paris and Helen that sparked the Trojan War to the enduring fidelity of Odysseus and Penelope, these stories navigate the myriad facets of love – its beauty, its trials, and its consequences.

Moving through time, Shakespeare stands as a towering figure in the exploration of love. His plays, such as “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet” (2016), “Othello, The Moor of Venice” (2005), and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (2013), delve into the complexities of romantic love, jealousy, and the interplay between fate and free will. The sonnets, too, offer an intimate exploration of the poet's own experiences with love, encompassing themes of passion, betrayal, and the passage of time.

In the realm of classic literature, Jane Austen’s novels, including “Pride and Prejudice” (2003) and “Sense and Sensibility” (1996), provide keen observations on the societal expectations and constraints that shape love. Austen’s heroines navigate the intricacies of courtship, love, and social standing, offering astute commentary on the limitations imposed on women in matters of the heart.

The 19th century witnessed a surge of romantic literature, epitomized by the works of the Brontë sisters. Charlotte Brontë’s “Jane Eyre” (1992) explores the transformative power of love in the face of social and economic disparities. The brooding, mysterious Mr. Rochester and the resilient, independent Jane Eyre navigate a complex landscape of passion, sacrifice, and self-discovery.

In contrast, Emily Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights” (2012) delves into the darker, more destructive aspects of love. Heathcliff and Catherine’s tumultuous relationship is marked by obsession, revenge, and an unrelenting force that transcends death. The gothic, atmospheric setting heightens the intensity of their love story, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of romantic literature.

The 20th century ushered in a wave of modernist and postmodernist literature that challenged traditional notions of love. F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby” (2003) examines the corrosive effects of wealth and societal expectations on love. The enigmatic Jay Gatsby’s unrequited love for Daisy Buchanan becomes a poignant commentary on the elusive nature of the American Dream and the hollowness of materialism.

Virginia Woolf, in works like “Mrs. Dalloway” (2020) and “To the Lighthouse” (2004), employs stream-of-consciousness narrative techniques to delve into the inner thoughts and emotions of her characters. Love, in Woolf’s exploration, becomes a prism through which to examine the complexities of identity, memory, and the passage of time.

The mid-20th century saw the emergence of postcolonial literature, offering diverse perspectives on love within the context of cultural and political upheavals. Gabriel García Márquez’s “One Hundred Years of Solitude” (2000) weaves a tapestry of magical realism to tell

the multi-generational saga of the Buendía family. Love, in its various forms, serves as both a driving force and a curse, echoing through the generations in a mythical and poetic narrative.

In the latter half of the 20th century and into the 21st century, literature continued to evolve, embracing diverse voices and narratives that challenge traditional norms. Toni Morrison's "Beloved" (2007) explores the haunting legacy of slavery and the profound, redemptive power of maternal love. Morrison's exploration of Sethe's love for her children transcends the boundaries of time and serves as a meditation on trauma, memory, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Contemporary literature grapples with the complexities of love in an era marked by rapid technological advances, globalization, and shifting societal norms. Zadie Smith's "On Beauty" (2005) navigates the intricacies of familial and romantic love against the backdrop of academia and cultural clashes. The novel weaves a nuanced tapestry of characters whose relationships reflect the challenges and possibilities of love in a diverse and interconnected world.

In the realm of speculative fiction, Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" (2010) presents a dystopian world where love and identity are profoundly entwined. The characters grapple with the consequences of a society that commodifies human life, exploring themes of mortality, sacrifice, and the enduring nature of love in the face of inevitable loss.

The genre of young adult literature has also made significant contributions to the exploration of love. John Green's "The Fault in Our Stars" (2013) offers a poignant portrayal of love in the face of terminal illness. Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters navigate the challenges of illness, mortality, and existential questions, creating a narrative that transcends the confines of the genre.

The graphic novel medium, too, has explored the complexities of love in unique ways. Alison Bechdel's "Fun Home" (2007) is a graphic memoir that delves into Bechdel's relationship with her father and her coming-of-age journey. The narrative explores themes of family, identity, and the impact of societal expectations on personal relationships.

In the realm of international literature, Haruki Murakami's novels, such as "Norwegian Wood" (2000) and "Kafka on the Shore" (2005), offer dreamlike explorations of love and existentialism. Murakami's protagonists navigate surreal landscapes and encounter enigmatic characters, creating narratives that blur the lines between reality and fantasy.

In conclusion, love in literature serves as a kaleidoscopic lens through which authors explore the myriad dimensions of the human experience. From ancient myths to contemporary narratives, love's portrayal reflects societal norms, cultural shifts, and the evolving understanding of human relationships. Whether examining the transcendent, redemptive power of love or the

darker, more complex aspects of passion and obsession, literature continues to be a rich tapestry where the threads of love are woven into the very fabric of storytelling.

Part 2

The formative years in the life of Jojo Moyes

Pauline Sara Jo Moyes, professionally recognized as Jojo Moyes, stands as a prominent figure in the realm of English literature. Born on August 4, 1969, she has established herself not only as an accomplished journalist but also as an award-winning romance novelist and screenwriter since 2002. Holding the distinction of being a #1 New York Times best-selling author, her literary prowess has left an indelible mark on the world of literature (Moyes, *About me*) (Gilchrist, 2012).

Moyes has garnered accolades for her contributions to the romance genre, earning her the prestigious Romantic Novel of the Year Award not once but twice, a distinction bestowed by the Romantic Novelists' Association. This recognition underscores her exceptional storytelling abilities and her capacity to craft narratives that resonate deeply with readers. Her unique talent has propelled her into the ranks of a select few authors who have achieved such commendation from their peers and the literary community (Gilchrist, 2012).

What sets Moyes apart is not only her success in the literary domain but also the international acclaim her works have received. With a remarkable feat of translation into twenty-eight languages, her stories have traversed linguistic and cultural boundaries, captivating readers worldwide. The global appeal of her narratives is evidenced by the staggering sales figures, surpassing a remarkable 40 million copies. This exceptional reach attests not only to the universality of her themes but also to the masterful manner in which she weaves tales that resonate with diverse audiences (Gilchrist, 2012).

As a novelist, Moyes has demonstrated a keen understanding of the complexities of human emotions, particularly within the context of romantic relationships. Her narratives often explore the intricacies of love, unveiling the multifaceted layers that define this universal experience. Whether through poignant character development or engaging plotlines, Moyes has the ability to elicit genuine and profound emotional responses from her readers.

Beyond her accomplishments in the world of literature, Moyes has ventured into the realm of screenwriting, further showcasing her versatility as a storyteller. Her foray into film underscores her commitment to narrative exploration, adapting her storytelling prowess to different mediums. This transition from page to screen reflects not only her adaptability but also her dedication to bringing compelling stories to life in various forms, enriching the cultural landscape (Fink, 2016).

Jojo Moyes' impact extends beyond the pages of her novels and the frames of the screen. Her influence is embedded in the hearts of readers who have been moved by her narratives, finding solace, inspiration, and connection within the worlds she creates. Her ability to capture

the essence of human experiences, particularly the nuances of love, has solidified her place as a literary luminary.

2.1. Literary journey of the writer

Before entering university, Jojo Moyes held diverse employment roles, showcasing her adaptability and work ethic. Among her early jobs, she served as a typist at NatWest, where she transcribed statements into braille for the benefit of blind individuals. Additionally, she worked as a brochure writer for Club 18-30 and briefly took on the role of a minicab controller. During her undergraduate years at Royal Holloway, University of London, Moyes contributed to the Egham and Staines News, gaining practical experience in the field (Lambert, 2015).

Her educational journey includes earning a journalism degree from City University and completing a degree at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London University. Moyes received a bursary funded by The Independent newspaper, facilitating her enrollment in the postgraduate newspaper journalism course at City University in 1992. This pivotal opportunity paved the way for her subsequent decade-long tenure at The Independent, where she held various positions, notably serving as Assistant News Editor in 1998. Notably, she spent one year in Hong Kong, working for the Sunday Morning Post. In 2002, Moyes assumed the role of Arts and Media Correspondent at The Independent, a testament to her growing influence and expertise in journalism (Biography of Jojo Moyes: <https://www.gradesaver.com> 10.02.2024.) (Reyes & Reyes, n. d.).

Early in Jojo Moyes' writing journey, she faced the challenging reality of rejection. Despite producing three manuscripts, she encountered initial setbacks, a daunting experience compounded by the responsibilities of being a parent and maintaining a career as a journalist. In a pivotal moment, with one child in tow and another on the way, Moyes made a personal commitment: if her fourth book faced rejection, she would cease her writing endeavors. Undeterred by past setbacks, she submitted the first three chapters of her fourth manuscript to various publishers, setting in motion a remarkable turn of events. Six publishers engaged in a competitive bidding war for the rights to her work, marking a triumphant breakthrough in Moyes' writing career (Goodreads, 2013).

The year 2002 proved to be a transformative juncture as Moyes transitioned into a full-time novelist with the publication of her first book, "Sheltering Rain". Even as she embraced the realm of fiction, Moyes continued contributing articles to The Daily Telegraph, showcasing her versatility as a writer (Biography of Jojo Moyes: <https://www.gradesaver.com> 11.02.2024.).

However, her publishing journey was not without twists. In 2012, Moyes faced a unique challenge when her publisher, Hodder & Stoughton, declined to publish her novel "Me Before You". Undeterred, Moyes turned to Penguin, and the decision proved to be fortuitous. The novel,

which sold six million copies, soared to number one in nine countries. This unexpected success not only revitalized her existing works but also positioned three of her novels simultaneously on the prestigious New York Times bestseller list (Smith, 2015).

The narrative journey of “Me Before You” did not end with the book’s success. Moyes expanded the story, writing sequels titled “After You” in 2015 and “Still Me” in 2018, further solidifying her position in the literary landscape (Moyes, About me).

Beyond the realms of literature, Moyes’ influence extended to the silver screen. In 2013, it was announced that Michael H. Weber and Scott Neustadter would adapt “Me Before You” into a film. The 2016 release of the movie marked another significant milestone, with Moyes herself penning the screenplay, seamlessly bridging the gap between written and visual storytelling (Goldberg, 2013).

Moyes’ commitment to literacy and community impact is evident in her philanthropic efforts. In 2018, she invested £120,000 in the Quick Reads Initiative, an adult literacy project. This generous contribution provided three additional years of funding for the program, underscoring Moyes’ dedication to supporting initiatives that promote literacy and education (Orlova, 2020).

Moyes’ literary journey is a testament to resilience, adaptability, and a profound impact on both the literary and cinematic worlds.

During her formative years, Jojo Moyes found solace and inspiration in the pages of Enid Bagnold’s “National Velvet”, a book that held a special place in her heart. This childhood favorite left an indelible mark, shaping her early literary inclinations and fostering a deep-seated love for storytelling.

As Moyes matured in her craft, a transformative encounter with Kate Atkinson’s “Behind the Scenes at the Museum” left an enduring impression. This particular work acted as a catalyst, igniting within Moyes a profound desire to elevate her writing skills. It served as a beacon, compelling her to strive for excellence and aspire to become a more accomplished writer. The impact of Atkinson’s narrative prowess became a guiding force in Moyes’ creative journey (Goodreads, 2023).

In her literary endeavors, Moyes draws inspiration from a diverse array of authors who have left an indelible mark on her. Among these influential figures are Nora Ephron, whose wit and storytelling captivate Moyes, and Marian Keyes, Lisa Jewell, Jonathan Tropper, and the timeless Jane Austen. Each of these writers contributes to the rich tapestry of Moyes’ influences, shaping her perspective and adding layers of complexity to her own narrative style.

Nora Ephron’s sharp observations, Marian Keyes’ emotional resonance, Lisa Jewell’s narrative intricacies, Jonathan Tropper’s contemporary flair, and Jane Austen’s timeless elegance

collectively contribute to the mosaic of inspiration that propels Moyes in her writing endeavors. This amalgamation of diverse voices speaks to Moyes' eclectic taste and her ability to draw motivation from a spectrum of literary styles and themes (Morgan-Witts & Morgan-Witts, 2023).

In essence, Moyes' literary journey is a nuanced interplay of childhood nostalgia, transformative encounters, and a mosaic of contemporary and classic influences. These influences not only enrich her creative process but also contribute to the unique blend of storytelling that has become synonymous with Jojo Moyes' novels.

Jojo Moyes resides on a farm in Great Sampford, Essex, where she shares her home with her husband, the journalist Charles Arthur, and their three children. The pastoral setting becomes home to an assortment of beloved animals, including an ex-racehorse and a rescued Pyrenean mountain dog weighing 58 kg. This idyllic rural life not only serves as a backdrop to her personal life but also provides a serene environment that complements her creative pursuits. Living amidst the tranquility of the countryside, Moyes finds inspiration in the company of her family and the diverse array of animals that have become integral members of their household. The juxtaposition of her literary endeavors with the rustic charm of farm life paints a vivid picture of a writer deeply connected to both the written word and the natural world that surrounds her (Morgan-Witts & Morgan-Witts, 2023) (Moyes, About me).

Part 3

The content of the “Me Before You” Trilogy

Jojo Moyes has left an indelible mark on the literary landscape with her celebrated trilogy “Me Before You”. This remarkable series has garnered global acclaim, captivating readers with its poignant narrative and compelling characters.

At the heart of this trilogy is “Me Before You”, undeniably one of Moyes’ most famous works and, quite possibly, the magnum opus of her literary career. First published in 2012, the novel quickly transcended the bounds of mere literature, transforming into a cultural phenomenon. The book’s thematic depth, emotional resonance, and thought-provoking storyline have resonated with readers worldwide, earning it a dedicated fanbase that spans across continents.

The narrative unfolds around the characters of Louisa Clark and Will Traynor, a quadriplegic man whose life takes an unexpected turn after a tragic motorbike accident. Moyes skillfully weaves a tale that goes beyond the conventional boundaries of romance, delving into complex ethical dilemmas and the profound impact of personal choices on the lives of the characters. The emotional journey that unfolds within the pages of “Me Before You” is both heart-wrenching and heartwarming, leaving a permanent imprint on the reader’s soul.

The widespread success of the first book is not solely confined to its literary achievements. In 2016, the novel underwent a cinematic adaptation that further catapulted its popularity onto the global stage. The film, directed by Thea Sharrock, starred Emilia Clarke as Louisa Clark and Sam Claflin as Will Traynor. The on-screen portrayal of Moyes’ characters added another dimension to the narrative, drawing in a new audience and cementing the trilogy’s status as a cultural phenomenon (Goldberg, 2013).

Beyond its cinematic success, the book series has been translated into numerous languages, enabling readers from diverse linguistic backgrounds to immerse themselves in the emotionally charged world crafted by Moyes. The trilogy’s universal themes of love, sacrifice, and the exploration of one’s purpose in life have resonated across cultures, contributing to its widespread popularity and recognition.

3.1. First book: “Me Before You”

The story begins with Louisa Clark, a charming and quirky young woman living in the small English town of Stortford. Louisa, known as Lou, finds herself unemployed when the local cafe where she works closes down. In a desperate search for employment, she takes on the role of a caregiver for Will Traynor, a quadriplegic man who was once a successful and adventurous banker.

Will Traynor's life took a drastic turn two years prior to the events of the novel when he was involved in a motorcycle accident. The accident left him paralyzed from the neck down, confined to a wheelchair, and reliant on others for even the most basic tasks. The once vibrant and adventurous Will now grapples with the harsh realities of his new existence, harboring feelings of bitterness and despair.

“‘Courchevel. Two and a half years ago.’

I blushed. ‘I’m sorry. I was just –’

‘You were just looking at my photographs. Wondering how awful it must be to live like that and then turn into a cripple.’ (Moyes, 2012, p. 43).

“‘Miss Clark, my life is not going to be significantly improved by a drive around Stortfold’s country lanes.’ He turned away.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 46).

As Lou enters Will’s life, she is met with the challenging task of bridging the emotional gap that separates them. Will’s initial resistance to Lou’s presence is palpable, reflecting his frustration and disillusionment with life. However, Lou’s effervescent personality and determination gradually break down his walls, and an unexpected connection begins to form between them.

“‘Well, like you say. It’s just a matter of getting used to him. It’s bound to be difficult in the first few days, isn’t it?’” (Moyes, 2012, p. 49).

“‘But oh Lord, he was vile to me. Everything I said, he had a sharp answer for. If I asked him if he was warm enough, he would retort that he was quite capable of letting me know if he needed another blanket. If I asked if the vacuum cleaner was too noisy for him – I hadn’t wanted to interrupt his film – he asked me why, had I worked out a way to make it run silently? When I fed him, he complained that the food was too hot or too cold, or that I had brought the next forkful up to his mouth before he had finished the last. He had the ability to twist almost anything I said or did so that I seemed stupid.’” (Moyes, 2012, p. 52).

“‘Let me get this straight. You think a teaspoon of carrot would improve my quality of life?’

It was pretty stupid when he put it like that. But I had learnt it was important not to look cowed by anything Will said or did.

‘I take your point,’ I said evenly. ‘I won’t do it again.’

And then, out of nowhere, Will Traynor laughed. It exploded out of him in a gasp, as if it were entirely unexpected.

‘For Christ’s sake,’ he shook his head.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 69).

The heart of the narrative lies in the evolving relationship between Lou and Will. Moyes skillfully portrays the complexities of caregiving and the transformative power of genuine

human connection. Despite their differences, Lou and Will learn to understand and appreciate each other, and an undeniable bond grows between them. Lou becomes not just Will's caregiver but also a source of inspiration and companionship.

Central to the plot is the revelation of Will's desire to end his life through assisted suicide. This revelation adds a profound layer of complexity to the narrative, forcing both characters and readers to confront ethical and moral dilemmas. Will, having experienced a life full of adventure and independence, struggles to find meaning in a world that no longer aligns with his vision of a fulfilling existence.

“He's not “a bit down”, Pat. He wants to kill himself. He wants to take himself off to Dignitas, and end his own bloody life.’ I could hear my blood thumping in my ears” (Moyes, 2012, p. 300).

Lou, determined to change Will's perspective on life, embarks on a mission to expose him to new experiences and possibilities. The novel takes readers on a journey through Lou and Will's adventures, from concerts and exotic vacations to simple moments of shared laughter. Moyes masterfully captures the emotional highs and lows of their journey, creating a narrative that is both heartwarming and heart-wrenching.

“I stared at the back of his head and the words were out of my mouth almost before I knew what I was saying. ‘Okay. Will wants to die. He wants to commit suicide. And this trip is my last attempt to change his mind.’” (Moyes, 2012, p. 289).

The supporting characters in the novel also play significant roles in shaping the narrative. Lou's tight-knit and eccentric family, including her parents, sister, and nephew, contribute moments of humor and warmth. Will's parents, especially his mother Camilla, add layers of complexity as they grapple with their son's desire to end his life. These characters enrich the story, providing a broader perspective on the impact of Will's decision.

The novel reaches its emotional climax as Lou discovers Will's intention to travel to Switzerland for assisted suicide. This revelation forces both characters and readers to confront the inevitability of Will's choice and the profound impact it will have on those who care about him. Moyes handles this sensitive subject matter with sympathy, encouraging readers to reflect on the complexities of autonomy, love, and the right to make life-altering decisions.

“‘What?’

‘No, Clark.’

‘No?’

‘I'm sorry. It's not enough.’

...

‘Yes,’ Will said, after a pause. ‘Yes, there is. I’ve had the consultations. The clinic agreed that I am a suitable case for them. And my parents agreed to the thirteenth of August. We’re due to fly out the day before.’ My head had begun to spin. It was less than a week away. ‘I don’t believe this.’ ‘Louisa –’ ‘I thought ... I thought I was changing your mind.’” (Moyes, 2012, p. 336-338).

“So I held him, Will Traynor, ex-City whiz kid, ex-stunt diver, sportsman, traveller, lover. I held him close and said nothing, all the while telling him silently that he was loved. Oh, but he was loved.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 373).

In the final chapters, Moyes brings the narrative to a bittersweet conclusion that is both heartbreaking and uplifting. The novel does not shy away from the harsh realities of life, yet it leaves room for hope and resilience. The emotional resonance of “Me Before You” lingers long after the last page, prompting readers to contemplate the fragility of life and the transformative power of human connection.

Jojo Moyes’ “Me Before You” is a beautifully crafted novel that delves into the intricacies of love, loss, and the choices that define our existence. Through the compelling and empathetic portrayal of Lou and Will’s relationship, Moyes invites readers to navigate the complexities of life, challenging preconceived notions and prompting contemplation on what it truly means to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.

3.2. Second book: “After You”

“After You” by Jojo Moyes continues the story of Louisa Clark after the events of “Me Before You”. In this sequel, Lou navigates through grief, self-discovery, and new relationships as she tries to rebuild her life after losing Will Traynor.

It picks up eighteen months after the heartbreaking conclusion of the first book. Louisa Clark is struggling to come to terms with Will’s death, haunted by grief and guilt. She lives in a small flat in London, working at an airport bar, but her life lacks direction and purpose.

“Grief wells up again, like a sudden tide, intense, overwhelming.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 15).

Lou’s grief is multifaceted, stemming from her deep emotional connection to Will and the circumstances surrounding his death. Throughout the novel, she remains plagued by the belief that she bears responsibility for Will’s fate, convinced that she could have done more to save him. This overwhelming sense of guilt becomes a pervasive force in Lou’s life, hindering her ability to find closure and begin the process of healing.

“Sometimes I think if I had been smarter, or ... handled things differently ... or just been more – I don’t know. More anything.’

‘You feel guilty about Bill’s death because you feel you could have stopped him?’

I pulled at a thread. When it came away in my hand it seemed to loosen something in my brain. ‘Also that I’m living a life that is so much less than the one I promised him I’d live. And guilt over the fact that he basically paid for my flat when my sister will probably never be able to afford one of her own. And guilt that I don’t even really like living in it, because it doesn’t feel like mine, and it feels wrong to make it nice because all I associate it with is the fact that W—Bill is dead and somehow I benefited from that.’” (Moyes, 2016, p. 78).

The novel paints a poignant portrait of Lou’s internal struggle as she grapples with conflicting emotions of grief, regret, and self-blame. Despite the passage of time, Lou remains mired in the depths of her sorrow, unable to move forward with her life. Her attendance at the support group serves as a testament to her willingness to confront her pain, yet it also underscores the profound sense of isolation she feels amidst her grief.

“For a few dark, thumping hours, I let go of everything, my problems floating away like helium balloons: my awful job, my picky boss, my failure to move on.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 155).

An unexpected turn of events further complicates Lou’s journey of healing when she suffers a serious accident, falling from her apartment balcony while intoxicated. The physical injuries she sustains, including a broken hip, pale in comparison to the emotional wounds that are reopened as a result of the incident. Lou’s family gathers around her during her recovery, expressing concern for her well-being, yet their efforts only serve to deepen her sense of despair and isolation.

“I half turn, and catch a flash of a small pale face on the fire escape, dark eyes wide open. In shock, my foot slips on the parapet, my weight suddenly the wrong side of the drop. My heart lurches, a split second before my body follows. And then, like a nightmare, I am weightless, in the abyss of the night air, my legs flailing above my head as I hear the shriek that may be my own – Crunch And then all is black.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 15).

“Afterwards they tell me I fell two floors of the five, busting through an awning, breaking my fall on a top-of-the-range outsized canvas and wicker-effect waterproof-cushioned sun-lounger on the balcony of Mr Antony Gardiner, a copyright lawyer, and neighbour I have never met. My hip smashed into two pieces and two of my ribs and my collarbone snapped straight through. I broke two fingers on my left hand, and a metatarsal, which poked through the skin of my foot and caused one of the medical students to faint. My X-rays are a source of some fascination.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 19-20).

The accident becomes a metaphor for Lou’s internal turmoil, symbolizing the precarious state of her emotional well-being. Just as she struggles to find her footing physically, so too does she grapple with the uncertainty and instability of her mental and emotional state. The presence

of her family, while well-intentioned, serves as a constant reminder of the void left by Will's absence, exacerbating her feelings of grief and loneliness.

“‘What?’ I say. ‘What is it?’

They look awkwardly at each other.

‘So ...’ Mum sits on the end of my bed. ‘The doctor said ... the consultant said ... it’s not clear how you fell.’

I bite into an egg sandwich. I can pick things up with my left hand now. ‘Oh, that. I got distracted.’

‘While walking around a roof.’” (Moyes, 2016, p. 24).

Lou's parents, Josie and Bernard, are portrayed as loving and well-meaning, yet their concern for Lou often manifests in ways that feel suffocating to her. They gather around her during her recovery from the accident, expressing genuine concern for her well-being.

“I open my eyes to find my mother at the end of my bed.

‘She’s awake. Bernard, she’s awake. Do we need to get the nurse?’

She’s changed the colour of her hair, I think distantly. And then: Oh. It’s my mother. My mother doesn’t talk to me any more.

‘Oh, thank God. Thank God.’ My mother reaches up and touches the crucifix around her neck. It reminds me of someone but I cannot think who. She leans forward and lightly strokes my cheek. For some reason this makes my eyes fill immediately with tears. ‘Oh, my little girl.’ She is leaning over me, as if to shelter me from further damage. I smell her perfume, as familiar as my own. ‘Oh, Lou.’ She mops my tears with a tissue. ‘I got the fright of my life when they called. Are you in pain? Do you need anything? Are you comfortable? What can I get you?’” (Moyes, 2016, p. 20-21)

However, their overprotectiveness exacerbates Lou's sense of despair and isolation, leaving her feeling smothered by their constant attention. Despite their best intentions, Lou struggles to assert her independence and autonomy in the face of her parents' well-meaning but stifling care.

“I want to say I’ll be fine in my flat, no matter what they think of it. I want to do my job and come home and not think until my next shift. I want to say I can’t come back to Stortfold and be that girl again, the one who. I don’t want to have to feel the weight of my mother’s carefully disguised disapproval, of my father’s cheerful determination that it’s all okay, everything is just fine, as if saying it enough times will actually make it okay. I don’t want to pass Will’s house every day, to think about what I was part of, the thing that will always be there.

But I don't say any of it. Because suddenly I'm tired and everything hurts and I just can't fight any more." (Moyes, 2016, p. 26).

Treena, Lou's sister, adds another layer of complexity to the family dynamics. While Treena loves her sister, she also harbors resentment towards Lou for the ways in which her own life has been impacted by Lou's involvement with Will and his subsequent death. Treena is portrayed as a young mother who feels that her dreams have been derailed by the responsibilities of unplanned single motherhood. This resentment colors her interactions with Lou, creating tension and conflict within their relationship.

"So did you decide what you're going to do? When you're better?" ...

'Not really.'

'You've got to do something. You can't sit around here on your backside for all eternity.'

'I won't sit on my backside. Besides, my hip still hurts. The physio said I'm better off lying down.'

'Mum and Dad are wondering what you're going to do. There are no jobs in Stortfold.'

'I do know that.'

'But you're drifting. You don't seem to be interested in anything.'

'Treen, I just fell off a building. I'm recuperating.'

'And before that you were wafting around travelling. And then you were working in a bar until you knew what you wanted to do. You'll have to sort your head out at some point. If you're not going back to school, you have to figure out what it is you're actually going to do with your life.'

'I'm just saying. Anyway, if you're going to stay in Stortfold, you need to rent out that flat. Mum and Dad can't support you for ever.'" (Moyes, 2016, p. 39).

The challenges within Lou's familial relationships reflect the complexities of grief and loss, as well as the ways in which individual experiences can intersect and affect one another. Lou's struggle to navigate her relationships with her parents and sister underscores the importance of communication, empathy, and understanding in the face of adversity.

Throughout her recovery, Lou is forced to confront the harsh reality of her situation, coming face to face with the consequences of her actions and the lingering aftermath of Will's death. Her physical pain serves as a tangible reminder of the emotional wounds that continue to fester beneath the surface, refusing to heal despite her best efforts.

The accident serves as a catalyst for Lou's transformation, propelling her towards a newfound sense of clarity and purpose. As she confronts her own mortality, she is forced to confront the demons that have long haunted her, including her unresolved feelings of guilt and self-doubt. Through her struggles, Lou begins to unravel the layers of her grief, gradually

coming to terms with the complexities of her emotions and the role she played in Will's life and death.

The introduction of Lily Houghton-Miller marks a significant turning point in Lou's journey of healing and self-discovery. Lily, a teenage girl who claims to be the daughter of Will Traynor, Lou's former partner, brings a new layer of complexity to her already tumultuous life.

"She couldn't have been more than sixteen, the dewy plumpness of youth still visible in her cheeks. Her hair long and lustrous. Long skinny legs in tight black jeans. Flicky eyeliner, in a pretty face. 'So ... who did you say you were?' I asked. 'Lily. Lily Houghton-Miller. Look,' she said, and lifted her chin an inch, 'I need to talk to you about my father.'

'I think you have the wrong person. I don't know anyone called Houghton-Miller. There must be another Louisa Clark you've confused me with.'

I made to shut the door, but she had wedged the toe of her shoe in it. I looked down at it, and slowly back up at her. 'Not his name,' she said, as though I was stupid. And when she spoke, her eyes were both fierce and searching. 'His name is Will Traynor.'" (Moyes, 2016, p. 67).

Lily's sudden appearance disrupts the fragile balance of Lou's existence, plunging her into a whirlwind of emotions ranging from skepticism to disbelief. Initially, Lou struggles to reconcile Lily's claim with her own memories of Will and their relationship. Her skepticism is fueled by a fear of being deceived or manipulated, as well as a reluctance to reopen old wounds and confront unresolved emotions surrounding Will's death.

"I don't understand ...' I went behind the kitchen counter. 'Will didn't have children. I would have known.' I frowned at her, suddenly suspicious. 'Is this some kind of joke?'" (Moyes, 2016, p. 67).

Lou's reluctance to accept Lily into her life reflects her apprehension and vulnerability in the face of unexpected change. She grapples with conflicting emotions of curiosity and apprehension, unsure of how to navigate this newfound connection with someone who claims to be a part of Will's past. As she wrestles with her own doubts and insecurities, Lou finds herself caught between a desire for closure and a fear of facing the painful truths that Lily's presence may unearth.

The dynamic between Lou and Lily is fraught with tension and uncertainty as they navigate the complexities of their relationship. Lou's initial skepticism gives way to a cautious curiosity as she begins to unravel the mystery of Lily's identity and her connection to Will. Meanwhile, Lily's own struggles with identity and belonging add another layer of complexity to their interactions, creating a strained dynamic characterized by mistrust and uncertainty.

"We developed a routine of sorts, in which Lily would turn up to see me every few days. I was never certain which Lily I would find at my door: manically cheerful Lily, demanding that

we go out and eat at this restaurant or look at the totally gorgeous cat outside on the wall downstairs, or dance in the living room to some band she'd just discovered; or subdued, wary Lily, who would nod a silent greeting on her way in, then lie on my sofa and watch television. Sometimes she would ask random questions about Will – what programmes did he like? (He barely watched television; he preferred films.) Did he have a favourite fruit? (Seedless grapes. Red ones.) When was the last time I'd seen him laugh? (He didn't laugh much. But his smile ... I could picture it now, a rare flash of even white teeth, his eyes crinkling.) I was never sure whether she found my answers satisfactory.

And then, every ten days or so, there was drunk Lily, or worse (I was never sure), who would hammer on my door in the small hours, ignoring my protests about time and lost sleep, stumble past me with mascara-smudged cheeks and missing shoes and pass out on the little camp bed, refusing to wake when I left in the morning.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 134).

As the novel progresses, Lou and Lily's relationship evolves, albeit slowly and tentatively. They embark on a journey of discovery and self-exploration, learning to navigate the complexities of their shared history and the emotional baggage that comes with it. Through their interactions, they confront their own fears and insecurities, ultimately finding solace and understanding in the bonds of friendship and kinship.

“Lily. I have work tomorrow morning.’

‘I love you, Louisa. Did I tell you that? I really do love you. You're the only one who ...’” (Moyes, 2016, p. 133).

The introduction of Sam Fielding, a paramedic, adds a new dimension to Lou's emotional landscape, which has been marred by grief and a sense of loss after Will's death. Sam's arrival marks a critical juncture in Lou's journey towards healing and finding new meaning in life.

Sam enters Lou's life under dramatic circumstances. He is one of the paramedics who assists her following her serious accident - an event that symbolizes both her physical and emotional fall. This initial interaction, though professional and fraught with crisis, sets the stage for a deeper connection. Sam's role as a caregiver during this critical moment establishes him as a figure of safety and stability.

“Oh, thang Gog.’ I hear my voice, as if from afar. My eyes brim with tears. ‘Please don't leggo ogme,’ I whisper.

He moves his face closer. ‘I am not letting go of you.’

I want to speak, but his face blurs, and I am gone again.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 19)

As Lou struggles with her grief and the complicated feelings of moving on from Will, her relationship with Sam begins to develop. Sam is portrayed as understanding and patient, providing a strong yet gentle presence that contrasts sharply with the profound intellectual and

emotional intensity that characterized her relationship with Will. The budding romance with Sam introduces a more grounded and practical love into Lou's life, different from the almost transcendent, transformative love she experienced with Will.

He is depicted as a compassionate, steady, and reliable figure, embodying qualities that are both comforting and essential to Lou's journey of recovery and self-discovery. As a paramedic, Sam's profession speaks volumes about his character; he is a caretaker by nature, accustomed to handling crises with calm and efficiency. "Sam's voice, when it emerged, was a growl: 'Okay. I'm warning you now –'

'You don't warn me!' The boy's face was scornful. 'You don't warn me! Who do you think you are?'

Donna was out of the truck and jogging towards a cop. She murmured something in his ear and I saw them both look over. Donna's face was pleading. The boy was still yelling and swearing, now pushing at Sam's chest. 'So you sort me out before you deal with that wanker.'

Sam adjusted his collar. His face had become dangerously still.

And just as I realized I was holding my breath, the policeman was there, between them. Donna's hand was on Sam's sleeve and she was steering him back to the young lad on the kerb. The policeman muttered something into his radio, his hand on the drunk's shoulder. The boy swung round and spat on Sam's jacket." (Moyes, 2016, p. 159). This aspect of his personality makes him particularly suited to understanding and supporting Lou as she navigates her grief and guilt following Will's death.

Physically, Sam is described as strong and reassuring, his presence offering a sense of security that Lou gravitates towards in her vulnerable state.

"I had time to study him surreptitiously now that I wasn't dodging cars in a car park or lying strapped to a hospital gurney. His nose held a tell-tale ridge, and his eyes crinkled in a way that suggested there was almost no human behaviour he hadn't seen and, perhaps, been slightly amused by. He was tall and broad, his features coarser than Will's somehow, yet he moved with a kind of gentle economy, as if he had absorbed the effort of not damaging things just from his size. He was evidently more comfortable with listening than talking, or perhaps it was just that it was unsettling to be on my own with a man after so much time because I found I was gabbling." (Moyes, 2016, p. 81).

Emotionally, Sam is sensitive and perceptive. He is not only patient with Lou but also genuinely interested in her well-being, showing a level of attentiveness that helps bridge the gap between professional acquaintance and personal intimacy. His ability to listen and provide non-judgmental support is critical as Lou wrestles with complex feelings about moving forward.

Sam also brings his own backstory and vulnerabilities into the relationship, which adds depth to his character. He is not without his own scars, both physical and emotional, which makes him a relatable and multi-dimensional character. His past experiences with loss and trauma provide him with a unique understanding of Lou's struggles, enabling a connection that is rooted in mutual understanding and shared experiences.

“‘You’re not drinking?’

He shook his head. ‘I found after a couple of years on the job that I’d come home and have a drink to relax. And then it was two. And then I found I couldn’t relax until I’d had those two, or maybe three.’ He opened a caddy, dropped a teabag into a mug. ‘And then I ... lost someone close to me, and I decided that either I stopped or I would never stop drinking again.’ He didn’t look at me while he said this, just moved around the railway carriage, a bulky, yet oddly graceful presence within its narrow walls. ‘I do have the odd beer, but not tonight. I’m driving you home later.’

Comments like that took the weirdness out of sitting in a railway carriage with a man I didn’t really know. How could you maintain a reserve with someone who had tended your broken, partially unclothed body? How could you feel anxious around a man who had already told you of his plan to take you home again? It was as if the manner of our first meeting had removed the normal, awkward obstacles to getting to know someone. He had seen me in my underwear. Hell, he had seen under my actual skin. It meant I felt at ease around Sam in a way I didn’t with anyone else.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 141).

Sam Fielding is portrayed as a strong, kind-hearted, and dependable character who plays a crucial role in helping Lou find a pathway out of her grief and into a new phase of life filled with hope and potential for happiness.

Louisa Clark’s character undergoes significant development as she navigates the complex terrain of grief and guilt following the death of Will Traynor. Her journey is marked by challenges and growth, which are significantly influenced by her relationships with two new characters: Lily, the purported daughter Will never knew he had, and Sam Fielding, the paramedic who becomes her romantic interest.

Lou begins the novel in a state of deep mourning, struggling to find purpose and direction without Will. Her emotional state is fragile, and she frequently finds herself revisiting the decisions and moments that led up to Will’s death. The profound sense of loss and unresolved guilt she carries manifests in her life choices and her reluctance to form new attachments. Her accident from the balcony, a result of her precarious mental state, serves as a physical manifestation of her internal turmoil.

The introduction of Lily represents a pivotal moment in Lou's journey. Initially, Lou is skeptical of Lily, wary of the implications her presence might have on her already complicated emotions about Will. However, as Lou learns more about Lily's troubled life, her protective instincts are awakened, and she begins to see helping Lily as a way of honoring Will's memory. This relationship challenges Lou to step outside her own grief, seeing it as a shared experience rather than an isolating one. Taking care of Lily allows Lou to channel her nurturing side, which had been so central to her relationship with Will, into a new, meaningful connection. This helps Lou process her own grief and guilt, as she starts to see her relationship with Will in a broader context.

Sam's role in Lou's life introduces a new dimension of emotional support and romantic possibility. Unlike her relationship with Will, which was deeply entwined with caregiving and complex ethical dilemmas, her relationship with Sam is built on mutual care and understanding. Sam, with his background as a paramedic, is accustomed to dealing with life's darker moments, yet he maintains a capacity for joy and resilience that inspires Lou. He is patient and respectful of her past with Will, offering her the space to heal at her own pace. The budding romance with Sam provides Lou with a contrast to her memories, encouraging her to live in the present and envisage a future that still holds happiness and love.

Throughout "After You", Lou's character is sculpted through her responses to the challenges posed by Lily's turbulent life and her evolving relationship with Sam. Each relationship serves as a catalyst for different aspects of her growth: Lily pulls her out of her internal focus, forcing her to engage with the world again and rethink what it means to love and lose someone. Sam offers a possibility of recovery and renewal, suggesting that grief can coexist with new beginnings.

Lou's journey in the novel is a compelling exploration of how personal connections can profoundly influence one's path through grief and guilt, leading to transformative growth and the rediscovery of one's capacity for love and joy. Through these relationships, Lou learns to reconcile her past with Will and move towards a future that, while different from what she once envisioned, is still rich with potential and fulfillment.

Her progress towards acceptance and healing is gradual and fraught with setbacks, reflecting the realistic, often non-linear nature of grief. The beginning of the novel finds Lou emotionally paralyzed, her life devoid of the vibrancy that characterized her time with Will. Her near-fatal accident on the rooftop is a turning point, forcing her to confront the reality of her stagnation and the need for change. This incident propels her to begin addressing her feelings more directly, a process facilitated by her return to her family's home and the subsequent support she receives.

Lou's confrontation with her past involves revisiting her memories with Will, acknowledging her lingering feelings of guilt, and finally understanding that her life must continue. Her involvement in the grief support group, though initially met with skepticism, eventually plays a crucial role in helping her understand that her feelings of loss are both valid and manageable. The discussions within the group offer her perspectives that challenge her to rethink her own narrative about Will's death and her role in it.

Lou's relationships with Lily and Sam are instrumental in her journey towards healing. Through Lily, Lou rediscovers a sense of purpose and connection. By taking responsibility for Lily, she channels her nurturing instincts into a positive force, slowly reconstructing her own sense of self-worth and agency. Sam offers a new romantic possibility, one that is not overshadowed by caregiving and ethical dilemmas but is instead built on mutual support and understanding. Sam's presence in her life serves as a reminder that her capacity for love was not exhausted by her relationship with Will but can be renewed and transformed.

The culmination of Lou's journey is marked by several key moments of closure and redemption. She achieves a form of closure with Will's legacy through her care for Lily and the realization that she can honor Will by living fully, rather than remaining tethered to their past. Her decision to forgive herself, facilitated by her deep conversations with Sam and the support group, marks a pivotal point in her redemption arc. Lou's readiness to move forward is symbolized in the transformative experiences she shares with those around her, solidifying her bonds of love and friendship.

Lou's decision to accept the job in New York represents more than a geographical change - it symbolizes her readiness to embrace new challenges and opportunities for personal growth. This decision reflects her resilience and determination to move forward, not just survive. Lou's farewell on the rooftop, surrounded by her family, friends, and those who have been part of her journey, highlights her growth from isolation to a community-supported beginning. This moment is both a literal and metaphorical step towards a future where her past informs but no longer defines her.

Her journey in "After You" is a compelling depiction of how personal tragedy can lead to profound personal growth and transformation. Through her experiences, she learns that while the past may shape us, it is our choices in response to it that define our future. Her story is a testament to the enduring strength of the human spirit to find renewal through resilience, love, and the support of those around us.

3.3. Third book: "Still Me"

The final book in Jojo Moyes' series, "Still Me", is the end of a process. Louisa's journey of self-discovery is coming to an end. Just when she thought she was on solid ground, her old love returns and once again confronts the protagonist's will with New York.

In the opening of "Still Me", the story picks up with Louisa leaving her familiar hometown in England behind and embarking on a new chapter of her life in New York City. This geographical shift symbolizes Louisa's desire for a fresh start and a chance to explore new opportunities.

"It was the mustache that reminded me I was no longer in England: a solid, gray millipede firmly obscuring the man's upper lip; a Village People mustache, a cowboy mustache, the miniature head of a broom that meant business. You just didn't get that kind of mustache at home. I couldn't tear my eyes from it." (Moyes, 2019, p. 9).

"I sat in a window seat staring out at the early-morning Manhattan street for half an hour or so, my mouth alternately filled with claggy, buttery muffin or scalded by hot, strong coffee, giving free rein to my ever-present internal monologue (*I am drinking New York coffee in a New York coffeehouse! I am walking along a New York street! Like Meg Ryan! Or Diane Keaton! I am in actual New York!*) and, briefly, I understood exactly what Will had been trying to explain to me two years previously: for those few minutes, my mouth full of unfamiliar food, my eyes filled with strange sights, I existed only in the moment. I was fully present, my senses alive, my whole being open to receive the new experiences around me. I was in the only place in the world I could possibly be." (Moyes, 2019, p. 20).

As she begins her job as a personal assistant to a wealthy family in the city, we see her grappling with the lingering grief of losing Will Traynor. Will's impact on Louisa is profound, and his absence continues to shape her thoughts and actions as she navigates her new life.

"It's like this. I used to work for this man. I was his companion, but I would also give him his meds and take him out and feed him. That's not as weird as it sounds, by the way—he had no use of his hands. It wasn't like something pervy. Actually my last job ended up as more than that, because it's hard not to get close to people you look after and Will—the man—was amazing and we . . . Well, we fell in love." Too late, I felt the familiar welling of tears. I wiped at my eyes briskly. "So I think it'll be sort of like that. Except for the love bit. And the feeding."

The immigration officer was staring at me. I tried to smile. "Actually, I don't normally cry talking about jobs. I'm not like an actual lunatic, despite my name. Hah! But I loved him. And he loved me. And then he . . . Well, he chose to end his life. So this is sort of my attempt to start over." The tears were now leaking relentlessly, embarrassingly, from the corners of my eyes. I couldn't seem to stop them. I couldn't seem to stop anything. "Sorry. Must be the jet lag. It's something like two o'clock in the morning in normal time, right? Plus I don't really talk

about him anymore. I mean, I have a new boyfriend. And he's great! He's a paramedic! And hot! That's like winning the boyfriend lottery, right? A hot paramedic?" (Moyes, 2019, p. 11).

This introduction sets the stage for Louisa's journey of self-discovery and growth throughout the novel. She's faced with the challenge of reconciling her past with her present, while also carving out a new identity for herself in a bustling and unfamiliar city. Louisa's grief over Will's death serves as a central emotional thread that runs through the narrative, informing her decisions and interactions with others.

The transition to life in New York City presents Louisa with a myriad of challenges as she navigates the bustling metropolis. The contrast between her quaint hometown in England and the fast-paced, glamorous lifestyle of New York City is stark, highlighting Louisa's initial struggle to adjust.

"Never gets old, that view, eh? Bit grander than Stortfold." (Moyes, 2019, p. 14).

"The first thing that struck me was how thin most of them were, hoicked into tiny dresses, clavicles poking out like safety rails. Women of a certain age in Stortfold tended to spread gently outward, cloaking their extra inches in cardigans or long jumpers ("Does it cover my bum?") and paying lip service to looking good in the form of the occasional new mascara or a six-weekly haircut. In my hometown it was as if to pay too much attention to yourself was somehow suspect, or suggested unhealthy self-interest." (Moyes, 2019, p. 63).

"For the first time since I had come to work for the Gopniks, the weekend stretched out in front of me like an interminable journey over bleak terrain.

So I did what every girl does when she's far from home and a little sad. I ate half a packet of chocolate Digestives and called my mother." (Moyes, 2019, p. 172).

As she settles into her role as a personal assistant to a wealthy family, Louisa finds herself grappling with the demands and expectations of her new job. The high-pressure environment and the demands of the elite lifestyle are unfamiliar territory for her, causing her to feel out of place and overwhelmed.

"That first week moved in fits and starts, like the first day, with me watching Agnes for signals in the way that Mum used to watch our old dog when her bladder got leaky. Does she need to go out? What does she want? Where should I be? I jogged with Agnes and George every morning, waving them on from about a mile in and motioning toward my hip before walking slowly back to the building. I spent a lot of time sitting in the hall, studying my iPad intently when anybody walked past, so that I might look as if I knew what I was doing.

Michael came every day and briefed me in whispered bursts. He seemed to spend his life on the run between the apartment and Mr. Gopnik's Wall Street office, one of two cell phones

pressed to his ear, dry-cleaning over his arm, coffee in his hand. He was completely charming and always smiling, and I had absolutely no idea if he liked me at all.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 48-49).

Louisa’s discomfort is compounded by her perception of herself as an outsider among the affluent social circles of New York. She feels like she does not belong among the wealthy elite, further exacerbating her sense of alienation and insecurity. Throughout this section of the novel, Moyes skillfully captures Louisa’s inner turmoil and the challenges she faces as she tries to find her footing in this new environment. Her journey to adapt to life in New York City is a relatable exploration of identity, belonging, and the universal struggle to find one’s place in a world that can sometimes feel intimidating and unforgiving.

““I’m going to say a Will Traynor thing now.” I said it like a warning.

“Okay.”

“There’s almost not a day that I’m here when I don’t think he’d be proud of me.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 187).

Louisa’s relationship with Sam begins as a source of comfort and stability amidst the chaos of her new life in New York City. Sam is a paramedic who shares Louisa’s passion for helping others, and their initial connection is rooted in mutual respect and admiration. However, as the relationship progresses, it becomes clear that Louisa and Sam are fundamentally incompatible in terms of their long-term goals and aspirations.

The breakup itself is portrayed with sensitivity and emotional depth by Moyes. Louisa grapples with conflicting emotions as she realizes that she must prioritize her own happiness and personal growth over the comfort of familiarity. Despite caring deeply for Sam, Louisa recognizes that their relationship has run its course and that she must be true to herself and her own desires.

““I got back two days ago,” I said.

The briefest of pauses. “Okay.”

“I thought I’d come and surprise you. Thursday evening.” I scratched at a mark on the tablecloth. “Turns out it was me who got the surprise.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 245).

“After a few minutes I said quietly. “I can’t do this, Sam.”

“You can’t do what?”

“I can’t be worrying about Katie Ingram and her attempts to seduce you—because whatever happened that night I could see what she wanted, even if I don’t know what you wanted. It’s making me crazy and it’s making me sad, and worse”—I swallowed hard—“it’s making me hate you. And I can’t imagine how in three short months I’ve got to that point.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 247).

Moyes captures the complexity of the breakup process, depicting Louisa's inner turmoil and the pain of letting go of someone she cares about deeply. The breakup scene is filled with raw emotion and honesty, highlighting the depth of Louisa's character and her capacity for self-reflection and growth.

““You said—”

He looked up.

“You said . . . nobody would ever hurt me again. You said that. When you came to New York.” My voice emerged from somewhere in my chest. “I never thought for a moment you would be the one to do it.”

“Louisa—”

“I think I'd like you to go now.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 248-249).

“As it turns out, as a distraction from losing the second great love of your life...” (Moyes, 2019, p. 251).

Following the breakup, Louisa experiences a period of introspection and self-discovery. She learns to embrace her independence and chart her own path forward, free from the constraints of a relationship that no longer serves her. The breakup ultimately becomes a catalyst for Louisa's personal growth, empowering her to pursue her dreams and embrace the future with renewed optimism and resilience.

The introduction of Joshua Ryan into Louisa's life marks a significant turning point in her emotional journey. Joshua's striking resemblance to Will Traynor immediately captures her attention and stirs up complex emotions within her. Louisa finds herself drawn to Joshua, intrigued by his resemblance to Will and the possibility of a connection with someone who evokes memories of her past. However, she is also hesitant and unsure if she is ready to move on from her grief and fully embrace a new relationship.

“Good evening,” said a voice at my ear.

I looked up and stumbled backward. Will Traynor stood beside me.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 64).

““You okay?”

“Oh, gosh. Fine. I'm fine.” I felt stupid now. My face glowed with it.

“You're English.”

“You're not.”

“Not even a New Yorker. Bostonian. Joshua William Ryan the Third.” He held out his hand.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 65).

The similarity between Joshua and Will serves as a poignant reminder of Louisa's past and the deep impact that Will had on her life. It forces her to confront her lingering feelings of loss and the difficult process of letting go and moving forward.

Moyes expertly portrays Louisa's internal conflict as she grapples with her attraction to Joshua while simultaneously wrestling with her loyalty to Will's memory. This dynamic adds depth and complexity to their budding relationship, highlighting the complexities of love, loss, and the journey towards healing.

One of the ways Louisa finds fulfillment and purpose in New York City is through volunteering at a homeless shelter. This experience allows her to connect with people from different walks of life and gain a deeper understanding of the social issues facing the city. It also gives her a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction, knowing that she is making a positive impact in her community. Additionally, Louisa immerses herself in the city's rich cultural offerings, from visiting museums and art galleries to attending concerts and performances. These experiences broaden her perspective and ignite her curiosity, fueling her passion for exploration and discovery.

Through these new opportunities, Louisa begins to carve out her own identity in New York City, separate from her role as a personal assistant or her past relationships. She embraces her interests and passions, finding joy and fulfillment in pursuing activities that bring her happiness and fulfillment.

"It was an unpromising storefront—a grubby 1970s exterior that promised a "Vintage Clothes Emporium, all decades, all styles, low prices." But I walked in and stopped in my tracks. The shop was a warehouse, set with carousels of clothes in distinct sections under homemade signs that said "1940s," "1960s," "Clothes That Dreams Are Made Of," and "Bargain Corner: No Shame In A Ripped Seam." The air smelled musky, of decades-old perfume, moth-eaten fur, and long forgotten evenings out. I gulped in the scent like oxygen, feeling as if I had somehow recovered a part of myself I had barely known I was missing. I trailed around the store, trying on armfuls of clothes by designers I had never heard of, their names a whispered echo of some long-forgotten age—Tailored by Michel, Fonseca of New Jersey, Miss Aramis—running my fingers over invisible stitching, placing Chinese silks and chiffon against my cheek. I could have bought a dozen things, but I finally settled on a teal blue fitted cocktail dress with huge fur cuffs and a scoop neck (I told myself fur didn't count if it dated from sixty years ago), a pair of vintage denim railroad dungarees, and a checked shirt that made me want to chop down a tree or maybe ride a horse with a swishy tail. I could have stayed there all day." (Moyes, 2019, p. 166).

At the heart of her emotional struggle is the balance between her feelings for Joshua Ryan and her loyalty to Will Traynor's memory. Joshua's resemblance to Will creates a complex

dynamic for Louisa, stirring up conflicting emotions as she grapples with moving on while honoring her past.

Her friendship with Mrs. De Witt, her quirky neighbor, provides a source of warmth and comfort in the midst of her emotional turmoil. Mrs. De Witt offers sage advice and a listening ear, serving as a supportive presence in Louisa's life.

““Oh, goodness. You're still here.”

Mrs. De Witt was just exiting the building as I arrived home, pulling on her gloves under the awning. I stepped back, neatly avoiding Dean Martin's teeth snapping near my leg, and smiled politely at her. “Good morning, Mrs. De Witt. Where else would I be?”” (Moyes, 2019, p. 133).

Similarly, her bond with Nathan, her colleague, grows stronger as they navigate the challenges of their jobs together. Nathan becomes a trusted confidant, offering perspective and encouragement when Louisa needs it most.

“Nathan was waiting in Arrivals, as he had promised. I scanned the crowd, feeling oddly self-conscious, secretly convinced that nobody would come, but there he was, his huge hand waving above the shifting bodies around him. He raised his other arm, a smile breaking across his face, and pushed his way through to meet me, picking me up off my feet in a gigantic hug. “Lou!”” (Moyes, 2019, p. 12).

At the novel's climax, Louisa confronts her past and makes peace with her grief over Will Traynor's death. She realizes that she doesn't need to hold onto his memory as a barrier to moving forward in her life. Instead, she embraces the lessons she learned from her time with him and uses them to inform her decisions about her future.

Crucially, Louisa learns to prioritize her own desires and aspirations over the expectations of others. She recognizes the importance of living authentically and following her heart, even if it means making difficult choices or taking risks.

In the resolution, Louisa's character arc comes full circle as she emerges stronger, more confident, and more self-assured than ever before. She finds the courage to pursue her dreams and forge her own path, free from the constraints of societal norms or other people's opinions.

“Once upon a time there was a small-town girl who lived in a small world. She was perfectly happy, or at least she told herself she was. Like many girls, she loved to try different looks, to be someone she wasn't. But, like too many girls, life had chipped away at her until, instead of finding what truly suited her, she camouflaged herself, hid the bits that made her different. For a while she let the world bruise her until she decided it was safer not to be herself at all.

There are so many versions of ourselves we can choose to be. Once, my life was destined to be measured out in the most ordinary of steps. I learned differently from a man who refused to accept the version of himself he'd been left with, and an old lady who saw, conversely, that she could transform herself, right up to a point when many people would have said there was nothing left to be done.

I had a choice. I was Louisa Clark from New York or Louisa Clark from Stortfold. Or there might be a whole other Louisa I hadn't yet met. The key was making sure that anyone you allowed to walk beside you didn't get to decide which you were, and pin you down like a butterfly in a case. The key was to know that you could always somehow find a way to reinvent yourself again.

I would survive if he wasn't there, I reassured myself. After all, I had survived worse. It would just be another reinvention." (Moyes, 2019, p. 417).

Jojo Moyes has crafted a compelling and emotionally resonant narrative that captures the essence of the human experience. Through Louisa's journey, readers are reminded of the importance of resilience, the beauty of human connection, and the enduring power of the human spirit to overcome adversity and emerge stronger on the other side.

Part 4

Analysis for love themes

What makes a novel a romantic novel is not only the description of love, the romantic nature of it, rather all the small details, scenes, movements, silent dialogues that make the reader feel the intense cavalcade of emotions. Many novels also give an unspoken indication of the bond, the glow, the connection between the characters. In a similar way, Jojo Moyes makes the reader feel when the supreme stage of love, unconditional love, enters the scene. This feeling is reflected not only in love in the romantic sense, but also in love of family, friends and self.

4.1. The unconditional love theme in the first book

4.1.1. *Romantic love*

The theme of love is intricately woven throughout Jojo Moyes' "Me Before You", enriching the narrative with depth and emotional resonance. The exploration of love takes various forms within the novel, influencing the characters' relationships and shaping their individual journeys.

In the quaint English town of Stortford, the initial dynamic between Louisa Clark and Will Traynor is defined by the stark contrast in their lives. Lou, a vivacious and spirited young woman, finds herself thrust into the role of a caregiver for Will, a once-adventurous banker whose life took an unexpected turn due to a tragic accident, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. This profound physical limitation creates a palpable emotional distance between them, setting the stage for a relationship that transcends conventional boundaries.

The challenges posed by Will's quadriplegia are not merely physical but extend to the emotional and psychological realms. Will, grappling with the loss of his former life, erects walls around himself, resisting Lou's attempts to breach his defenses. His vulnerability is masked by a veneer of cynicism, and the enormity of his predicament casts a shadow on any potential for connection. Lou, in turn, faces the challenge of navigating the intricacies of caregiving, an unfamiliar territory that demands patience and empathy.

As the narrative unfolds, Moyes skillfully navigates the gradual evolution of Lou and Will's relationship. What begins as a conventional caregiver-patient dynamic transforms into a genuine companionship marked by mutual understanding and shared experiences. Lou's quirky charm and infectious humor become instruments of dismantling the emotional barriers that Will has created around himself.

Lou, in her candid and endearing manner, brings a unique perspective into Will's life: "Will and I seemed to have found an easier way of being around each other. It revolved mainly around him being rude to me, and me occasionally being rude back. He told me I did something badly, and I told him if it really mattered to him then he could ask me nicely. He swore at me, or called me a pain in the backside, and I told him he should try being without this particular pain in

the backside and see how far it got him. It was a bit forced but it seemed to work for both of us. Sometimes it even seemed like a relief to him that there was someone prepared to be rude to him, to contradict him or tell him he was being horrible. I got the feeling that everyone had tiptoed around him since his accident – apart from perhaps Nathan, who Will seemed to treat with an automatic respect, and who was probably impervious to any of his sharper comments anyway.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 70-71). Through their interactions, Lou becomes not just a caregiver but a source of comfort and solace for Will.

Shared experiences play a pivotal role in deepening their connection. Whether it is Lou reading to Will, taking him on outings, or him introducing the world of classical music to the girl, each moment becomes a stepping stone in their journey toward intimacy. Lou’s willingness to embrace the challenge of expanding Will’s horizons reflects the transformative power of love.

The humor woven into their interactions becomes a lifeline, providing moments of levity amidst the gravity of Will’s condition. As Lou exposes Will to new experiences, such as the chaos of a bumblebee tights mishap or the awkwardness of a dance lesson, their relationship transcends the conventional boundaries of caregiver and patient, blossoming into a genuine connection that defies societal expectations.

The idyllic progression of Lou and Will’s relationship encounters a seismic shift with the introduction of the ethical dilemma at the core of the novel – Will’s desire for assisted suicide. This revelation becomes a crucible, challenging the foundation of their romantic bond and introducing an emotional turmoil that tests the limits of their connection: “But mostly I felt filled with horror. I was haunted by what I now knew. How could you live each day knowing that you were simply whiling away the days until your own death? How could this man whose skin I had felt that morning under my fingers – warm, and alive – choose to just extinguish himself? How could it be that, with everyone’s consent, in six months’ time that same skin would be decaying under the ground?” (Moyes, 2012, p. 120-121).

The internal struggle within Will becomes evident as he grapples with the reality of his life. His behavior and periodic emotional outbursts show the reader the inner struggle within Will, the depth of his despair and the rationale behind his difficult decision: “I don’t do anything, Miss Clark. I can’t do anything any more. I sit. I just about exist.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 46). “I can’t do this because I can’t ... ’ he swallowed. ‘I can’t be the man I want to be with you. And that means that this –’ he looked up into my face ‘– this just becomes ... another reminder of what I am not.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 334). “It’s not going to get any better than this. The odds are I’m only going to get increasingly unwell and my life, reduced as it is, is going to get smaller. The doctors have said as much. There are a host of conditions encroaching on me. I can feel it. I don’t want to be in pain any more, or trapped in this thing, or dependent on everyone, or afraid. So I’m

asking you – if you feel the things you say you feel – then do it. Be with me. Give me the end I’m hoping for.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 338). Will’s emotional pain becomes a palpable force, and Lou, faced with the impending loss of the person she has come to love, is thrust into an emotional maelstrom.

The ethical dilemma extends beyond Will’s personal choices, affecting the dynamics of their relationship. Lou, torn between her love for Will and her moral convictions, confronts the harsh reality of the situation. The conflict is not merely a battle of wills but a profound exploration of the boundaries of love and the painful choices that sometimes accompany it.

As Will’s desire for assisted suicide casts a shadow over their romance, the foundation of their connection is tested. Lou, struggling with her own conflicting emotions, becomes a poignant representation of the complexities inherent in the theme of love. The conflict is not external but internal, etching the narrative with a raw and unfiltered exploration of human emotions.

The resolution of Lou and Will’s romantic arc is bittersweet, echoing the complexity of their love. The inevitability of Will’s decision adds layers of poignancy to their farewell. The depth of their love, however, transcends the physical limitations imposed by Will’s quadriplegia.

Lou, in a moment of heartbreaking clarity, articulates the enduring impact of their love: “I will never, ever regret the things I’ve done. Because most days, if you’re stuck in one of these, all you have are the places in your memory that you can go to.” (Moyes, 2012, p. 214-215). The transcendence of physical limitations is exemplified as Lou acknowledges the profound influence of their time together on her own journey.

The impact of their love extends beyond the confines of the narrative, leaving a lasting imprint on both characters. Will’s influence becomes a guiding force for Lou as she navigates life after his departure. The resolution is not a tidy conclusion but a testament to the enduring nature of love, capable of withstanding even the harshest tests.

The bittersweet resolution of their romantic arc highlights the transcendence of love beyond physical limitations. Their farewell is not an end but a continuation of the impact of their love on each other’s lives. In the end, “Me Before You” leaves readers with a profound reflection on the transformative power of love, capable of enduring even in the face of life’s most challenging circumstances.

4.1.2. Familial love

In the book series, the Clark family serves as a cornerstone in protagonist Lou’s life. Lou is part of a close-knit and quirky family dynamic that plays a significant role in shaping her character and choices.

Throughout Lou's journey with Will, her family provides unwavering support, often adding humor and warmth to the narrative. From her eccentric parents to her loving sister, the Clark family serves as a source of solidarity during challenging times. Moments of humor and solidarity, such as Lou's father's antics or her sister's unwavering encouragement, underscore the strength of their familial bond.

Will's presence in Lou's life also impacts her family relationships. His condition challenges Lou's family to confront difficult emotions and adapt to new circumstances. However, amidst these challenges, the Clark family remains a pillar of support for Lou, demonstrating resilience and unconditional love.

Familial tensions arise as Lou makes the decision to support Will's choice. Her determination to honor Will's wishes strains her relationship with her mother, who struggles to understand and accept her decision. The emotional strain on the family is palpable as they grapple with conflicting feelings of love, concern, and disagreement. "No," said Mum, and her voice held an unusually steely quality. "No buts. I've been thinking about this, about everything you told us. It's wrong. Morally wrong. And if you get embroiled in it and you're seen to be helping a man kill himself, then you could end up in all sorts of trouble." "But Mum broke the silence. 'If you go, Louisa, you needn't come back.'" (Moyes, 2012, p. 362-364).

The familial love is depicted through the lens of two vastly different families: the Clarks and the Traynors. Through their interactions and dynamics, the novel highlights the complexities and nuances of love within familial relationships. While both families exhibit love in their own way, the Clarks and Traynors showcase contrasting approaches and outcomes.

The Clark family, with Lou as its centerpiece, embodies a warm, supportive, and close-knit dynamic. From Lou's quirky parents to her loving sister, the Clarks demonstrate an unconditional love that accepts each member for their unique quirks and flaws. Their familial bond is characterized by emotional resilience and adaptability, evident in their ability to weather life's challenges together.

Conversely, the Traynor family's portrayal reveals a more strained and distant dynamic. The love within the Traynor family appears conditional, fraught with unspoken expectations and unresolved tensions. Will's injury serves as a catalyst for exposing the underlying fractures within the family, highlighting their struggles with genuine emotional connection and understanding. The Traynor family's love feels fragile and vulnerable. Their relationships are characterized by distance and formality, lacking the emotional warmth and connection present in the Clark family. Will's parents, in particular, struggle to come to terms with his decisions, imposing their own expectations on him and exacerbating tensions within the family. Their love appears conditional, contingent upon Will conforming to their desires and aspirations.

Ultimately, the Clarks and Traynors exemplify two contrasting approaches to familial love: one rooted in acceptance, warmth, and resilience, and the other characterized by distance, formality, and conditional expectations. While both families experience love in their own way, the Clarks' approach fosters a sense of belonging and security that strengthens their familial bond, while the Traynors' struggles with genuine emotional connection highlight the fragility and vulnerability of their relationships.

4.1.3. *Self-love*

Louisa Clark's journey serves as a poignant exploration of self-love and personal growth. Initially depicted as a character lacking self-awareness, Lou leads a life marked by limited aspirations and a stagnant romantic relationship. Her love for Will serves as a catalyst for reevaluating her own life and ambitions, pushing her beyond her comfort zone and inspiring her to dream bigger. As Lou becomes more deeply involved in Will's life, she begins to unravel the layers of her own identity. Through their shared experiences and conversations, she gains insights into her own desires, fears, and aspirations. Lou discovers a newfound sense of empowerment in embracing her true self, breaking free from the constraints of societal expectations and embracing her own unique path. "Three-quarters of an hour later, I was gazing underwater at the brightly coloured landscape that had been hidden from view, forgetting to be afraid that my oxygen might fail, that against all evidence I would sink to the bottom and die a watery death, even that I was afraid at all. I was distracted by the secrets of a new world. In the silence, broken only by the exaggerated oosh shoo of my own breath, I watched shoals of tiny iridescent fish, and larger black and white fish that stared at me with blank, inquisitive faces, with gently swaying anemones filtering the gentle currents of their tiny, unseen haul. I saw distant landscapes, twice as brightly coloured and varied as they were above land. I saw caves and hollows where unknown creatures lurked, distant shapes that shimmered in the rays of the sun. I didn't want to come up. I could have stayed there forever, in that silent world. It was only when James started gesticulating towards the dial of his oxygen tank that I realized I didn't have a choice." (Moyes, 2012, p. 332).

However, Lou's journey is not without its challenges. As she develops feelings for Will, she grapples with internal conflict and emotional turmoil. The impending loss of Will and the uncertainty of their future together force Lou to confront her own fears and limitations, challenging her to reevaluate her priorities and beliefs. "I kissed him, trying to bring him back. I kissed him and let my lips rest against his so that our breath mingled and the tears from my eyes became salt on his skin, and I told myself that, somewhere, tiny particles of him would become tiny particles of me, ingested, swallowed, alive, perpetual. I wanted to press every bit of me against him. I wanted to will something into him. I wanted to give him every bit of life I felt and

force him to live. I realized I was afraid of living without him. How is it you have the right to destroy my life, I wanted to demand of him, but I'm not allowed a say in yours?" (Moyes, 2012, p. 372-373).

Lou's internal struggle reflects the complexities of self-love and personal growth. She must navigate the conflicting emotions of love, loss, and self-discovery, confronting uncomfortable truths about herself along the way. Through these challenges, Lou experiences moments of vulnerability and doubt, but ultimately emerges stronger and more self-assured.

4.1.4. Impact on Readers

"Me Before You" has left an indelible mark on readers worldwide, captivating hearts with its universal themes of love, loss, and human connection. The novel's resonance extends beyond cultural and linguistic boundaries, inviting readers to delve into the complexities of the human experience.

Lou and Will's love story serves as a powerful catalyst for exploring universal emotions. Their journey resonates deeply with readers, prompting introspection into their own relationships and values. Through Lou and Will's experiences, readers confront the fragility of life and the transformative power of love, inspiring them to cherish the connections that define their lives.

The novel's ability to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers speaks to its universal appeal. Regardless of background or upbringing, readers find common ground in the shared human experiences depicted in the story. The themes of love, loss, and resilience resonate on a fundamental level, fostering empathy and understanding across diverse audiences.

4.2. The unconditional love theme in the second book

4.2.1. Romantic Love

In Jojo Moyes' novel "After You", romantic love emerges as a central theme, intricately woven into the fabric of the protagonist Louisa Clark's journey. The narrative unfolds against the backdrop of Louisa's attempts to navigate the complexities of romantic relationships following the devastating loss of her former love interest, Will Traynor, from the previous book, "Me Before You". Moyes delicately explores Louisa's emotional landscape as she grapples with her past and endeavors to open herself up to new romantic possibilities.

"I wiped the mascara smudges from under my eyes, observing in the small mirror that little could be done for my hair. Then I pulled Sam's oversized sweater over my head, trying to ignore the weird intimacy that came from wearing a man's clothes, pulled on Jake's joggers and gazed at my reflection.

What do you think, Will? Just a nice evening. It doesn't have to mean anything, right?"
(Moyes, 2016, p. 179).

Central to Louisa's journey in "After You" is her struggle to navigate her feelings for new romantic interests while still carrying the weight of her past relationship with Will. Moyes skillfully portrays the complexities of love after loss, highlighting the internal conflicts and emotional barriers that Louisa must overcome in order to embrace the possibility of new love. Louisa's hesitance and reluctance to fully invest herself in new relationships serve as poignant reminders of the lingering impact of her past experiences, underscoring the profound influence that Will continues to exert on her life.

Throughout the novel, Louisa grapples with conflicting emotions as she attempts to reconcile her past with her present. Moyes deftly captures the nuances of Louisa's inner turmoil, portraying her internal struggles with empathy and depth. Louisa's journey serves as a poignant exploration of the complexities of romantic love, illustrating the ways in which past experiences shape our perceptions of love and influence our future relationships.

As Louisa navigates the ups and downs of her romantic journey, Moyes invites readers to contemplate the nature of love and the ways in which it can both enrich and complicate our lives. The novel offers a nuanced portrayal of the intricacies of romantic relationships, highlighting the vulnerability and uncertainty that accompany the pursuit of love. Moyes' evocative prose captures the rawness of human emotion, inviting readers to empathize with Louisa's struggles and reflect on their own experiences of love and loss.

Ultimately, "After You" is a testament to the resilience of the human heart and the transformative power of love. Through Louisa's journey, Moyes explores the ways in which love has the capacity to heal and inspire, even in the face of overwhelming adversity. The novel serves as a poignant reminder that while love may bring pain and sorrow, it also has the power to bring hope and renewal, offering solace to those who dare to open their hearts to its embrace.

4.2.2. *Familial love*

In the novels, familial love emerges as a prominent and deeply resonant theme, illuminating the intricate dynamics of family relationships and their profound impact on the lives of the characters, particularly the protagonist, Louisa Clark. As the narrative unfolds, Moyes artfully explores the significance of family bonds, highlighting the ways in which Louisa's relationship with her family, especially her parents and sister, shapes her identity and influences her decisions.

At the heart of "After You" lies Louisa's relationship with her family, which serves as a cornerstone of her life and provides a source of both solace and conflict. Moyes delicately portrays the complexities of familial love, capturing the nuances of the bonds that tie Louisa to her parents and sister. Through moments of tenderness, tension, and reconciliation, Moyes

invites readers to contemplate the intricacies of family dynamics and the profound influence that family can have on our lives.

Louisa's relationship with her parents serves as a focal point of the novel, highlighting the ways in which parental love can both nurture and constrain. Moyes sensitively portrays the dynamics between Louisa and her parents, illustrating the mix of affection, expectation, and misunderstanding that characterizes their interactions. Despite their differences and occasional conflicts, Louisa's parents remain a constant presence in her life, offering support and guidance as she navigates the challenges of adulthood.

Similarly, Louisa's relationship with her sister, Treena, plays a significant role in shaping her experiences and decisions throughout the novel. Moyes deftly explores the complexities of sibling relationships, portraying the blend of rivalry, camaraderie, and unconditional love that defines Louisa and Treena's bond. Despite their differences and occasional disagreements, Louisa and Treena share a deep and enduring connection, grounded in their shared history and mutual affection.

Throughout the novel, Moyes highlights the ways in which familial love influences Louisa's choices and actions, shaping her journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Louisa's interactions with her family members serve as catalysts for introspection and reflection, prompting her to confront her past and reconsider her priorities. Moyes skillfully captures the transformative power of familial love, illustrating how the bonds of family can inspire resilience, empathy, and forgiveness.

“‘Shorry,’ I whisper. I can’t think what else to say.

‘Don’t be daft. We’re just glad you’re okay. Even if you do look like you’ve done six rounds with Mike Tyson. Have you seen yourself in a mirror since you got here?’

I shake my head.

‘Maybe ... I might just hold off a bit longer. You know Terry Nicholls, that time he went right over his handlebars by the minimart? Well, take off the moustache, and that’s pretty much what you look like. Actually,’ he peers closer at my face, ‘now you mention it ...’

‘Bernard.’

‘We’ll bring you some tweezers tomorrow. Anyway, the next time you decide you want flying lessons, let’s head down the ole airstrip, yes? Jumping and flapping your arms is plainly not working for you.’

I try to smile.

They both bend over me. Their faces are strained, anxious. My parents.

‘She’s got thin, Bernard. Don’t you think she’s got thin?’

Dad leans closer, and then I see his eyes are a little watery, his smile a bit wobblier than usual. ‘Ah ... she looks beautiful, love. Believe me. You look bloody beautiful.’ He squeezes my hand, then lifts it to his mouth and kisses it. My dad has never done anything like that to me in my whole life.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 21-22).

Moreover, “After You” explores the theme of familial love in the broader context of the Clark family’s dynamics, highlighting the ways in which family history and tradition shape the characters’ identities and relationships. Moyes delves into the complexities of intergenerational connections, portraying the influence of the past on the present and the ways in which family legacies are passed down through the generations.

Ultimately, “After You” is a poignant exploration of the enduring power of familial love to sustain, nurture, and challenge us as we navigate the complexities of life. Moyes’ evocative prose and rich character development invite readers to immerse themselves in the world of the Clark family, experiencing firsthand the joys, sorrows, and triumphs of familial love. Through Louisa’s journey, Moyes reminds us of the profound significance of family bonds in shaping our lives and shaping who we are.

4.2.3. *Self-Love and Acceptance*

From the outset of the novel, Louisa is portrayed as a character grappling with issues of self-worth and identity. Following the death of her former love interest, Will Traynor, Louisa finds herself adrift, struggling to reconcile her sense of self with the overwhelming grief and uncertainty that engulf her. Moyes sensitively captures the nuances of Louisa’s inner chaos, portraying her struggles with empathy and authenticity.

Central to Louisa’s journey in the book is her quest for self-love and acceptance, which becomes intertwined with her experiences in relationships and her efforts to find her place in the world. Moyes deftly illustrates how Louisa’s perception of herself is shaped by her interactions with others, highlighting the ways in which external validation and criticism impact her sense of self-worth.

“I was breathing hard. ‘I haven’t taken my clothes off in front of anyone since ... the accident,’ I said.

‘It’s okay. I’m medically trained.’

‘I’m serious. I’m a bit of a mess.’ I felt suddenly, oddly tearful.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 183).

Throughout the novel, Louisa’s relationships serve as mirrors through which she confronts her insecurities and fears, ultimately leading her towards a deeper understanding of herself. Moyes skillfully depicts the transformative power of love and connection in shaping Louisa’s self-perception, illustrating how the support and encouragement of others can help her to recognize her own value and worth.

At the same time, Moyes portrays the challenges and setbacks that accompany Louisa's journey towards self-love and acceptance, emphasizing the importance of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity. Louisa's inner struggles are not easily overcome, and Moyes does not shy away from portraying the complexities and uncertainties inherent in the process of self-discovery.

"I blocked out all thoughts about what this was, what it might mean, what further mess I might create for myself. *C'mon, live*, I told myself." (Moyes, 2016, p. 182-183).

As the novel unfolds, Louisa's journey towards self-love is intertwined with her quest to find her place in the world and pursue her dreams. Moyes skillfully portrays Louisa's efforts to carve out a path for herself, highlighting the obstacles and triumphs she encounters along the way. Through Louisa's experiences, Moyes offers a poignant reminder of the importance of embracing one's passions and pursuing one's dreams as essential components of self-fulfillment.

Eventually, "After You" is a proof of the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative power of self-love and acceptance. Moyes' evocative prose and rich character development invite readers to immerse themselves in Louisa's journey, experiencing firsthand the joys, sorrows, and triumphs of self-discovery. Through Louisa's struggles and triumphs, Moyes offers a message of hope and empowerment, reminding readers of the inherent worth and dignity that reside within each of us.

4.2.4. *Unconditional love*

While the novel primarily explores romantic love, familial love, and self-love, elements of unconditional love can be identified within these broader themes.

One of the most prominent examples of unconditional love in the novel is the relationship between Louisa Clark and her family, particularly her parents and sister. Despite their differences and occasional conflicts, Louisa's family members consistently offer her love, support, and acceptance. They stand by her through difficult times, providing a sense of stability and belonging that is characteristic of unconditional love.

Additionally, Louisa's friendships with characters such as Nathan and the members of the Moving On support group also demonstrate elements of unconditional love. These friendships are marked by empathy, understanding, and unwavering support, highlighting the capacity for love to transcend romantic relationships and extend to platonic connections.

"Nathan, Will's former physio, had spent the last nine months working in New York for a middle-aged CEO with a Wall Street reputation, a four-storey townhouse and a muscular condition. Calling him in my sleepless small hours had become something of a habit. It was good to know there was someone who understood, out there in the dark, even if sometimes his news

felt tinged with a series of small blows – everyone else has moved on. Everyone else has achieved something.” (Moyes, 2016, p. 64).

Furthermore, Louisa’s journey towards self-love and acceptance can also be viewed as an expression of unconditional love. As she learns to embrace herself fully, flaws and all, Louisa demonstrates a profound sense of self-compassion and acceptance that is reminiscent of unconditional love.

4.3. The unconditional love theme in the third book

4.3.1. Romantic Love

In Jojo Moyes’ novel, romantic love emerges as a prominent and intricately woven theme, driving the emotional arc of the protagonist. Through her relationships with both Will Traynor and Joshua Ryan, Louisa navigates a complex journey of healing, self-discovery, and ultimately, the pursuit of happiness.

The introduction of Joshua Ryan, a man who bears a striking resemblance to Will, introduces a new layer of complexity to Louisa’s romantic journey. Initially drawn to Joshua by his physical resemblance to Will, Louisa finds herself navigating a whirlwind of conflicting emotions. On one hand, she is haunted by the memory of Will and the love they shared, while on the other, she is intrigued by the possibility of a new connection with Joshua. Moyes expertly portrays the tension between Louisa’s past and present desires, capturing the inner confusion of a heart torn between loyalty and the pursuit of happiness.

“Afterward I was glad that the room was so crowded because when I stumbled sideways onto the man next to me, he instinctively reached out a hand and, in an instant, several dinner-suited arms were righting me, a sea of faces, smiling, concerned. As I thanked them, apologizing, I saw my mistake. No, not Will—his hair was the same cut and color, his skin that same caramel hue. But I must have gasped aloud because the man who was not Will said, “I’m sorry, did I startle you?”

“I—no. No.” I put my hand to my cheek, my eyes locked on his. “You —you just look like someone I know. Knew.” I felt my face flush, the kind of stain that starts at your chest and floods its way up to your hairline.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 65).

As Louisa’s relationship with Joshua develops, Moyes delves deeper into the intricacies of romantic love, exploring the nuances of attraction, intimacy, and vulnerability. Her journey with Joshua becomes a catalyst for self-discovery, as she grapples with her own fears and insecurities, learning to trust her heart and embrace the possibility of love once more.

“All my life I’ve ended up looking after other people, fitting myself around what they need, what they wanted. I’m good at it. I do it before I even realize what I’m doing. I’d probably do it to you too. You have no idea how much right now I want to book a flight and just be with

you. But these last couple of months something has happened to me—something that stops me doing just that.

I'm opening my dress agency here. It's going to be called the Bee's Knees and it's going to be based at the corner of the Vintage Clothes Emporium and clients can buy from the girls or rent from me. We're pooling contacts, stumping up for some advertising, and I hope we'll help each other get business. I open my doors on Friday and I've been writing to everyone I can think of. Already we've had a whole lot of interest from film-production people and fashion magazines and even women who just want to hire something for fancy dress. (You would not believe the number of Mad Men themed parties in Manhattan.)" (Moyes, 2019, p. 408-409).

Throughout the novel, Moyes masterfully navigates the ebbs and flows of romantic love, painting a nuanced portrait of the complexities inherent in matters of the heart. Louisa's journey serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of love, as she learns to navigate the delicate balance between holding onto the past and embracing the future.

4.3.2. *Familial Love*

The exploration of familial love plays a crucial role in shaping the protagonist emotional journey. This form of love is showcased primarily through Louisa's interactions with her family back in England, particularly with her sister Treena and her parents. Despite being an ocean away, the bond Louisa shares with her family acts as a constant source of comfort and support, reinforcing the idea that physical separation does not diminish the strength of familial ties.

"The day passed in a blur. I spent the rest of the morning organizing my little room, cleaning the bathroom, putting up pictures of Sam, my parents, Treena, and Thom to make it feel more like home." (Moyes, 2019, p. 24).

Louisa's relationship with her sister Treena is particularly significant. Treena not only serves as a confidante but also as a sounding board for Louisa's aspirations and doubts. Their conversations, often carried out via long-distance calls or messages, highlight a dynamic of mutual support and deep understanding. Treena's pragmatic and often more grounded perspective provides Louisa with a counterpoint to her own more impulsive nature. This balance helps Louisa navigate the complexities of her new life in New York, reinforcing the importance of having a familial anchor when away from home.

"Something had happened to Treena's and my relationship since I had been gone. We called each other once a week, and for the first time in our adult lives, she had stopped nagging me every time we spoke. She seemed genuinely interested in what my life was like, quizzing me about work, the places I had visited, and what the people around me did all day. When I asked for advice, she generally gave me a considered reply instead of calling me a doofus, or asking if I understood what Google was for." (Moyes, 2019, p. 132).

Moreover, Louisa's parents also play an integral role in her life, embodying the unconditional aspect of familial love. Throughout "Still Me", their interactions with Louisa, though limited by distance, are filled with concern and affection, which are conveyed through phone calls and brief visits. Their ability to provide emotional support from afar helps Louisa maintain a sense of security and belonging, crucial elements for her well-being in an unfamiliar city. The novel delicately portrays how her parents' simple inquiries into her life and their advice, however trivial it might seem, help fortify Louisa against the challenges she faces.

"“Lou! Is that you? Hold on, I'm in the middle of washing Granddad's smalls. Let me turn the hot water off.” I heard my mother walking to the other side of the kitchen, the radio, humming distantly in the background, abruptly silenced, and I was instantly transported to our little house in Renfrew Road.

“Hello! I'm back! Is everything all right?” She sounded breathless. I pictured her untying her apron. She always removed her apron for important calls.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 172).

““I checked the rates. It's good to hear your voice, Mum.”

Mum's delight at speaking to me made me feel a little ashamed for not having called before.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 173).

The narrative also delves into how familial love extends beyond immediate family members to include extended family and even figures who assume familial roles. For instance, the character of Mrs. De Witt, though initially just a neighbor, gradually takes on a more maternal or grandmotherly role in Louisa's life. This relationship underscores the theme that familial love can transcend blood relations and geographical boundaries, encompassing those who provide emotional sustenance and guidance.

““Your skirt.”

I glanced down, and braced myself for whatever barb was coming my way.

“I used to have one like that from Biba.”

“It *is* Biba!” I said delightedly. “I got it from an online auction two years ago. Four pounds fifty! Only one tiny hole in the waistband.”

“I have that exact skirt. I used to travel a lot in the sixties. Whenever I went to London I would spend hours in that store. I used to ship whole trunks of Biba dresses home to Manhattan. We had nothing like it here.”” (Moyes, 2019, p. 133).

Jojo Moyes uses these familial dynamics not only to enrich the narrative but also to emphasize that familial bonds are a crucial foundation for individual identity and resilience. Louisa's growth and her ability to deal with her personal and professional challenges are significantly influenced by the knowledge that she has a supportive family backing her. This support is crucial as she navigates through her experiences in New York, where she encounters

various personal and professional challenges. It provides her with a psychological safety net that allows her to take risks and embrace her new environment.

4.3.3. *Friendship*

The theme of friendship love is explored through the meaningful relationships that Louisa Clark develops with key characters, such as her neighbor Mrs. De Witt and her colleague Nathan. These friendships play a pivotal role in Louisa's adaptation to and acceptance of her new life in New York City, providing emotional support, companionship, and a profound sense of belonging in an otherwise overwhelming environment.

Nathan, who previously worked with Louisa when they were caring for Will Traynor, is now also in New York, and their prior connection provides a bridge between her past and present. Nathan's role in Louisa's life in New York extends beyond that of a mere colleague; he becomes a steadfast friend in an unfamiliar city. His familiarity and understanding of her past struggles with Will provide Louisa with a continuity that is both comforting and essential as she navigates her new life. Nathan not only aids Louisa in practical matters related to her job but also stands as a reliable friend who supports her during moments of uncertainty and challenge.

"Nathan took me to a diner near Columbus Circle where I ate from a plate the size of a car tire and drank so much strong coffee that my hands vibrated as we walked back. Nathan pointed out places that might be useful to me—this bar stayed open late, that food truck did really good falafel, this was a safe ATM for getting cash . . . My brain spun with new images, new information. Sometime mid-afternoon I felt suddenly woozy and leaden-footed, so Nathan walked me back to the apartment, his arm through mine. I was grateful for the quiet, dark interior of the building, for the service lift that saved me from the stairs." (Moyes, 2019, p. 24).

"When I got to my little room I sat and stared at the container, then at the wall, and knew I couldn't stay there alone with my thoughts so I knocked on Nathan's door.

"C'min!"

Nathan was watching American football, holding a beer. He was wearing a pair of surfer shorts and a T-shirt. He looked up at me expectantly, and with the faintest of delays, in the way people do when they're letting you know that they're really locked into something else.

"Can I eat my dinner in here with you?"

He tore his gaze away from the screen again.

"Bad day?"

I nodded.

"Need a hug?"

I shook my head. "Just a virtual one. If you're nice to me I'll probably cry." (Moyes, 2019, p. 126-127).

Moyes uses these relationships to highlight the broader theme of finding community and connection in unlikely places. Louisa's friendships illustrate how emotional bonds can significantly impact one's ability to cope with change and adversity. Each friend brings unique insights and perspectives that contribute to Louisa's broader world view and personal development.

Through the lens of friendship love, "Still Me" explores the importance of forming connections that enrich our lives, providing emotional sustenance and a sense of belonging. These friendships not only help Louisa cope with her new circumstances but also encourage her to embrace her new environment and the new version of herself that emerges in response. This narrative thread is a powerful reminder of the profound impact that love, in the form of friendship, can have on our lives, shaping our experiences and helping us to grow in unexpected and beautiful ways.

4.3.4. *Unconditional Love*

Jojo Moyes features various instances of unconditional love, demonstrated through the relationships and interactions between characters. Unconditional love in the novel is depicted not only in romantic contexts but also significantly in familial and platonic relationships, showcasing the depth and resilience of such bonds.

Despite the physical distance between Louisa and her family in England, their love and support for her remain steadfast. Her parents and her sister Treena provide emotional support and guidance, even over long distances. They worry about her well-being and success in New York, offering advice and encouragement without any conditions. This unconditional aspect of familial love gives Louisa the courage to persevere through her challenges in an unfamiliar city.

"We're awful proud, sweetheart. I can't believe I have a daughter in New York high society, riding in limousines and hobnobbing with the flash Harrys." (Moyes, 2019, p. 175).

The relationship between Louisa and her neighbor Mrs. De Witt evolves into one marked by unconditional love. Mrs. De Witt, initially just a quirky neighbor, becomes a significant figure in Louisa's life, offering wisdom, friendship, and maternal affection. Mrs. De Witt supports Louisa through various ups and downs, caring for her without expecting anything in return. This bond highlights how unconditional love can develop in friendships, transcending typical familial ties.

Nathan's friendship with Louisa is another example of unconditional love. Having known Louisa from their time with Will Traynor, Nathan provides a continuous thread of support and friendship. He helps Louisa adjust to her new life in New York and stands by her side through personal and professional troubles. His support is not contingent on any benefit to himself but is based purely on his care and concern for Louisa's welfare.

While their romantic relationship faces strains, the underlying love Louisa shares with Sam shows elements of being unconditional. They struggle with long-distance challenges and misunderstandings, but the deep care and affection they have for each other endure beyond these conflicts. Even when they confront their difficulties, the fundamental support and commitment reflect an unconditional dimension, highlighting the enduring nature of love even when faced with setbacks.

““I love you, Louisa Clark,” he said softly.” (Moyes, 2019, p. 102).

Conclusion

The importance of unconditional love lies in its transformative and sustaining power within relationships and personal growth. Unconditional love fosters acceptance, empathy, and resilience, providing individuals with a sense of belonging and security in the face of life's challenges. It serves as a fundamental pillar of emotional well-being, offering solace, understanding, and unwavering support during times of hardship and uncertainty. Furthermore, unconditional love transcends judgment and expectations, allowing individuals to thrive authentically and cultivate meaningful connections based on genuine care and affection. In essence, unconditional love forms the cornerstone of healthy relationships, self-acceptance, and overall fulfillment in life.

The study explored the theme of unconditional love in Jojo Moyes' notable works – “Me Before You”, “After You”, and “Still Me”. The research integrates biological and psychological perspectives on love, delving into its various types and their representation in literature. Through a focused literary and content analysis of Moyes' narratives, the paper examines how the unconditional love theme is portrayed and its implications for character development and plot progression.

Love, in its many forms, has long been a subject of study across disciplines. Psychologically, love is often segmented into categories such as romantic, platonic, and unconditional love, each with distinct characteristics and biological underpinnings. Unconditional love, characterized by an unwavering, selfless affection regardless of circumstances, is particularly significant in literature, where it can drive complex character arcs and plot developments. The study aims to dissect the layers of unconditional love in the novels of Jojo Moyes, a contemporary British author known for her poignant depiction of complex emotional and ethical dilemmas.

Jojo Moyes has emerged as a significant figure in modern literature, with her works offering deep insights into the dynamics of human relationships. Her narrative style blends realistic scenarios with emotional depth, making her characters relatable and their experiences impactful. Moyes' ability to address love's complexities in nuanced ways provides a rich canvas for exploring the psychological and biological nuances of emotional bonding.

The exploration of her trilogy reveals that the theme of unconditional love intertwines with familial, friendship, and self-love, enriching the narrative with depth and complexity. Moyes masterfully portrays love as a multifaceted force that transcends boundaries and shapes characters' identities and relationships.

The study underscores the significance of analyzing love in its various manifestations within contemporary literature. By examining Moyes's portrayal of love across “Me Before

You”, “After You”, and “Still Me”, it emphasizes the thematic richness and emotional resonance embedded in her works. Furthermore, the analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of how love serves as a central motif that drives character development and narrative progression.

The literary analysis focuses on how Moyes articulates the theme of unconditional love. In “Me Before You”, this theme is predominantly showcased in the dynamics between Louisa and Will, where Louisa’s growing love for Will drives her to respect his controversial choices, embodying a pure form of love that demands selflessness and acceptance. “After You” explores the aftermath of unconditional love, probing how it survives the person it was once directed towards and transforms those left behind. Lastly, “Still Me” captures the evolution of Louisa’s self-love, a crucial aspect of unconditional love, as she learns to prioritize her happiness while honoring her past.

Building on the analysis of unconditional love in Jojo Moyes’ trilogy the research proposes several avenues for further research. These include comparative studies with other literary works, interdisciplinary approaches involving psychological and sociological theories, and explorations into the impact of Moyes’ portrayal of love on readers’ perceptions and behaviors.

One fruitful area for further research is a comparative analysis of Moyes’ depiction of unconditional love with that in other literary works, both classic and contemporary. Researchers could examine how Moyes’ interpretation of unconditional love stands in contrast or continuity with other authors such as Jane Austen, or even non-Western writers like Haruki Murakami, who often incorporate profound love themes into their narratives. Such comparisons could reveal cultural, historical, and contextual influences on the portrayal of love.

Future research endeavors could explore the cultural and societal influences shaping Moyes’s depiction of love and its intersections with gender, identity, and power dynamics. Additionally, comparative studies could investigate how Moyes’s treatment of love aligns with or diverges from other authors within the romance genre, offering insights into broader literary trends and conventions. Longitudinal analyses could also examine how characters’ perceptions and experiences of love evolve across multiple novels or series, providing a comprehensive understanding of Moyes’s thematic evolution.

The exploration of love within Moyes’s trilogy presents valuable pedagogical opportunities for literature education. By engaging students in discussions and analyses of the various forms of love depicted in the novels, educators can foster critical thinking skills and empathy. Moreover, incorporating Moyes’s works into curricula can encourage students to reflect on their own experiences of love and relationships, promoting self-awareness and emotional intelligence.

In conclusion, Jojo Moyes's exploration of unconditional love in "Me Before You", "After You", and "Still Me" offers profound insights into the complexities of human relationships and the enduring power of love in its diverse forms. The research underscores the thematic richness of Moyes's storytelling and suggests avenues for further inquiry, both within literary analysis and educational contexts.

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Резюме

Безумовна любов, що характеризується своєю непохитною природою та відсутністю умов, має фундаментальне значення для емоційного благополуччя, виховує стійкість, емпатію та глибоке почуття приналежності. У трилогії Джорджо Мойєс “До зустрічі з тобою”, “Після тебе” та “Та сама я” дослідження безумовної любові виходить за рамки звичних кордонів, пропонуючи глибоке розуміння людських стосунків та утверджуючи її як ключову тему для сучасного літературознавства.

Метою цього дослідження є поглиблення нашого розуміння зображення Мойєс безумовної любові та її значення в її літературних творах. Аналізуючи конкретні приклади і теми, дослідження прагне з'ясувати тематичні наміри Мойєс і те, як безумовна любов сприяє загальному наративному ландшафту.

Використовуючи теоретичні методи, вкорінені в літературній критиці та теорії, це дослідження пропонує сфокусований розгляд теми безумовного кохання в літературному корпусі Мойєса, збагачуючи дискусії про сучасну літературу та теми кохання.

Дослідження безумовної любові в трилогії Мойєса виявляє її переплетення з родинними стосунками, дружбою та любов'ю до себе, збагачуючи оповідь глибиною та складністю. Мойєс зображує любов як багатогранну силу, що формує ідентичність персонажів та їхні стосунки.

Подальші дослідження можуть вивчати культурні та суспільні впливи, що формують зображення любові у Моса, а також її перетини з гендером, ідентичністю та динамікою влади. Порівняльні дослідження можуть дослідити, як трактування любові у Мойєса збігається або розходиться з іншими авторами в романтичному жанрі, пропонуючи розуміння ширших літературних тенденцій і конвенцій. Лонгитюдний аналіз може дослідити, як сприйняття та досвід кохання персонажів еволюціонує в кількох романах чи серіях.

Дослідження любові в трилогії Мойєса відкривав цінні педагогічні можливості для літературної освіти. Залучаючи учнів до обговорення та аналізу різних форм кохання, зображених у романах, педагоги можуть розвивати навички критичного мислення та емпатії, сприяючи самоусвідомленню та емоційному інтелекту.

Насамкінець, дослідження Джорджо Мойєс безумовної любові в її трилогії пропонує глибоке розуміння людських стосунків і непереборної сили любові. Це дослідження підкреслює тематичне багатство оповідань Мойєс і пропонує шляхи для подальших досліджень як у рамках літературного аналізу, так і в освітньому контексті.

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