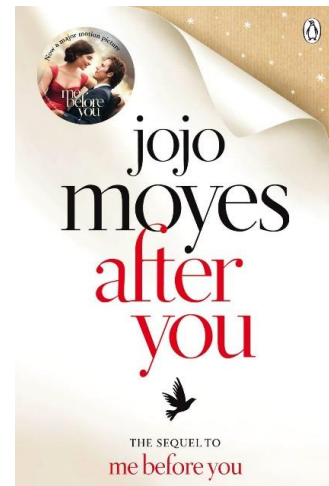


July 2023 Review of “After You” by Jojo Moyes

“After You” is a novel written by Jojo Moyes and is the sequel to “Me Before You”. The story picks up where “Me Before You” left off and follows Louisa Clark’s life after Will’s death. Pursuing a more meaningful existence, as Will had wanted her to do, Louisa moves to London and takes a job at an airport bar. She meets Sam, a paramedic who saved her life after she fell from the roof of her apartment building while drunk. Louisa also meets Lily Houghton-Miller, who claims to be Will’s daughter. Louisa invites Lily to stay with her for a while but Lily’s behaviour becomes increasingly erratic. The novel explores themes of grief, love, and family.



On the whole everyone enjoyed this book to a greater or lesser extent.

“I so enjoyed this book because of its humour and hope in both mundane and wildly dramatic events.”

“I think I enjoyed the book more than the first because of the more hopeful ending, not just for Louisa but for all the characters”

“– I have always liked the writings of JoJo Moyes and most of the time that applied to this book”

“An OK read dealing with some serious subjects without being depressing, involving some flawed characters but with a hopeful outcome for all. “

- “ I liked this book. I read it very quickly. It is a lightweight romantic novel. It is about relationships so it is impossible not to have some empathy with the characters. “

“The scenes at the Moving On grief group show the humour that can be found in even the most distressing circumstances and Lou's mum's discovery of feminism and her dad's complete bewilderment were touching and hilarious.”

“I could only access the book on audible so I listened to the book rather than reading it and it took me until the second half of the book before I felt I had got to know the characters by their voices and then began to enjoy the book more.”

“I found both this book and the prequel, while not at all highbrow or sophisticated, eminently readable and enjoyable”

There were differing views regarding the necessity or otherwise of having read the prequel “Me Before You”

“I had seen the film of “Me Before You” but enjoying the nuances that the written word brings is so enjoyable and certainly with Moyes writing.”

“As this is a sequel there is a question of the need to have read the first book. I think it would have been helpful.”

“The beginning of this book prompted me to purchase and read “Me Before You”, and then continue reading “After You”. ”

“– I think there may be differing opinions of this book depending on whether you have previously read “Me Before You”. As that book has already been one of our book club reads I knew the events leading up to the setting of this one. Because of this I found many of the characters altered states not quite believable, particularly Louisa’s parents and Will’s mother.”

“As Louisa says at one point “Oh Will, what have you done to us all”, which is why I think it was beneficial to have read the previous book.”

The central romance in the novel between Louisa and Sam received some criticism

“I did think the romance with the Ambulance man a little bit “Mills and Boon””

“....., I could forgive her the love interest”

“The book is called a “romance” but in the French sense a larger meaning of life rather than a simple love story.”

“I found the romance the least interesting part of the book,

“ I didn’t find the romance between Louisa and Sam very believable”

Everyone seemed to agree about the balance between serious subjects and the humour within the book

“Her ability to describe damaged people with such pathos and humour e.g. the Moving-on Circle; Lily; her own dad is so clever”

“There was some humour throughout although she was dealing with the serious subject of grief.”

“and became a familiar JoJo Moyes form of writing”

“weepy bits and witty bits throughout.”

“There was quite a lot of sorrow, anxiety and guilt in the story , but nicely balanced by the light-hearted humour.”

“Everything is huge and loud. Incidents swing back and forth, between sad impossible and funny.”

“Her observation of relationship with the difficult boss of airport bar & outlandish uniforms was very comical”

“Jojo Moyes is adept at exploring difficult issues with a light touch and humour.”

...But some had doubts about the believability of some bits

“..... but not always successfully or believably e.g. having lifts in ambulances.”

“I had a dip in the middle of reading”

“....., but as with many things throughout the story, given closer examination, it is difficult to imagine the practicalities of it happening.....

Everyone agreed regarding the enjoyment of the other characters in the book and their dialogues.

“.....much preferring the depiction of Lou's relationships with the other characters, from Lily the troubled teen who takes over her life to Richard the pantomime villain manager who turns out to be not so awful after all. “

“The other characters all have some association with her, Family; colleagues; rehab meetings; but they have their own stories.”

“I thought the dialogue between the other characters and Louisa was very good”

“She introduced some strong characters....”

Everyone said they were interested in reading the sequel which is called “Still Me”