

Firstname Marcum

Dr. Williams

English 102

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Annotated Bibliography

Gilbey, Ryan. "I'm Not a Thing to Be Pitied': the Disability Backlash against *Me Before You*." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 2 June 2016.

Gilbey in his article titled "I'm Not a Thing to Be Pitied': the Disability Backlash against *Me Before You*." showcases how *Me Before You* has depicted the life of the disabled community all wrong. In the first few paragraphs he explains briefly the plot line of the movie and then continues on to tie in opinions of why the disabled community feels the need to backlash. Gilbey claims "The problem, according to activists who picketed the film's premiere last week, is this motto applies in this context only to the able-bodied – and comes at the cost of a disabled man's life." Gilbey also brings to light that this issue has also been seen in other movies such as *Million Dollar Baby* and *Whose Life is it Anyways?* to show that the perception of disabled peoples life has been depicted wrong for many years and in more than one big hollywood movie. Gilbey attempts as well to examine the movie from the psychological side by interviewing actor and activist Liz Carr who brings to light this issue of how even suicide is treated differently between disabled and able-bodied people. "“When non-disabled people talk of suicide, they're discouraged and offered prevention,” she says. “Even though it's legal, it's not seen as desirable. When a disabled person talks of it, though, suddenly the conversation is overtaken with words like ‘choice’ and ‘autonomy’ and people are rushing to uphold

these prized principles whilst talk of prevention and mental health support are rare. Will is not offered any psychiatric support. What kind of message is this that we're giving disabled people and the non-disabled audiences?" This shows how even death is looked at differently when in reality it should not be.

Robinson, Joanna. "Could *Me Before You* Have Avoided Alienating the Disabled Community?" *The Hive*, Vanity Fair, 6 June 2016.

In this article, Robinson attempts to untangle and explain why *Me Before You* didn't alienate the disabled community as much as some like to think. She again presents both sides of the argument about the movie while trying to clear up some confusion by interviewing people like the director of the movie, Thea Sharrock. First she presents the side of why the movie made the disabled community feel alienated by interviewing disabled activist Ellen Clifford, who expresses her opinion on the movie and how it depicts a disabled life; "disability is tragedy, and disabled people are better off dead. It comes from a dominant narrative carried by society and the mainstream media that says it is a terrible thing to be disabled." Robinson then attempts to help readers understand the movie from the director's point of view which better helps present clear argument for why the movie is about living boldly. Sharrock, the director of the movie claims "...assessments like Clifford's "a fundamental misunderstanding of what the message is. It's a fictional story about how important the right to choose is. The message of the film is to live boldly, push yourself, don't settle.'" This attempts to show the true intentions of the filmmakers despite what the movie may depict.

Wanshel, Elyse. "The Disability Community Is Pissed AF About *Me Before You*." *The Huffington Post*, TheHuffingtonPost.com, 19 Dec. 2016.

In Wansel's review of *Me Before You*, she presents two sides of opinions on the movie but focuses more heavily on the disabled communities reaction, being that this is a movie that relates to those with disabilities. In the beginning of the article she opens up with a short description of the movie and a little background about it and then moves on to assessing how the movie made the disabled community feel. She presents two ends of opinions on the spectrum, the first opinion being a positive one from someone who has a disability, "As Ryan O'Connell, a writer who has cerebral palsy and who discusses having had low self-worth as a child, expressed in an essay written for *Vulture*: "I was like, 'OMG, YASSSSSS! Disability is finally in vogue! Let's get that shit trending on Twitter!'" On the other end of the spectrum and for the majority of the rest of her article she expresses the thoughts and feelings of those who thought *Me Before You* presented the life with someone of a disability all wrong. "What's begun to trend on Twitter is the hashtag #MeBeforeEuthanasia — a blatant rejection by disability activists about the movie's message: that life with a disability is not worth living." She showcases various opinions about why *Me Before You* stereotypes people with disabilities through multiple peoples tweets via Twitter and also interviews credible and respected figures in the disabled community like Dominick Evans, a filmmaker and well-known disability activist on Twitter. By the end of her article, Wansel makes it very clear that the disabled community has a right to be pissed about the way *Me Before You* depicts the life of one with disability.

