

## BOOK REVIEWS – September 2019.

### **Me Before You by Jojo Moyes.** *(Published by Penguin Random House, January 2012).*

I am aware that this novel was adapted into a film in 2016, but as an ardent reader I rarely watch films. I prefer the written word where you have a better insight into the reasoning behind events and a more understanding of the emotions going on within the story. The novel opens with Will Trainer rushing across a road to catch a cab when BANG! He is hit by a motorbike. Move on two years and we discover he is in a wheelchair, paralysed and with no desire to live. He has a carer who does everything for him and his life is just a shell. When his mother interviews Louise for a job as a companion, although not what she is used to, having recently been made redundant from her job in a café, she decides to take it. After all it is only for six months. And so begins a poignant love story. Over time Will accepts Lou is not going away and they come to an understanding and start to talk and open up to each other. Lou sets herself a task to get him out and about more and draws up a list of exciting things that they can do to take away the boredom and tedious elements of Will's life. But, he is a very sick man, in a lot of pain and things don't work out to plan. There is also the moral dilemma that Lou has to face when she discovers why her employment is for six months only. Tragic, emotional and very moving with funny touches. A good read. **Recommended.**

### **From The Outside by Clare Johnston.** *(Published by Urbane Publications Ltd, 2019).*

When Internet Millionaire and philanthropist Harry Melville crashes his car and dies he doesn't pass over right away. He sticks around to have a look at the damage he has caused his family over the years. Mainly with his twin brother, Ben, who has never had any ambition in his forty four years causing Harry to bully and ridicule him over the years and his wife, Sarah, lonely and feeling guilty over a one night stand. Ben changes his life around when he takes over the charity foundation that Harry started, not believing he could do it. Sarah soon realises she is pregnant, but who is the father? A good story as we get to know Harry and his complex personalities, his regrets as he looks at his broken family, can it all come right? **Enjoyable read.**