

Six Lessons to Unleash Your Inner Catalyst

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About the Author

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Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse Anderson is an award winning writer who is best known for children and young adult novels.

Anderson was born October 23, 1961 in Potsdam NY. She was first recognized for her novel *Speak* which was published in 1999, and won the Golden Kite Award for Fiction.

Early Life: During Anderson's senior year of highschool she spent thirteen months as an exchange student in Denmark. This experience helped encourage her to attend college. Anderson started as a freelance reporter but soon switched to writing childrens picture books.

Book Summary

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Meet Kate Malone, Straight-A science and math geek, minister's daughter, ace long-distance runner, new girlfriend, unwilling family caretaker. Kate manages life by organizing it logically as the periodic table. She can handle it all - or so she thinks. Then, things change rapidly as a string of chemical reactions; first the Malon's neighbor's house burns down and they move in with the Malones. Kate has to share a room with her nemesis, Teri Litch, and Terri's little brother, Mikey. The days are ticking down while Kate is still waiting to hear from the only college she applied to, MIT. Kate feels that her life is spinning out of control - and then something happens that truly blows everything out of place. This remarkable novel will change the way you look at things.

Charlotte Souter

Characters

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- **Kate:** Kate Malone is the main character of the book. Some ways to describe Kate would be; she is hard working, determined, and she enjoys running. Her main goal in the book is to get into the college MIT
- **Teri:** Teri Linch is a bully, who likes to pick fights
- **Toby:** Toby is Kates younger brother he is a 14-year-old, and he is involved in many activities like soccer and band, and he has many medical issues
- **Reverend Malone:** Reverend Malone is Kate and Tobys dad, and he is a ministior
- **Mikey:** Mikey is Teris younger brother, he is a typical little kid who is full of energy and loves to play
- **Mitch:** Mitch is Kates very good friend and boyfriend, he is very kind and he's attending Stanford for college
- **Sara:** Sara is Kates bestfriend, Sara is always looking out for Kate, and always helping her to make the right decisions

Theme

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- Never give up even when things get hard.
- Good outcomes can come from bad situations.

Examples:

When Teri Litch and Kate Malone are enemies in the beginning they don't talk to each other much, but when they have to room with each other, things change. They both start to drop their fights with each other and realize it's pointless to hold a grudge against each other.

Another example is when Kate didn't get accepted to MIT. That was the only college she enrolled into. Even though she tried hiding it from her friends and family, she found a way to get through the hard times and she figured it out with the help of people she trusted.

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Setting By: Kori Boschee

- Merryweather High
- the church
- Kate's house
- the Litch's house
- the supermarket
- Mitch's house

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