



BOOK RESUME: CATALYST

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Set in the same community as the remarkable *Speak*, this novel will make you think, laugh, cry, and rejoice—sometimes at the same time.

Kate Malone is a straight-A student, minister's daughter, and ace long-distance runner who thinks she can handle it all, until her organized life starts to fall apart like a chain of chemical reactions. First her neighbors' house burns down and Kate has to share her room with her nemesis, Teri Litch. Meanwhile, the days are ticking by and she's still waiting to hear from the only college she's applied to: MIT. Kate feels that her life is spinning out of control—and then something occurs that truly blows it all apart.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Intelligently written with multi-dimensional characters that replay in one's mind, this complex, contemporary story carries much of the intensity and harshness of *Speak*. It confronts moral issues, religious conundrums, and the dynamics of emotions in young adult lives as two girls driven by the past and present realize their impact on the future."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Anderson is a gifted writer who makes the complex worlds of teenage girls real to the reader, from the competitiveness and casual cruelty of high school to the wisecracks between friends to the families struggling to connect. Anything by this author is well worth reading."—*KLIATT*

"Anderson's take on human relations succeeds through her fresh writing and exceptional characterizations."—*The Horn Book*

"The great challenge in narrating a first-person novel is in capturing its singular and distinctive main character. Samantha Mathis perfectly manages brilliant Kate Malone, a motherless high school senior, whose only desire is an M.I.T. acceptance letter. Her voice young and snappy, her timing impeccable, Mathis depicts Kate in all her compulsiveness as she races to escape her reality; takes care of her asthmatic brother, Toby; and plays girlfriend to Mitch, whose fast hands, wet tongue, and boy scent offer occasional respite. An enforced friendship with a tough-girl incest survivor and her lisping baby brother/son challenges all of Kate's assumptions and turns her world on its head. Written by the Printz Award-winning author of *SPEAK*, this title will be popular with older teens."—AudioFile Magazine

Title: Catalyst

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

Imprint: Speak

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: September 15, 2003

ISBN: 9780142400012

Format: Paperback

Age Range*: 12 Up

Grade Range: Gr 10 Up

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ALA Notable Book
- Margaret A. Edwards Award winner
- Read Aloud Indiana Book Award (IN)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [Penguin Classroom Educator's Guide](#)
- [Teachers.net Catalyst Test](#)
- [Lesson Plan Created by Author](#)
- [ALAN Review Interview with Author](#)
- [Book Lust Interview with Author](#)
- [KidLit TV Interview with Author](#)
- [The Writer Interview with Author](#)
- [Margaret A. Edwards Speech by Author](#)
- [EW Shelf Life Interview with Author](#)
- [AdLit Interviews with Author](#)
- [2023 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Acceptance Speech by Author](#)
- [ALMA Interview with Author](#)
- [88 Cups of Tea Interview with Author](#)

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