

In *Shine* by Lauren Myracle, Cat steps up as a friend too late. Now, she must come to terms with the fact that she failed to protect her best friend Patrick, and she must find the people who are responsible for the vicious hate crime against him.

A first person booktalk of *Shine*, by Lauren Myracle:

Hey. I'm Patrick. I'm a not-so-typical, seventeen-year-old guy from an overly typical small town in the North Carolina mountains. You should know that I hate the dark, and I don't have many real friends. The only person in the world who ever got me was my best friend, Cat. Actually, we got each other. I know stuff: like Cat's daddy is a drunk, and her Aunt Tildy never shows her any love, which is a shame since Cat's mama is dead. My grandma—Mama Sweetie, we called her—used to say that Cat and I were kindred spirits. We'd spend whole summers together when we were kids, huntin' bugs, sharing books, and trading secrets in the crawl space under my house. You're probably thinkin' we were boyfriend and girlfriend. You're wrong. You see, we grew up, and now, people in this small town call me "sexually broken," a "fag" and "light in the loafers." The rednecks I go to school with are more like predators than peers. They hate me, and Cat pretended not to notice. That's why I'm here, trapped in a coma, maybe dying. I hurt inside; I hurt outside, and in this dark prison, all I can remember is fists, boots, bats, and gasoline fumes. They say people who are in a coma are aware of their surroundings. Maybe. But one thing's for sure, I hear these nurses talk, and my Cat's been asking a lot of questions around here. She's a smart girl, maybe she'll figure out who did this to me.

In *Shine* by Lauren Myracle, Cat copes with pain and guilt, knowing that if Patrick survives and she hopes to reconcile with him, she must face the truth and emerge from her own darkness.

Myracle, L. (2011). *Shine*. New York, NY: Amulet.