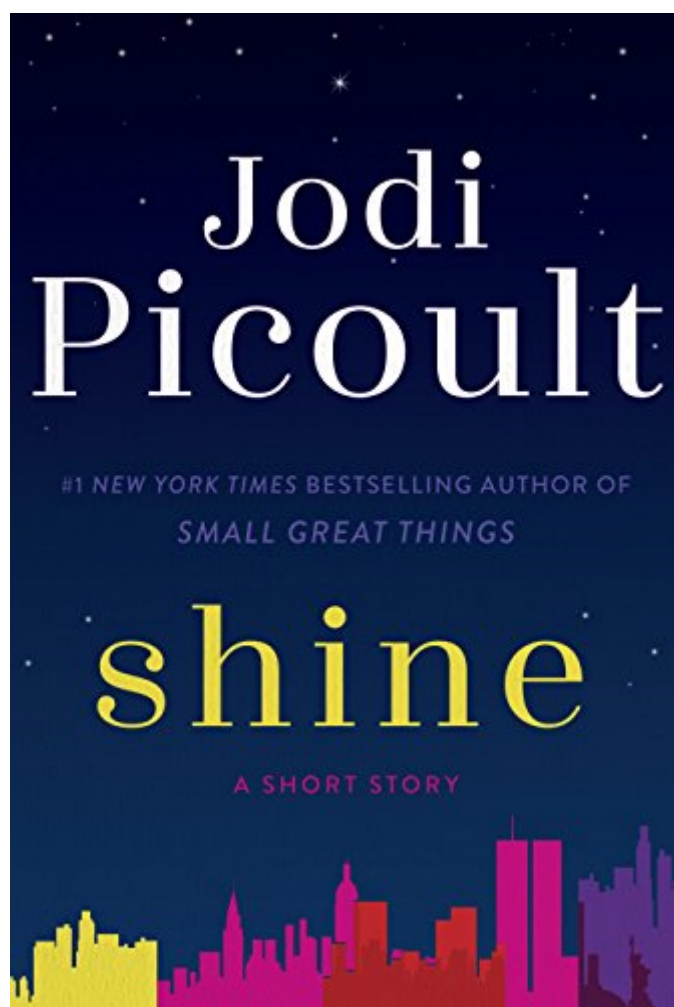


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## Shine (Short Story) (Kindle Single)



## Synopsis

Jodi Picoult tackles issues of race and privilege in this ebook original short story, a prequel to her upcoming novel *Small Great Things*. In *Shine*, the master storyteller and #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Leaving Time* and *My Sister's Keeper* introduces readers to the unforgettable Ruth Brooks. Today is Ruth's first day of third grade at Dalton. The prestigious institution on New York's Upper East Side couldn't be more different from her old school in Harlem. Despite being the smartest girl in her grade, Ruth suspects that her classmates and teachers only see her dark skin. She also notices that Christina, the daughter of her mother's employer, treats Ruth very differently when they're hanging out with the popular girls rather than playing together. Ruth must navigate between two worlds, never losing sight of the dreams she has for herself in hopes that someday, someone will see her for who she really is. Includes a preview of Jodi Picoult's highly anticipated new novel, *Small Great Things*! Praise for Jodi Picoult: "Picoult writes with unassuming brilliance." —Stephen King "It's hard to exaggerate how well Picoult writes." —Financial Times "Picoult writes with a fine touch, a sharp eye for detail, and a firm grasp of the delicacy and complexity of human relationships." —The Boston Globe "Picoult is a master of the craft of storytelling." —Associated Press

## Book Information

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> Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Short Stories #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > One hour (33-43 pages) > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Eight-and-a-half year old Ruth starts third grade on scholarship in the private school of her mother's employer's daughter Christina and experiences culture shock from her previous school in Harlem. Ruth experiences subtle and not so subtle racism, as well as kindness from a loving teacher. Most disturbing is the difference in how Christina treats her in private and public. While reading SHINE, I couldn't help but to feel like I was reading a well researched story written by a white woman trying to hit on all the racial inequities young Ruth might experience as the only black girl in her private school. I never actually felt like I was reading the POV of a young black girl. The voice felt artificial, at times like it was trying too hard, and at times like it wasn't trying hard enough. The story didn't feel fresh or original. While I liked and empathized with Ruth, SHINE didn't inspire me to preorder SMALL GREAT THINGS.

In the Kindle Single Shine by Jodi Picoult, Ruth has won a scholarship at a prestigious private school which her friend Christina attends. Ruth spends a lot of time at Christina's house because Ruth's mom works there as a cook and maid. Ruth feels confident about entering the new school because she had done well enough on the entrance exam to win a scholarship. Rachael, Ruth's sister, points out that Ruth will be the only black girl at the school. It is a tribute to Ruth's naivety that she is not worried about it; she has not considered it at all. It soon becomes apparent that her friend Christina is more of a friend at her home than she is at school. The friendship arrangements at school are different; Christina has new friends who don't want to be friends with Ruth. Christina's best friend is Lola, a friend of several school years. Another friend, a new girl, is Maia from Texas with a stereotypically Texan view of Black people. (The term African-American is not used in this novel). This is a YA coming of age novel with a principal conflict of racism both explicit and implicit. There are several incidents to which Ruth reacts that reveal different perspectives of youth (Ruth) and more mature adults (Granny at home and the coach at Ruth's school). This short story and teaser very successfully led me to pre-order Small Great Things a Picoult novel due out in October 2016.

I am a huge Jodi Picoult fan, I have read everything she's written and always pre-order when a new book is coming out. With her last few books, she has put out a mini-novella as a precursor to

the full novel. I love that she does this. It gets you into the characters and wets your whistle for the story. This book tells about Ruth, a young black girl, who is given a scholarship to a prestigious elementary school where her mom's employer's daughter is already a student. Ruth and Christina (the employer's daughter) are close friends before becoming classmates but prejudices from other students impair their in-school friendship. I liked this short story, I would recommend it to any Picoult fan.

A very short prequel to *Small Great Things* that is a good introduction to the characters in that book, in particular Ruth Brooks, an eight year old African American who receives a scholarship to attend a prestigious all-white school. Already a powerful story dealing with important issues. I'm looking forward to continuing with her story in *Small Great Things*.

*Shine* is a short story, the prequel to *Small Great Things*. It tells the story of Ruth, a young black girl who is awarded a scholarship to attend a prestigious school in 1979. Ruth is bright and determined to succeed, but quickly realizes that the other students will not accept her, or treat her fairly. This story was a perfect way to increase my interest in reading the full-length novel!

Beautifully written, this book introduces you to a few characters to be in "*Small Great Things*" in such a way that you find yourself laughing, crying and wondering. It's a story that keeps you reading. I can't wait for "*Small Great Things*" to come out!

I sometimes wonder if there is anything that Jodi can do wrong. At least when it comes to writing, she is one of the most captivating story tellers I've ever come across. I can't wait until *Little Small Things* comes out.

Great stories about a young black girl: Ruth and her experiences: going to a white only school, being friends with the daughter of the family her mother works for. She finds how different she is from others.

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