

HOLLY CUPALA

DON'T BREATHE A WORD

ILLUSTRATED EXCERPT

HE MAKES

HE WISHES HE COULD



Text adapted by Molly Blaisdell
Graphics by Realm Lovejoy

A graphic novel adaptation of the first two chapters of
Don't Breathe a Word by Holly Cupala.

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Don't Breathe a Word graphic chapters
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IN A SUBURB OF SEATTLE,
A GIRL *PREPARES* TO *DISAPPEAR*...

I LOOK LIKE A GHOST.
THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE IF I'M LUCKY.
INVISIBLE.

slyt...
slyt...



AS LONG AS I'M *ANGRY*,
I WON'T BE *AFRAID*.



ONLY MY CLUES CAN BE
LEFT FOR THE POLICE.



NO ONE CAN KNOW I'M RUNNING
AWAY...IT HAS TO LOOK LIKE A
KIDNAPPING.



ME WITH MY BROTHERS---JESSE,JOY AND JONAH.
THE NAME JOY DOESN'T *FIT* ME ANYMORE.

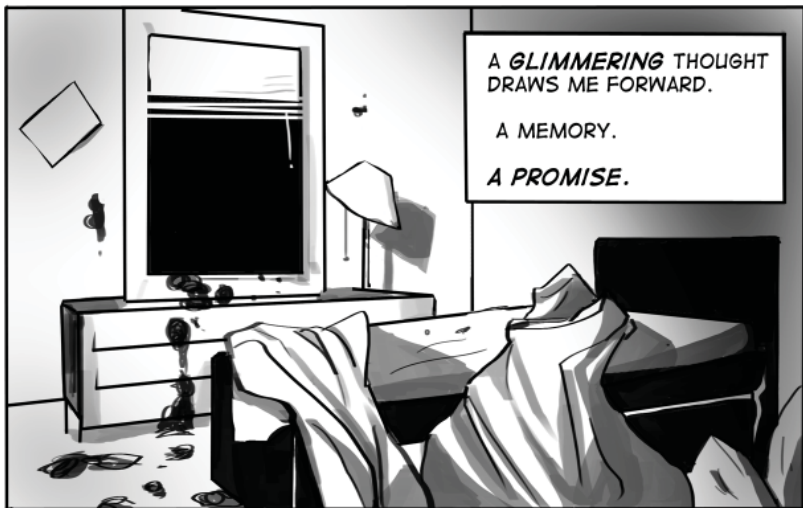


ASHER, YOU *DAZZLED* ME.
YOU *SHATTERED* ME
AND PUT ME BACK
TOGETHER AGAIN.



EVERYTHING YOU EVER GAVE ME HAD A PRICE.
NO ONE ELSE KNOWS I'M *SUFFOCATING*.

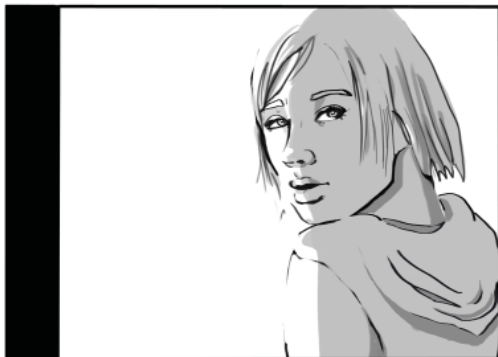




A *GLIMMERING* THOUGHT
DRAWS ME FORWARD.

A MEMORY.

A *PROMISE*.



GOODBYE, JOY.

IT WILL BE BETTER
OUT THERE.

I PROMISE.

I TRIED TO GET *HELP*,
BUT NO ONE NOTICED.

I WENT WITH MY FRIEND NEETA TO
SEE MY BROTHER AT COLLEGE
BUT HE TURNED ME AWAY.

ASHER WAS *ANGRY* I
LEFT WITHOUT TELLING
HIM.

BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED
HIS *PUNISHMENT*.



DAYS BEFORE AT ASHER'S APARTMENT...

BUT EVERYONE ALREADY
KNOWS I'M YOURS.

I DON'T CARE IF ANYONE ELSE *KNOWS*.
I ONLY CARE IF YOU *KNOW*, JOY...



WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT IS HE GOING
TO DO TO ME?



THE NEXT DAY...

I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU DID LAST NIGHT.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO *FIX* IT.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
DON'T MOVE.

I'VE MET THIS BOY BEFORE...ON A STREET OF *SHATTERED*
GLASS.

HE SAW HOW ASHER TREATS ME.

HE WISHES
HE COULD CURE THE SCARS...

THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM HE SAID,
"IF YOU NEED HELP, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME."



LAST NIGHT, I **SACRIFICED** MYSELF
ON AN ALTAR OF SKIN AND **ASHES**.

BUT I WON'T BOW DOWN.

WITH ASHES...

HE MAKES HER SHINE

HE WISHES HE COULD CURE THE SCARS...



BACK TO THE PRESENT



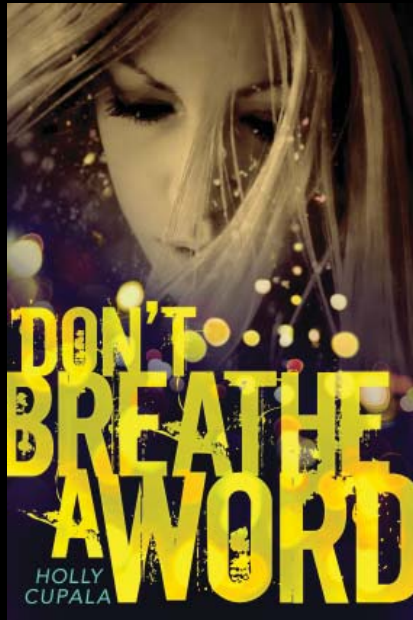
JUST PUT THE TICKET IN THE SLOT.



STUPID. STUPID. HOW AM I GOING TO SURVIVE ON THE STREETS?



HELP IS OUT HERE IF ONLY I CAN FIND HIM.



Read the rest of

DON'T BREATHE A WORD

Now Available
from HarperTeen

www.harperteen.com
www.DontBreatheAWord.com
www.hollycupala.com

“NOTHING HAS HIT ME SO HARD SINCE LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON’S SPEAK.”

—Stephanie Kuehnert, author of
I WANNA BE YOUR JOEY RAMONE

Joy Delamere is suffocating.

From asthma, from her parents, and from her boyfriend, Asher, who is smothering her from the inside out. She can take his tender words, his cruel words, until the night they go too far.

Now, Joy will leave everything behind to find the one who has offered his help, a homeless boy called Creed. He introduces her to a world of fierce loyalty, to the rules of survival, and to love—a world she won't easily let go.

Set against the gritty backdrop of Seattle's streets and a cast of characters with secrets of their own, Holly Cupala's powerful new novel explores the subtleties of abuse, the meaning of love, and how far a girl will go to discover her own strength.



Holly Cupala wrote teen romance novels before she ever actually experienced teen romance. When she did, it became all about tragic poetry and slightly less tragic novels. She has worked with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, been a readergirlz diva, and now serves on the board of the University of Washington Writing Program.

When she isn't writing and making art, she spends time with her husband and daughter in Seattle, Washington. These days, her writing is less about tragedy and more about hope. Ten percent of the author's proceeds goes toward World Vision's Hope for Sexually Exploited Girls.

www.hollycupala.com ~ www.dontbreatheaword.com

Molly Blaisdell thinks digging ditches is the most hellish job in the universe, and she would know because as a teen she worked as a plumber's helper. She's an avid Trekkie and started her first fan fic group in junior high. She's been writing ever since. Molly has a particular fondness for Sonic Happy Hour and Trader Joe's tzatziki dip. She is occasionally attacked by the family cat, Mr. Tibs, while writing under the wide skies of College Station, Texas. Visit her at www.mollyblaisdell.com.



Realm's father is a Japanese ex-monk and her mother an English teacher from Rhode Island. Realm grew up in snowy Nagano, Japan, and later moved to Seattle, Washington. She attended DigiPen Institute of Technology before joining Valve to create the award-winning games *Portal* and *Portal 2* with her team. With over seven years of experience as a professional artist, she works on videogames full-time and spends her free time writing and illustrating her books. See more of her work at www.realmlovejoy.com