



**[Speak: The Graphic Novel](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group  
2018

ISBN: 9780374300289 (Graphic Novel)

\*Age Range: 12-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 7 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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The bestselling, award-winning modern classic *Speak* is now a stunning graphic novel—adapted by Laurie Halse Anderson herself and brought to life visually by Eisner Award winner E.M. Carroll.

"Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, an outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, Melinda becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back—and refuses to be silent.

The groundbreaking National Book Award Finalist and Michael L. Printz Honor Book about consent, healing, and finding your voice comes alive for new audiences and fans of the original novel in *Speak: The Graphic Novel*.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"In a stunning first novel, Anderson uses keen observations and vivid imagery to pull readers into the head of an isolated teenager. . . . Yet Anderson infuses the narrative with a wit that sustains the heroine through her pain and holds readers' empathy. . . . But the book's overall gritty realism and Melinda's hard-won metamorphosis will leave readers touched and inspired." —*Publishers Weekly*, **Starred Review**

"Carroll, well-known for [their] horror comics, does an excellent job of bringing the vignettes of Anderson's novel to the graphic format. With spellbinding artwork, this exceptional adaptation masterfully does justice to its source material while adding new depth and nuance." —*Booklist*, **starred review**

"Strong lines, overlapping panels and clever use of blank space show Carroll's skill in creating Melinda's stifling, near-silent world. *Speak: The Graphic Novel* is hypnotizing and heart-breaking, with the kind of empowering finish that unshackles protagonist and readers alike." —*Shelf Awareness*, **starred review**

"In this new graphic novel adaptation of Anderson's *Speak* (rev. 9/99)—a powerful narrative of a freshman's year of self-preservation after a brutal sexual assault—artist Carroll starkly renders protagonist Melinda's pain and

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healing in black and white, expertly deploying visual perspective and tension to sharpen the emotional impact . . . Art becomes a means of expression for her, making the graphic novel format especially resonant with the original theme . . . will give even longtime devotees a new way to experience Melinda's story." —*The Horn Book*, **starred review**

"Anderson's timeless and important tale of high -school sexual assault and its aftermath undergoes a masterful graphic novel transformation. Carroll's stark black-and-white illustrations are exquisitely rendered, capturing the mood through a perfectly calibrated lens. With the rise of women finding their voices and speaking out about sexual assault in the media, this reworking of the enduring 1999 classic should be on everyone's radar . . . Powerful, necessary, and essential." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Edgar Allan Poe Award Nominee
- Eisner Award Nominee
- *A School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year
- *A Booklist* Youth Editors' Choice
- A YALSA Great Graphic Novel Reading List Selection
- A YALSA Teens' Top Ten List Selection
- An Amelia Bloomer Best Feminist Book for Young Readers
- An Amelia Bloomer Top Ten Book
- A Quill & Quire Best Kids' Book of the Year
- A Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List Selection
- The EBSCO See-It Award Winner
- An ILA Young Adult Reading List Selection
- A Kids' Comics Award Nominee
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award Winner
- *A New York Times Bestseller*
- A National Book Award Finalist For Young People's Literature
- A Michael L. Printz Honor Book
- *A Publisher Weekly* Bestseller
- An Edgar Allan Poe Award Finalist
- A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist
- BCCB Blue Ribbon Award Winner
- A *TIME* Magazine Best YA Book Of All Time
- A *Cosmopolitan* Magazine Best Ya Books Everyone Should Read, Regardless Of Age
- An ALA Top Ten Best Book For Young Adults
- *A Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year
- California Young Reader Medal
- Golden Kite Award Winner
- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adults
- PA Carolyn W. Field Award Winner
- Kentucky Bluegrass Award

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## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Laurie Halse Anderson response to challenges to Speak](#) (via [madwomanintheforest.com](#))
- [Speak Classroom Guides and Resources](#) (via [madwomanintheforest.com](#))
- [Speak Hands-On Activities and Social Projects](#) (via [madwomanintheforest.com](#))
- [Speak Teaching Units](#) (via [madwomanintheforest.com](#))
- [Speak Playlist](#) (via [madwomanintheforest.com](#))
- [RAINN \(Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network\)](#)
- [CNN.com "Speak author: 'We as adults struggle to talk to kids honestly about sex'"](#)
- [Entertainment Weekly "Speak turns 15: A chat with author Laurie Halse Anderson"](#)
- [BookRiot.com "15 years of SPEAK: An Interview with Laurie Halse Anderson"](#)
- [TIME Magazine "She Spent 20 Years Teaching Teens About Sexual Assault. Now She's Sharing Her Own Story"](#)
- [BookRiot.com "8 YA Authors On The Enduring Impact Of SPEAK"](#)
- [School Library Journal "Laurie Halse Anderson Discusses Censorship, its Frightening Impact, and the Need for Conversation"](#)
- [Watch this video of Laurie Halse Anderson](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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