

Simon Pulse
· Memo ·

This is an excellent revision, especially in terms of adding more dimensions to the friendship between Evie, Raquel and Dee Dee. The Flojo culture is better explained, too. Overall, the story reads much more smoothly. Bravo!

I do have some chapter-by-chapter suggestions, though, which focus on the beginning and ending of the book. Also, should we reconsider the "scandalosa" theme? It seems forced in some places...

Chapter 1

Although the opening lines of the book are much improved, the first chapter still seems a little too long and labored. Is there any way it can be divided into two chapters so that the length better matches the length of the other chapters? Maybe the descriptions of Dee Dee's car and/or Evie's upcoming birthday party (pp 11-13) can be moved to chapter 2? This would make the conversation between Evie and Dee Dee feel more natural. It might also make perfect sense for Evie to bring up her party after the accident. Here are some other suggestions:

p.3, top: Elaborate on who "anyone" is in the sentence "As anyone knows..."? ✓

p.3, middle: Introduce the whole ADA theme here? Is it funny to mention it on p.6 when Raquel is introduced, and then go back and say that Dee Dee is Evie's ADA, too?

p.3, middle: Specify here that Dee Dee's hair is dyed blonde? ✓

p.3, bottom: Have Lindsay tell Evie to pick up the *spare* set of keys? ✓

p.6, top: Why is Dee Dee's last name mentioned again, if it's already been mentioned? ✓

p.6, bottom: It sounds odd to call Raquel a puta, even a "party puta," when Alejandra is called a puta on the very next page. ✓

p.10: Make the examples of what bonds the three girls more trendy/teen oriented?

Chapter 3

p.35, middle: When Raquel asks if Evie is going to pay for the dent and Evie says "of course," is she being a little too noble? Delete this phrase and keep rest? ✓

p.37, bottom: Raquel's line about being stuck with "some boring ass tutor" is perfect—but is it possible to come up with a name/acronym for some boring tutorial program the high school sponsors? Maybe Sabrina used to be a tutor for the program and that's another reason there's no way Evie will join? ✓

Chapter 5

p.55, bottom: When Vasquez-Reyes Alarcon asks Evie, "If you want to improve your grade, why don't you get a tutor," maybe he can suggest that Evie join the school's tutoring program? ✓

Chapter 6

p.58, bottom: Add more information about the Sangros? Mention here—rather than on p.148—that Evie dyed her hair last year

Chapter 8

p.80, middle: Again, mention the school's tutorial program? (Or even better, the name Evie and her friends come up with to make fun of it?)

p.84, middle: Why does Evie need to check in with Raquel? (Is she checking up on her or just wanting to chat?) ✓

Chapter 9

p.90, end of chapter: When Evie comes up with a list of girls whose names end in "a," wouldn't she think of Dee Dee's given name, Dela, before she thinks of Tori's given name? Maybe change the wording to, "What a minute, Dee Dee's real name was Dela and Tori's was actually Victoria. And Evie's given name was Evelina. Oh, never mind!" ✓

Chapter 10

p.91, bottom: Is this the first interaction Evie has with Lindsay since the day of the accident? If so, should Evie be shown to feel a little funny about what she put Lindsay through? Maybe a comment can be made about how Evie carried on with Lindsay as though nothing had happened, but she had trouble making eye contact? It's great that Evie and Lindsay talk on p.100, though.
p.107, end of chapter: delete or find an alternative for Lindsay's line about how she "would rather die than cause either one of you girls pain"? The line seems like too much of a cliché. Also, in chapter 1, Lindsay seems to have a bit of an attitude, so it's odd to hear her say something like this here.

Chapter 11

p.108, bottom: Have Raquel say the line about "who broke up with who" and have Dee Dee correct her? Why would Raquel—who doesn't exactly have perfect grammar/uses words like "ain't" all the time—correct Dee Dee, the writer?

Chapter 15

p.142, middle: Hasn't Evie known about the car bill from the beginning? Why mention it here?

Chapter 17

p.170, middle: Necessary to describe Davey's truck again here? It's already been described.

Chapter 21

p.189, middle: Mention the brunch Evie's mother hosted earlier, like when Vicki's upset that she/Evie's father aren't invited to the dinner Dee Dee's parents throw to welcome Rocio?

Chapter 22

p.197, bottom: Have Evie wear something other than her Senor Lopez pullover? This has been mentioned a few times and Evie doesn't seem like someone who would always wear the same thing.

Chapter 25

p.220, beginning of chapter: On second thought, Alex's text (after seeing Evie and Arturo kiss) seems too soft. Is there something else he can say? Maybe "Forget it"—and Evie can obsess over whether he's referring to a conversation or their relationship.
p.226, top: Again, is this the first time Evie notices how bad Raquel looked? Maybe in a previous scene, like the shopping scene, Evie can notice that Raquel looked kind of off in a dress she tried on and wonder if Raquel has gained weight.

Chapter 26: Find a better way to lead up to Evie's driving test? Maybe Evie can talk about it some more during the shop trip?

Chapter 27

p.244, middle: Shouldn't Evie be shown to have mixed feelings about Arturo here/during the rest of the chapter, if she's going to decide later that Alex is the guy for her? (Was kissing Arturo really "nice"?)

Chapter 28: Does this chapter need to be less than a page long? Also, it's odd to introduce the possibility that Raquel used drug money to buy Evie her dress and then later say she didn't. Maybe Raquel was trying to buy Evie's friendship instead, or something?

Chapter 29

p.249, middle: Should Dee Dee tell Raquel, "We all want you to be in a better place"? Recast?
p.251, bottom: Dee Dee's logic is great, but is the "scandalosa" theme seems a little forced here and a few other places.
p.255, top: When Evie states that she wishes "Alex was that guy," show her internal thoughts? Readers will wonder how she figured this out.

Chapter 30

p.257, bottom: Should Dee Dee make some kind of sarcastic comment about how Evie was the Queen of Text/had probably never written a letter in her life to better lead up to the point that Evie wants to write Alex a letter?

Chapter 31

p.263, top: Add a paragraph about how the last week/week and a half had been stressful with her QC, but her grades were up and Vicki came through. (What grades does Evie get in civics and English? Is this what makes Vicki agree to throw Evie the party, after all?)

p.263, top: Would Evie still want to wear the halter gown Raquel bought her, even if she didn't use drug money? Wouldn't Evie just have to pay her back? Maybe say that Evie returned the dress Raquel bought and Vicki or even Sabrina ended up buying Evie another dress that was almost as stunning?

p.270, middle: Tone down Alex's language slightly so that he's sweet but not sappy? Maybe delete sentences like "of course" or "I want to be the boyfriend you deserve."

p.277: Great last page, but show Evie's internal thoughts more so that the ending feels more like an ending?