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**From:** Lynn Weingarten  
**To:** mediumbrowngirl@aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: outline notes  
**Date:** Mon, 20 Mar 2006 17:48:37 -0500

Hi Michele,

Thanks for your comments! Seems like we're on the same page with most of this stuff. Here are a few responses:

1. Sabrina — *\*Why\** would Sabrina keep this a secret? Seems strange considering that the reason for their breakup was so un-scandalous. If we want to keep the reason for their breakup a secret, then the reason needs to be something that a person would actually try and hide. Something potentially embarrassing in some way. Does that make sense? What is the lesson we're trying to teach Evie through Sabrina? How does Sabrina's story connect to the rest of the story? Does it mirror any of the other girls' stories??

2. If we want Evie to end up with Alex, then we have to make sure this is what the readers are rooting for. In the first book Alex was very nice and sweet, but we didn't get to see a lot of what made him unique and special. Let's try and show more of this in this book....we don't just want him to be the solid steady rock that Evie goes back to after she's done having her fun. We want to feel like she's getting something WONDERFUL in being with Alex. The other potential problem with having Evie and Alex end up together is....

3. Guillermo — Totally understand your desire NOT to have Evie cheat on Alex...but if she doesn't cheat and just thinks about Guillermo and then ends up back with her boyfriend....seems somewhat undramatic to be the major conflict of this book. If the last book was about Evie figuring out who she is...what is this book about?

Going forwards we'll need to incorporate the revisions into a new document and structure this into three solid acts. Is this something you feel comfortable taking a crack at? Just let me know!

After you've had a chance to read this over let's discuss!

xx,  
Lynn

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mediumbrowngirl@aol.com [mailto:mediumbrowngirl@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2006 11:00 AM  
**To:** lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com  
**Subject:** Re: outline notes

Hi Lynn,  
Please let me know you rec'd this with my notes. I am traveling and using a slow A computer.  
Ugh!  
xx,  
Michele  
ps. Thanks for all the comments!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lynn Weingarten <lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com>  
**To:** Mediumbrowngirl@aol.com <Mediumbrowngirl@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Fri, 17 Mar 2006 16:56:29 -0500  
**Subject:** outline notes

Hi Michele,

Thanks so much for your outline! We're excited about this and think this is going to make a fantastic book. Attached please find your outline with comments embedded. If you have any questions or want to discuss any of this, you know where to find me!

Best,  
Lynn

Lynn Weingarten  
Associate Editor  
Alloy Entertainment  
151 West 26th Street/9th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
[lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com](mailto:lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com)

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**From:** Lynn Weingarten  
**To:** mediumbrowngirl@aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: outline notes  
**Date:** Thu, 23 Mar 2006 16:11:44 -0500

Oh that's great! Are they interviewing you on a specific topic? Or just a general interview....

HBC1:

Act 1: Introduction to Evie's life. Introduction of "the problem" (ie Dee Dee arrives). Act 1 ends with the fight between Dee Dee and Raquel.

Act 2: Evie is torn between the two groups. Raquel isn't speaking to her. She starts hanging out with the Sangros and starts to change. At the climax of Act 2 Evie goes to the party and gets kissed by Jose. At the end of Act 2 Evie goes to the party and everything falls apart.

Act 3: Girls go to the cemetery, Make up. Evie ends up with Alex.

Act 2 is the "meat" of the book. The climax of act 2 is the biggest "Thing" that happens in the book. Act 2 usually ends at a very low point. Act 3 is about everything getting worked out. Does that make sense? Call me if you want to discuss!

xo

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mediumbrowngirl@aol.com [mailto:mediumbrowngirl@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2006 10:51 AM  
**To:** lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com  
**Subject:** Re: outline notes

Lynn, could you possibly tell me how HBC 1 is divided into three acts? This will help me a lot.

Also, good news. I'm getting interviewed for NPR's All Things Considered tomorrow. It will air in June.

xx,  
Michele

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lynn Weingarten <lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com>  
**To:** mediumbrowngirl@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thu, 23 Mar 2006 10:46:47 -0500  
**Subject:** RE: outline notes

Sounds good to me! Thanks, Michele. Also, please pay extra special attention to dividing this up into three separate acts. In fact, you might want to actually DIVIDE the document into three pieces, act 1, act 2, act 3 so that the arc will be more clear. Looking forward to reading this on Tuesday!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** mediumbrowngirl@aol.com [mailto:mediumbrowngirl@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2006 10:42 AM  
**To:** lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com  
**Subject:** Re: outline notes

Dear Michele,

Thanks for this great outline! We are all very excited for the next fantastic HBC book!!!  
Going forward we should work towards dividing this up into three solid acts. Also see  
other comments embedded throughout. After you've had a chance to look this over, let's  
discuss!

## Book 2 Outline

Evie Gomez is still a sophomore at Villanueva High and faced with the reality that if she wants to graduate to the next grade, she will have to enroll in (gasp!) summer school. Her only option is to volunteer for a community service as an elective course. Nunca problema! Evie chooses to work at the California Coastal Horse Rescue. The CCHR is a perfect choice for her. It is only a few blocks away from Villanueva High and she'll be caring after "sweet horses in the sunny outdoors." Evie needs to be really upset about being forced to do this, at first. Right! The menial duties, however, of shoveling manure and sorting smelly horse blankets irritate Evie, to say the least. At first she is resentful, but Evie slowly actually looks forward to the work and, most of all, seeing the many horses she takes care of. Evie soon fantasizes about becoming a spectacular horsewoman, Why? Seems like the real reason she likes this, at least to start, is because she likes Guillermo. And maybe a few other guys who work there. Let's have Evie use another female as a role model. Like when she saw Blue Crush -- she was fascinated by the female led surf scene and then the surfer boys (Shaggy, Alex) fell into place. Eventually Evie develops a relationship with one broken horse. Yes! Maybe at the end her parents buy her a horse instead of a car? Yes..this could def. Be a possibility. complete with matching braided manes for *both* her and Johnny Apples, her favorite Appaloosa.

This is confusing for Evie. Her whole life, well, her whole last semester anyway, she fantasized about being a pro surfer and now, is she actually thinking of trading in her flip flops for cowboy boots? It doesn't help that Guillermo, the soft spoken ranch hand from Central California, has caught her eye. *How* can that be? She is supposedly in utter

deep smitten with Alex, but feels intrigued by Guillermo and the exciting world of Mexican style rodeos and sunset horseback rides in the hills

Evie is unsure what it means to be in a relationship and possibly in love. According to Dee Dee, her *amiga mejor*, being in a relationship means being *dedicada totalmente* – totally dedicated. Dee Dee has been with her boyfriend, Rocio, for over a year and insists that true love means you don't have an ojo flojo (lazy eye). "Your vision is straight and focused on only one person," she says. Poor Evie! Will she always wear the badge of flojoism?

Meanwhile Evie's *otra amiga mejor*, Raquel Diaz, is on the mend after breaking up with Jose. Raquel is still hurt and angry about how Jose cheated on her behind her back, but she is not one to show it. She projects a façade that she is, as always, "Mexcellent" and immediately shifts into mack mode. She focuses on Jose's bestfriend, Mondo, and once she hooks up with him, she has regained status. Mondo, after all, has his own wheels and party connections that Jose never had. Would it be better if we introduce a new character and Raquel dates him instead? Maybe someone we haven't met yet who's even "higher up" on the coolness food-chain than either Jose or Mondo. Sure, works for me. Unlike Dee Dee, Raquel maintains that men can't be trusted and insists to Evie that she should definitely not focus on one boy and should keep Guillermo on the side. "Just in case."

Evie isn't clear how her self-induced love triangle will pan out, but there is *one* thing she *is* sure about -- she is finally going to turn sixteen and a big party for her is in the works. Her mother is ecstatic to finally plan her sweet sixteen party ("You and your sister both denied me the privilege of throwing either of you quinceaneras!") and she will get the opportunity to show off her hostess skills to "party planning rival" Kitty Diaz, Raquel's mother. Evie is excited about her birthday, namely because she will finally get her driver's license and, maybe, her own car. "I love horses," she asserts, "but I don't want to ride one to school!"

On the flip side, Evie wonders how can she possibly invite Guillermo, who she has been increasingly close with, to her birthday bash while Alex is her date, not to mention her boyfriend. If Dee Dee is right, she only focus on Alex the whole night, but then again....Guillermo, sigh.

on Rocio. (Need suggestion to "spice" Dee Dee up a bit) See above suggestion about Rocio proposing. Maybe Dee Dee gets all into the idea of getting married and then at the end changes her mind? I like that she changes her mind.  
Works for me. Not sure if this will work or if readers would like this...let's discuss!

Finally, the night of Evie's birthday, Evie is heartbroken that her parents don't get her own car. How could they?! Her parents remind her they had repeatedly told her that her GPA needed to be higher than C average. They do, however, present her with her very own vanity plates, an incentive to work harder.

The vanity plates say RioChic and Evie is, again, slightly disappointed. "We wanted to have RioChica, like you wanted," her mother explains. "But the DMV said it was too many letters, so we had to compromise."

Raquel points out that RioChic is much, much cooler. "We are Rio Girls, and we have our own kind of chic – *Rio Chic*." Dee Dee agrees and because they are her *amigas mejors*, with *ideas mejors*, Evie couldn't agree more. Besides, in some relationships, you have to learn how to compromise.

Question: ▼ ▲

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Deleted: More about Evie's mother, father? Dee Dee needs something more!

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**From:** Lynn Weingarten  
**To:** Mediumbrowngirl@aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: outline notes  
**Date:** Tue, 28 Mar 2006 15:15:40 -0500

Yes. I think I might have written one thing after that (when you asked me to explain where the there acts would be in HBC 1....) But this is my last set o comments regarding the information in the outline

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mediumbrowngirl@aol.com [mailto:Mediumbrowngirl@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2006 2:43 PM  
**To:** lweingarten@alloyentertainment.com  
**Subject:** Re: outline notes

Lynn,

Is this the last email/comments I recieved from you, regarding the outline? I'm gettting confused. Mostly because I wrote to you from other computers and was traveling a bit.

Thanks for your comments! Seems like we're on the same page with most of this stuff. Here are a few responses:

1. Sabrina --- "Why" would Sabrina keep this a secret? Seems strange considering that the reason for their breakup was so un-scandalous. If we want to keep the reason for their breakup a secret, then the reason needs to be something that a person would actually try and hide. Something potentially embarrassing in some way. Does that make sense? What is the lesson we're trying to teach Evie through Sabrina? How does Sabrina's story connect to the rest of the story? Does it mirror any of the other girls' stories??

I agree. Let's not keep it a secret. However, I would like the other girls to learn from her decision.

2. If we want Evie to end up with Alex, then we have to make sure this is what the readers are rooting for. In the first book Alex was very nice and sweet, but we didnt' get to see a lot of what made him unique and special. Let's try and show more of this in this book....

Definitely!

we don't just want him to be the solid steady rock that Evie goes back to after she's done having her fun. We want to feel like she's getting something WONDERFUL in being with Alex.

Right!

The other potential problem with having Evie and Alex end up together is....

3. Guillermo -- Totally understand your desire NOT to have Evie cheat on Alex...but if she doesn't cheat and just thinks about Guillermo and then ends up back with her boyfriend....seems somewhat undramatic to be the major conflict of this book. If the last book was about Evie figuring out who she is...what is this book about?

It could be a strong temptation...maybe Alex finds text messages between them...but you know, we can actually end the books without Alex.

Going fowards we'll need to incorporate the revisions into a new document and structure this into three solid acts. Is this something you feel comfortable taking a crack at? Just let me know!

yes. Can I get it to you...on Tuesday?

Let me know,  
Michele

But it's Evie who has the capacity to hurt people, in this case, Alex. As she works more hours than necessary at the CCHR, she is spending less time with Alex and this becomes a sore subject between them. One evening she stay late to brush down the horses and Guillermo stays to help her. Alex shows up to surprise her and is shocked to find her in the stall stable – oops!, laughing it up with a strange boy he has heard nothing about. At one point, he huffs that maybe she doesn't have time for a boyfriend and maybe he shouldn't be her date at her big birthday party. His accusation and suggestion crushes Evie. Is Alex, keeping her from the one thing she supposedly loves -- the equestrian life? Or is it her own guilt over her attraction to Guillermo that bothers her? Maybe the truth really does hurt?

Finally, Evie has a heart to heart talk with her older sister, Sabrina. She learns that there are many levels of commitment within a relationships and it's best not to compare one with another. Yes, one should compromise, but to make sacrifices is totally another thing. Sabrina confesses Why is this a confession at the end? Evie should know all this upfront. I like keeping it as a confession. Perhaps Vicki Gomez, their mother, gave up her dreams to follow her husband. Sabrina doesn't want to end up like her mother. This makes Evie think more about the levels of commitment and compromise. It also give Vicki Gomez some depth, rather than being a materialistic housewife who just shops all the time. to Evie that her ex-boyfriend had wanted her transfer to the Midwest with him, so he could attend grad school. When Sabrina told him she couldn't do it, he broke up with her. "I felt I was being selfish. That I loved myself more than him." she tells Evie. "But honestly, Evie. I could never imagine being so far from California, the ocean. I'm a cali chica, to the core."

Prior to Evie's birthday party, many issues get resolved. Raquel learns it isn't right to be using her new guy to get back at Jose and both she and Mondo come to a surprisingly cordial break up. Evie confesses to her Alex her feelings towards Guillermo and they work it out. Not sure this is what readers want. Maybe Evie doesn't need to end up with Alex. Also, what actually happens between Evie and Guillermo. Does she cheat on Alex? Sort of seems like she should, since this is the basis for the dramatic conflict of her story. Yes, she could have a close call with Guillermo. I like Evie ending up with Alex, she doesn't need to, but wants to. Dee Dee continues to maintain a dedicated focus

Deleted: Mondo



Meanwhile, a change of gears shifts in the Gomez household. For one, Sabrina, Evie's older and only sister, arrives home from Stanford University. She is depressed after the break up from her long term boyfriend, Robert, and takes a quarter off from school to be with family. The usual cheerful and enthusiastic Sabrina is low in spirits and her depression makes Evie wonder why anyone would ever want to be in a relationship in the first place. They only break your heart. Maybe Raquel is right.

Another arrival to Rio Estates is Rocio, Dee Dee's long distance boyfriend from Mexico City. He travels to California in honor of Evie's birthday party Seems hard to believe that he'd come just for Evie's birthday, since he's never met Evie. Sure, but Evie is Dee Dee's best friend...but it could also just a coinky dink he's coming near the same time of the party. We could make him slightly older and he's coming to CA to check out colleges, with his parents. and comes a few weeks early to spend time with Dee Dee and her family. Frank De la Fuente and Graciela are more than delighted. Rocio comes from one of the most upstanding families of the Polanco District and would be a fine catch for any young lady, someday. Dee Dee is only 16 years old and, of course, much too young to marry anyone, but her father and Graciela feel it's never too early to nurture a promising relationship. What if Rocio comes and does propose marriage. At first Dee Dee says yes, but then at the end of the book she realizes she's really not ready to be engaged (even a long engagement) at the end Rocio replaces the engagement ring with a promise ring? Yes!

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Evie's two *amiga mejors* have two different attitudes towards the opposite sex and it doesn't help that the uncharacteristically sad Sabrina is around. It scares Evie to see her sister in such a state. She would never want to experience similar pain down the road (You either get married or you break up," Sabrina predicts grimly. "Are you really going to marry Alex?"). This advice should probably come from Raquel, not Sabrina. Okay. What purpose does Sabrina serve in this story? We need her to add dramatic conflict to the book in some way, not just give Evie advice. Also, the best advice should come from Evie's friends, since they're who the story is really about. Disagree with this --- in HBC the best advice comes from the Evie's mother, but it's played out by the three friends later. ...I'll work on the dramatic conflict. Evie thinks maybe it would be a good thing to Guillermo on the side, so she won't ever be hurt by Alex.

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**To:** Mediumbrowngirl@aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: outline notes  
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