

## Book 2 Chapter Outline

Hi Michele.

Thanks very much for this outline!! Overall it is in pretty good shape and I know you're anxious to get started writing ASAP. We have one large issue, which I will discuss below, as well as a few smaller issues (noted throughout). Once you've gone through all this stuff (and you and I have had a quick chat) you should feel free to get started writing!

Larger issue:

The Alex/Evie problem still isn't quite working. Instead of making it a kissing problem, let's make it an overall Relationship problem. We need Alex to be a little too much of a Flojo in this situation. He's not a jerk to Evie in any way, but he's not particularly romantic either. He was sweet to her when they were very first getting together, but now he's still mostly just treating her like a friend. They hang out and they have a good time, but he's acting like she's one of his Pals. And while he's not high all the time like Jose and Mondo... Evie wonders if it's the Flojo in him making him a less than thrilling boyfriend. (The making out shouldn't be the problem here. They probably do make out sometimes, but this is maybe the only time when Evie really feels like his Girlfriend as opposed to his Buddy). To this end, he should be doing less sweet stuff like getting extra jobs in order to pay for a birthday present. If he's getting an extra job it's to save up for a new surf board or other surf related item. Surfing is his real first love. ✓++

✓  
Evie thinks  
the extra job  
is for her.

But if surfing is about being chill and laid back and having a fun time with your friends... then the rodeo appeals to Evie partly because it is so dashing and dramatic and romantic. The guys who do the rodeo would never call their girlfriend "Man" the way Alex might. We need to make Alex a little more annoying as a boyfriend otherwise Evie is not a sympathetic character. While we don't need Evie to be perfect in order for readers to like her, readers will have a hard time liking a cheater unless we feel that it was somehow Alex's "fault".

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Also, based on this, we should think about the ending. Maybe it makes more sense that, if Evie is ending up alone, that she's actually okay with that.

✓++! They are all alone!

A few other notes:

Please make sure to show and not tell.

It's better to have the girls together in a scene than always on the phone with each other.

If Guillermo is *not* going to end up as Evie's boyfriend at the end, then, despite the fact that Evie's into him, we need to really understand that he's a jerk. (Otherwise we should have Evie end up with him and have Guillermo be the one to give her the saddle)

We need to give the Rocio/Dee Dee story a little more conflict. Does Dee Dee necessarily end up with Rocio at the end? He sounds controlling and if we don't need her to end up with him at the end then we can really play that up.

✓++!

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Also: Where are the Flojo's from the last book? It's okay if they're not playing a huge role in this book, but we can't have them disappear completely. Same with the Sangroes. They're all still around in the background doing various things and popping their heads up occasionally.

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## ACT 1

### Chapter 1

Fifteen year old Evie Gomez finally feels that she has complete control of her life...at least control behind the steering wheel of her housekeeper's, Lindsay, Toyota Corolla. Her parents are out for the afternoon and Evie really should be practice driving with a bona fide California licensed driver but she is anxious to learn and quick. Her driving test is in a few weeks and once she is granted an official state issued driving license, it will be her passport to freedom, no more relying on anyone to chauffeur her around.

Can we put someone else in the car with her so this isn't such a lonely start to the book? As Evie works on perfecting her parallel parking and three-point turns, she replays in her head just how well her life is going. Her bestfriends, Dee Dee and Raquel, are in

she's Lindsay!  
w/

the picture; Alex is now her official boyfriend; the wretched snooty Sangros are keeping a healthy distance and she's become quite the surf girl (in actual practice, *not* just theory). But best of all, she is only two months away from her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. As much as she usually takes cover when her mother, Vicki Gomez, charges as la hostess monstrosa, Evie welcomes her mother's enthusiasm. Vicki Gomez is planning to throw Evie a big Sixteenera – part Sweet Sixteen, part quineanera which, of course, in South Cali means a super sized Mexican Luau at Duke's restaurant in Malibu. Que cool, no? Let's make sure we locate this in time...what time of year is it?

Driving around in Lindsay's car (not quite the g-ride, but *still*) gives Evie a liberating sense of freedom, even if it is just behind the security gates of Rio Estates. But blame it on her blasting iTunes or her acute interest in pushing the boundaries and, soon enough, Evie finds herself whizzing past the main gate of Rio Estates and merging into the congested four lane hellway of Vineyard Avenue. Before she knows it, Evie gets pulled over by a motorcycle policeman. Does a freshly issued learner's permit count for anything? Apparently not. The policeman will not let Evie drive Lindsay's car back home and threatens to have the car towed. Evie is in a major jam. She definitely can't have her parents find out about this. What will she do?

## Chapter 2

Evie immediately calls Lindsay and begs her to bail her out. After minor deliberation on the phone, Lindsay puts aside her polishing of silverware (i.e. a perfect time to catch up with her novelas) and finally agrees to retrieve Evie. Some swift maneuvering with the policeman grant Evie out of a ticket and both Lindsay and Evie are allowed to leave -- this time with Lindsay in the driver's seat. As they drive back home, Lindsay reminds Evie that her older sister, Sabrina, who is still dealing over a break up from a boyfriend, will be returning home from Stanford for a semester. This isn't the best news for Evie. She knows from experience that the presence of her overly ambitious sister is draining. Evie already feels "less" than Sabrina and doesn't need some overachieving sibling to make her flaws more apparent to the whole family.

When Evie and Lindsay arrive home, they find Evie's parents, Vicki and Ruben, are back from their errands. They are unaware that Evie was just pulled over and all

she's on the phone.

talk about Sabrina.

↑?

appears Cali calm and casual in the Gomez household -- Vicki Gomez is getting ready for another one of her evening Bunko games and Ruben Gomez is sorting through the mail. Yes, nothing for Evie to worry about, that is, until Ruben comes across Evie's report card. *Crap!* If only Evie had practiced her driving another time, she could have retrieved and reviewed the incriminating paperwork before it got into the hands of "The Parents or Guardian of Evie Gomez"! Vicki and Ruben Gomez are upset to see the assorted Cs on Evie's report card and Vicki reminds Evie that in order for her to have her big Sixteenera, it was agreed that she keep her GPA at a solid B average. "At this point," her mother says, "We not expecting a miracle, but you have to prove to us that you are serious about improving. You need to bring your GPA to at least a decent B average, not a GPA teetering into a C average."

Distressed, Evie runs up to her room and immediately places a three way call to her best friends, Dee Dee and Raquel. Instead can this be a scene? Let's see the three girls together...it's more interesting than a phone call. How could her parents threaten her with such an impossible demand? She is in the middle of a semester, how could she possibly bring her GPA up in time? Raquel suggests that Evie do volunteer work for extra school credit. "How do you think Jose skated through at Villy?" she states matter of factly. "All that roadside trash he picked up wasn't always some court appointed community service."

Evie frets that volunteer work is too time consuming and will steal all her free time away from the things she loves: Sea Street, her bestfriends, and especially Alex. She is *doomed*. This will be the worst semester of her life. But when Dee Dee suggests that perhaps Evie could volunteer for The Surfrider Foundation or Heal the Bay, Evie starts to rethink her situation. It might be fun to help out at local beach fundraisers with such other beach minded people. "And," Dee Dee teases, "you'll be surround by more hunky surfers like Alex! Ay, I wish I had to bring up my GPA!" How does the GPA stuff work exactly? Not sure this is realistic. Usually you would do extra credit for a CLASS not for ALL classes all at once. She has different teachers giving her different grades in each class so how would this work exactly? Maybe volunteering at the horse place counts as ONE extra class (and she ends up getting an A in it that brings up her total average) AND she write a paper based on her experiences at the horse place, as extra credit for another class.

Special  
Meeting place



Or something? We need to make sure this all makes sense. Evie laughs and reminds Dee Dee that she doesn't need to bring up her near perfect GPA, but she does have a full calendar of community service obligations, enough that might make her eligible to be a Las Patronas debutante by her senior year. Dee Dee's mother, Margaret, was a La Patrona debutante and so was Dee Dee's grandmother. Dee Dee *has* to be a La Patrona, too. Evie also playfully reminds Dee Dee that she is officially off the market now that she is with Alex and definitely not interested in anyone else (unless maybe it's Paul Rodriguez, Jr!).

Evie begins to feel hopeful about volunteering being a solution to her problem and plans to investigate first thing Monday morning. After hanging up with Dee Dee and Raquel, she sees that she received the obligatory early evening text message from Alex. Since they've been an item, her cell phone has been overheated with text activity from Alex that Raquel tags "sappy Seacrest." *Let's make sure we've been seeing these texts all along.* Evie hates to admit it, and she feels like a total *puta*, but she is jonesing for a little *mack-tion* from her own boyfriend. Shy boys are so sweet, but Alex was becoming all a little too PG13. All she had to show for were a few semi passionate pecks on the lips and a log history of text messages. Was he ever going to make a move on her? Dee Dee and Raquel were always sharing their own romantic (Dee Dee's) and salacious (Raquel's) encounters with her and she was beginning to feel a little left out. Evie wonders if there is something wrong with her. Not that Evie was thinking of a full blown hook up, but just like the practice spins before her big driving test, shouldn't she and Alex have a few practice spins of their own before their own big day?

### Chapter 3

The next morning at school, Evie is with Alex, Dee Dee and Raquel. They look over the volunteer board in the counseling center and discover that because it is the middle of the semester, there aren't many volunteer options left. There is definitely no sign up sheet for The Surfrider Foundation or Heal the Bay. Dee Dee reads off the remaining opportunities: "Hospital intern, Working with the elderly..." Raquel instantly grimaces. "Working with the elderly? What, clipping petrified toe nails? Evie, you do *not* want to work with old people!" Alex points out another ad: 'Working With Youth at Risk' to

which Raquel also comments on. “Youth at Risk?” she slyly smirks. “Sounds like a dating opportunity for me.”

As much as Evie would like to laugh at Raquel’s joke, she and Dee Dee know that Raquel isn’t so far off the mark with her remark. Ever since her break up with Jose, Raquel has been trying to prove to others, specially Jose, that she is, as always, “Mex-cellent” and immediately shifted into mack mode. She drinks more than she usually does and starts hanging out with the Bard Boys, a beach crew of partying homeboys. She has even taken up with Davey Mitchell, a much older member of the Bard Boys who has more of a bad boy rep that Jose could ever dream of owning. Evie and Dee Dee are concerned by Raquel’s radical behavior, but have yet to call her on it. They figure, she might be going through just a post break-up phase, something neither one of them has ever gone through themselves.

After looking over the volunteer options, Evie finally chooses to work at the Southern California Horse Reserve. Dee Dee points out that it can’t be “that bad” and that it would be nice to be outdoors and that Evie wouldn’t even lose her “surfer” tan – a physical attribute of which Evie is extremely proud. But all Evie really cares about is that after brushing down a few horses a few days a week is going to be totally worth it. Soon, her GPA will be at a solid B level, and she will be celebrating her Sixteeners with Alex and all her friends. She imagines the scene of her [big party at Dukes](#): The romantic balcony overlooking the Pacific ocean, all the hibiscus laden tables, D.J. JD spinning and maybe, just maybe, her parents, as Dee Dee claims, will even get her a car? Oh, but even better – maybe the night of her Sixteeners will be the night that Alex makes his major move? Can you imagine? A party, a car and a hook up... all in the same night!

**Deleted:** she will pass her driver’s test

#### Chapter 4

On Saturday morning, Evie shows up for her first day of volunteer at the SCHR and she is overwhelmed by all the laborious duties she is forced to perform. She’s trained, along with two other volunteers, by Guillermo, a first year agricultural student from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. It’s just Evie’s luck that it rained the night before her first day of work and she is told to shovel mounds of wet manure, sort damp smelly horse blankets and unload the early morning delivery of dry, scratchy hay which makes her *muy mucosa*

(runny nose). Guillermo is unbearable as he makes negative comments about Evie's lack of equine knowledge and how her flimsy flojos are unsuitable for working in the muddy horse stables. "What were you even thinking?" Guillermo shakes his head in judgement. To make matters worse, Guillermo's snooty girlfriend, Josephina (Are all things seemingly Sangro, Evie wonders, have names that end in "A"?), swings by the Reserve to see Guillermo and check on her prize andalusian horse, Princesa, that she keeps boarded at the Reserve. Josephina is a stereotypical snooty horse woman who practices in the fancy high stepping dance of Spanish horses. Josephina also sniffs that claims she would never be caught dead "galloping around like some *charro*." Yes, Evie sees right a way that Josephina is the worst.

By Sunday evening Evie is exhausted by her volunteer work. Where she used to find sand in her bed, she is discovering strands of hay, bits of grain and dirt. She is working out muscles she never knew she had and missed out on all the social activity of the whole weekend. She immediately calls her friends to play catch up. Alex tells Evie that he got a week-end job working at the Trader Joe's downtown. "I wanna make a little extra cash so I can buy you the best birthday present." See above he tells Evie as his neck turns pink. "I don't know exactly what I'm gonna get you, but I promise it will be special. "Evie wonders, can he get *any* sweeter? When Evie talks to Dee Dee later that, Dee Dee tells her that Rocio, her long distance boyfriend, is going to be researching universities in California and that his visit will be near the same time of Evie's party. He plans to extend his trip so he can go to Evie's Sixteenera.

She thinks it's  
for her  
present

After Evie hangs up with Alex and Dee Dee she realizes that the pressure is on. She *has* to bring her GPA up so she can have her Sixteenera. She stretches on her bed. Her muscles ache, she stinks like sweat drenched horse saddle and she has yet to practice her driving that same night. But, after talking with her friends, it seems like all her hard work will soon be worth it.

## ACT II

### Chapter 5

At school, Evie's counselor informs her that in order to improve her GPA so much, she needs to do many more hours of volunteer work, not just few afternoons over a few

teacher

district in D.F. and that Graciela claims that if Dee Dee ever wants to be accepted by Rocio's family, it would be best to not have Raquel at the dinner. Dee Dee insists that as much as she loves Raquel, she also loves Rocio and doesn't want anything to interfere with her future with him. "Come on, Evie," Dee Dee says, "we all know how she drinks and makes a big scene."

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Evie is angered that Dee Dee would agree with Graciela's strategic thinking so much that she would ditch Raquel on what seems to be an important evening, but it was *true* what Dee Dee had said about Raquel. Ever since her break up from Jose, Raquel's drinking and mood swings have worsened. Still, Evie figures, all three girls are best friends and they should be accepting of each other, unconditionally. She is reluctant to keep the special dinner a secret from Raquel, but promises Dee Dee that she won't say anything. Evie can't help but wonder, would she have been invited to the special dinner if she still had her blue hair?

## Chapter 11

After the weekend, Evie, of course, is back working at the SCHR. She and Guillermo are brushing down the horses when their conversation gets a bit more candid and before she knows it, Guillermo seems to be flirting with her. At least she *thinks* he is. Evie becomes flustered, but to be honest, feels extremely flattered and suddenly desirable. (When Alex picks her up from the SCHR to take her home, she can't stop thinking about Guillermo during the whole drive back to Rio Estates.) She feels so confused! As soon as she gets home she tries to place another three way call to Dee Dee and Raquel, but because Raquel is out *again* with Davey, she can only reach Dee Dee. After Evie talks about the flirtation between her and Guillermo, Dee Dee finally tells her Rocio doesn't want to go to college in California but rather wants to attend UNAM *and* that he wants Dee Dee to move back to DF so she could be closer to him. Evie laughs at such a bold proposal, saying it's just like what her sister's boyfriend, Robert, demanded of her. But Dee Dee confesses that she is actually thinking about returning to DF. She goes on to tell Evie that she could easily live with Graciela's immediate family while continuing high school Evie can't believe what she is hearing! She reminds Dee Dee how much she talked about

text to  
moms in  
secret



becoming a La Patrona, but Dee Dee shrugs it off like it really isn't that "big of a deal". After Evie hangs up with Dee Dee, she texts Raquel with an emergency code of RER (Rio Estates Emergency) but she doesn't hear back from her all evening and of course, it's another sleepless night for Evie.

## Chapter 17

The following Saturday after work, Guillermo suggests that he and Evie take the horses out for a ride. Horseback riding is a privilege and only offered to the full time volunteers with seniority. Evie is really flattered and intrigued, by Guillermo's invitation. She already had afternoon plans with Alex, but she really wants to go horse backing riding with Guillermo. She immediately text messages a fake excuse to cancel with Alex and then immediately turns her phone off. She can't bear to lie to him on the phone.

Guillermo is interested in Evie needs to be excited a little further. As is, this seems a bit sudden and abrupt. He's going to see what she's like and if he likes her, he'll be back.

During their horse back ride near the river, Guillermo confesses to Evie that he and his girlfriend are having problems and Evie is surprised that he isn't upset by it. He claims that it's been a problem for a long time. **He and Evie have a serious talk about relationships and Evie finds Guillermo surprisingly open and sensitive.** After their horseback ride, Guillermo makes a move on Evie and Evie doesn't resist. Before she knows it she is in a major lip lock with Guillermo. She can't believe what she is doing, but she continues. Then...major bust! Alex shows up and finds them together. He had gone by Evie's house and her mother had told him that she was at the Reserve. He decided to go to the Reserve to help Evie with her work and he is shocked, to say the least, to discover that not only did Evie lie to him, but that she is making out with Guillermo. Evie instantly leaves Guillermo and runs after Alex, but is too late. He is already in his truck and driving away.

Guillermo's interest in Evie needs to be he needed earlier try bits of flirtation

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## Act III

### Chapter 12

It's sucks to be Evie Gomez.

Alex breaks up with her via a text message and she is devastated for two reasons. One, that he broke up with her and two, that he did with a TM! Of course, in her heart, she knows she deserved it... a little. She can't reach Dee Dee or Raquel the whole night. But because Raquel still lives next door to Evie, she stays up all night waiting for Raquel to return from another night out with Davey. When Raquel finally does return home, Evie goes over to talk to her. It's obvious that Raquel had been drinking but Evie tries to vent anyway. When Evie accidentally lets it slip about the special dinner at the de LaFuentes, Raquel gets very angry and goes on and on about how fake and judgmental Dee Dee really is. She goes off on Evie for not "having" her "back" and for keeping a secret from her.

Instead, let's have Raquel see Evie about it and then the fight starts. Let's have Raquel hear about it from a different source and then go and confront Evie.

lets it slip  
Evie! Raquel  
hear about it  
from diff  
source.

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The next morning, Evie is too depressed, and puffy eyed from crying, to go to school. She feigns sickness to her mother and stays home from school. As it turns out, she and her sister, Sabrina, have the whole house to themselves and start to bicker at one another. Sabrina thinks Evie always gets her way being the "baby" of the family and Evie thinks that Sabrina is the family favorite due to all her achievements or, as of late, her downfall. Both sisters finally break down and confess their mutual pent up residual resentment and confusion. When Evie breaks down about what happened between her and Alex, Sabrina can't believe it. She thinks cheating is a cowardly and selfish act and can't believe that Evie would do such a thing on Alex. Sabrina finally confesses that she didn't really break up with, but rather *he* broke up with her. He had cheated on her with one of her sorority sisters and Sabrina has been terribly hurt, angry and humiliated. "Here I am," she sobs, "with all these so-called achievements and I can't even keep a boyfriend?"

Evie feels like crap. Hearing her sister talk, she wonders if it's the same pain she inflicted on Alex? Evie and her sister finally have a heart to heart talk and they come to a step in understanding each other's position a bit better.

## Chapter 13

Evie finally has her driving test and she does not pass. Yes, it sucks to be Evie Gomez! She doesn't have a boyfriend, her best friends are going in different directions and, because her GPA doesn't look like it's going to meet her parent's criteria, she most likely won't have her Sixteenera!

She asks Dee Dee and Raquel to stay the night with her to console her over everything that is happening but of course, Raquel refuses to come. She is still angry at Dee Dee. When Dee Dee goes over to Evie's, Evie tells her that they should really square things up with Raquel. Dee Dee, after some time, agrees. Then they get a call. Evie and Dee Dee decide they are going to look for her at the Bard Beach party and when they do, they find an extremely inebriated and sick Raquel. Dee Dee insists they call Alex for help and Evie insists that Dee Dee call Rocio. To both girl's relief, Mikey Regalado, their old friend from middle-school days, shows up at the party. He helps Dee Dee and Evie get Raquel out of the party and back to Rio Estates. On the ride back home, Dee Dee comments that this kind of high drama won't be happening when she is back in Mexico City and it bums Evie out even more. Dee Dee is really thinking about moving back to D.F..

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## Chapter 14

The following week is challenging for Evie. She continues to work the hours needed at the SCHR and it's uncomfortable, of course, to be around with Guillermo. He is suddenly now aloof and business-like towards her. Why? Seems like this would only happen if they did not get except they didn't. Meanwhile, Alex is not talking to her at school or returning her phone calls or text messages. She is also trying to deal with Raquel's drinking problem. She overhears her mother talking to Kitty Diaz, Raquel's mother, and it seems serious. Kitty wants to send Raquel to Isla del Mar, the rehab center where any kid who is anyone's kid, goes to clean up. Evie is scared. She is worried that Raquel is going to be sent away. She also feels selfish. If Dee Dee goes back to Mexico and Raquel goes into rehab, Evie will be all alone.

Deleted: Evie

It is now a few weeks until Evie's birthday, but she is far from being in a celebratory mood. She is surprised to find that after all her hard, hard work that her GPA is not at a low B level, but a solid B. She can't believe it! She can't remember the last time she had a solid B GPA. She will get to have her party. But she wonders, with no boyfriend Alex (He has continued to leave her emails and phone messages unanswered) or bestfriend Raquel, how much fun can her Sixteenera be? Also, the last guest she wants to see at her party is Dee Dee's boyfriend, Rocio. Because of him, Dee Dee might be moving away.

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Later that night, Evie and Dee Dee go over to Raquel to have a talk. It looks like she will be going into Isla del Mar and she definitely won't be going to Evie's Sixteenera. Raquel slowly admits that she might have low self esteem that she distracts with drinking and boys. Between Raquel's story and what Evie share's about Sabrina's, Dee Dee realizes that maybe she should put off going to Mexico to be with Rocio. She really wants to be a Patrona debutant and there is no way she can be one if she is living with Mexico near Rocio. Erasing all this information out at once feels a little rushed.

## Chapter 16

Finally, it's the **night** of Evie's Sixteenera. The decorations at Dukes are a mix of Mexican charreada and Hawaiian luau, what Vicki Gomez cautiously calls "creative fusion." Everyone is having a good time, Sabrina is actually eating and Dee Dee presents Evie with her very own surf racks. "I was really thinking you would be getting a car...sorry."

But it all feels bittersweet for Evie who wishes Alex and Raquel were at the party with her. Suddenly she is overwhelmed to see Alex standing nervously in the front lobby. Alex tells Evie that her present is out in his truck and they both head out to the parking lot. He surprises Evie with an expensive horse saddle for which he had been saving all his money. Evie can't help **but laugh**, because she neither has a horse or car.

Dee Dee goes out to the parking lot to find Evie and Alex reminds Evie of the time and that they need to leave if they want to visit Raquel at Isla del Mar before it closes. With some fancy foil wrapped food, Evie, Alex and Dee Dee leave Duke's to sneak in a visit to Raquel. As the three of them head north in Alex's truck on the Pacific Coast Highway, Evie can't help but realize you have to work and be committed towards something you really, really want in life. Whether it's a relationship, or a higher GPA, or a Sixteenera, or as in Raquel's case, a stronger self esteem.