

# Save Me: Book One of the Gatekeepers, Chapter Two

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2 "Another round over here!" Owen shouted towards the bartender. The bartender nodded and grabbed two more beers. Owen and Jay were drunk off their asses and we all watched as Jay struck out with a girl at the bar table. I could not help but feel kind of bad for him; but in her defense, I'd watched as he drunkenly muttered the same cliché pick up line to three other girls within the last twenty minutes. A song came on that I did not know and I walked towards the bar table to sit down to catch my breath from so much dancing. I felt my phone buzz and managed to push it out of the front pocket of my tight pants. Where are you?! Was that you that everyone was freaking out about? -M I guess word travels fast at a concert. Yes, that was me. But don't worry, I'm fine now. More than fine in fact, I'm at Johnny's Bar with all the guys! -L The guys took you to a bar? Oh man. Just be careful, okay? I don't want you getting your heart broken by a player like Shane Hyde. -M Relax, I know you called dibs on him so I won't touch him. -L You're a good friend. Text me in the morning, I wanna know every detail! -M I gestured to the bartender and he approached me. "What'll it be?" he asked. "Vodka and Coke please," I replied. He nodded and fixed my drink as I sat separate from everyone else at the bar table. The song changed to one I absolutely loved and I just sat, listening and absorbing the music. A smooth, melodic voice broke me out of my zone. "Can I buy your drink?" The voice asked shyly. I turned around and it was Victor. His dazzling green eyes stared at me with apprehension. I smiled and answered, "Of course you can." The bartender gave me my drink. Victor took out his wallet and put five dollars on the table. He ordered a beer for himself and we clinked our drinks together. "Cheers, to the fact that no one has asked for either of our IDs. To obliviousness!" Victor said with a small laugh. "Cheers!" I responded as we clinked our glasses together. After that there was a silence. What was I supposed to say to him? "You guys had a really good show tonight. Believe it or not, I'm glad I came," I managed to say. "I'm glad you came too. Otherwise we never would've met. Well, met again," he replied shyly, smiling and looking at his feet. Was he flirting with me? He was certainly trying to, and it was too cute. He was so nervous; I couldn't imagine why. Pantera's "Walk" began playing in the background. "I love this song!" I shouted, trying to keep in my inner fangirl. Victor laughed. "Me too! Pantera rocks! So tell me about yourself. What brought you to Cali after high school?" "My best friend has all these crazy dreams and ambitions, and I'm kind of just following her along for the ride. I'm actually pretty un-extraordinary," I admitted, looking away and taking a big gulp of my drink. He scoffed and replied, "I reject that argument and counter it with this

one: everyone is extraordinary. There is no ordinary . You are who you are and you're different from everyone else. Whether it's you, taking this crazy risk and coming to Cali with nothing, or it's me, who for some reason thinks I could be a famous guitarist, you're extraordinary. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise." My heart leaped from his passionate words and I smiled. "Brawn and brains, you're quite the package, Mr. Evans." He laughed and offered me his hand as a slow song comes on. "D-Do you wanna dance?" He asked nervously. "I'd love to." I answered happily. His face lit up and he took me out to the center of the dance floor. He held me tight all throughout the entire song, and halfway through the next before we realized it was over. When he held me, I could feel his heart beating fast against my own chest. It was like we were entering a world of our own. So what if dancing in the middle of a bar isn't the most romantic thing in the world? I never wanted it to end. He looked deep into my eyes, smiled and said,"You're really pretty, you know that?" I blushed and looked away. "Thank you." I replied, "But I don't know that because I'm not. You on the other hand, you're absolutely gorgeous. "Look at that smile." I added, poking at his bow tie. He smiled and his lip ring shone in the reflection of the light. I could not believe it. Victor Evans and I had just danced together, he was still holding me, and he had bought me a drink. I just hoped it was not the booze impairing his judgement and causing him to hit on me. He was only eighteen after all, and what do all eighteen year old boys, let alone growing rock stars want? A stupid girl to let them have sex with her. Hump and dump. Thrash and trash. Please do not let me be that stupid girl. At around one thirty in the morning, Owen and Jay were still going totally insane and we figured now would be a good time to leave. I stepped into Shane's BMW and joined Victor in the backseat. He drowsily draped his arm around my shoulder as I rested my head on his chest, listening to the steady beat of his heart.