



FLATIRON
BOOKS
NEW YORK

SAVE ME FROM DANGEROUS MEN

READER GUIDE QUESTIONS

Welcome to the Reading Group Guide for *Save Me From Dangerous Men*. Please note: In order to provide reading groups with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot of this novel—as well as the ending. If you have not finished reading *Save Me From Dangerous Men*, we respectfully suggest that you consider waiting before reviewing this guide.

- 1) Early on, Nikki tells Ethan that “Everyone makes assumptions... the only question is if they’re right or not.” Do you think this is true? Can you think of examples of this in the book, or in your own life?
- 2) Nikki’s two greatest fears could be thought of as external and internal: that she won’t be able to protect those she loves, and that she can’t always fully control her own reactions. Are there examples of either of these in the book that particularly resonated with you? Do you think these are universal fears?
- 3) Nikki’s budding romance with Ethan brings out a different side of her character. As you read the book, were there any moments between them that stood out to you? How do you think her new relationship changes Nikki during the book, if at all?
- 4) As a reader and a bookstore owner; Nikki is constantly thinking about and referencing books. Were there any titles mentioned that you were left eager to read? Or, during one scene or another, did you think of the perfect book that she forgets to mention?
- 5) Nikki finds herself wrapped up in a case that raises ethical questions about the uses of artificial intelligence and surveillance. Do you share the concerns raised in the book? Are there examples you have read about or seen that mirror what Care4 is doing?
- 6) Nikki has a clear moral code, and yet she commits crimes, often of a violent nature. How does she reconcile this in her mind? As a reader, how do you think the book handles these contradictions – if that’s what they are? Did you accept them?

- 7) Although Nikki is extremely self-reliant, there are moments where she has to turn to friends like Charles, Jess, and Buster for help. Did any of these secondary characters stand out to you? Were you surprised by any of Nikki's friendships, and if so, why?
- 8) There are several interludes in the book that involve only dialogue between Nikki and her therapist. Why do you think the author chose this format? Did you find it helpful as a way of learning more about who Nikki is?
- 9) "Do you think doing bad things makes a person bad?" Nikki wonders this in her final therapy session. What do you think? Whether in history or fiction, America has a long tradition of vigilantism. Are there times when vigilantism is justified, or even necessary?
- 10) Nikki has spent a lifetime trying to recover from her childhood trauma, and the principal way she has done this is through her love of books. Is this realistic? Are books a plausible way for someone to heal? Have there been times in your life when a particular book helped you get through a situation in a way that nothing else could?
- 11) "I'm worried about you, Nikki. Your refusal to face your past..." Memory plays a significant role in the book, and there are many scenes where Nikki is either suppressing, admitting, or struggling with what she remembers about her life. How do you think she handles these instances? Can you relate to this? Are there times when you've had to grapple with what you remember—or whether you even want to?
- 12) Nikki is certainly tougher and more resourceful than most, and yet throughout the book she reveals many of the same doubts, insecurities, and anxieties as we all probably feel at one time or another. Were there any in particular that caught your attention? Why?
- 13) Nikki's closest relationship is with her brother, Brandon. Guilt, love, grief, protectiveness—all of these emotions play into their interactions. What is your opinion of this relationship? Addiction is a frightening and complex disease, not just for the addict but also their loved ones. What did you think of how Nikki handles her brother? Have you had problematic relationships in your own life? How did you handle them?
- 14) Late in the book, Nikki gives a confession of sorts, when she admits to her brother what really happened to Jordan Stone. Were you surprised by her decision after she brings him into the desert? Do you think she made the right choice? At the time, she was in her early twenties and just starting out. Do you think that the present-day Nikki would have made the same choice?

15) SAVE ME is the first book in a series. In the sequel, what do you hope to see more of?
Are there any characters or relationships that you are especially eager to see featured?
Are there any aspects of Nikki's character that you hope can be further explored?