

Hannah: The Plus-One

In the chapter *The Plus-One*, the protagonist, Hannah, is confronted with a deep internal struggle that leaves her emotions torn between attraction and rage. Her growing feelings for Will are clouded by the unsettling realization that he may be tied to a tragic event involving her sister, Alice. As Hannah reflects on the events that have led her to this painful conclusion, she recalls a conversation with Jethro and Luis, which planted the seed of suspicion about Will's involvement in Alice's untimely death. Despite her attempts to dismiss these thoughts as mere coincidence, the facts begin to align too perfectly, forcing her to face the painful truth that Will may have played a role in the destruction of Alice's life.

The dark past resurfaces as Hannah recalls the anonymous video that was circulated about Alice, a video that deeply damaged her sister's reputation. At the time, the grief of losing Alice overwhelmed her family, preventing them from investigating the true source of the video or identifying who was responsible for the public humiliation. In her own private world, Hannah swears vengeance, yet she finds herself grappling with the irony that the same man she is drawn to—Will—is the one she believes may have contributed to Alice's tragic end. The attraction she feels towards Will, once seen as harmless or even flattering, now feels like a betrayal to her sister, adding to the turmoil brewing inside her.

As the wedding progresses, Hannah's suspicions are only solidified by her observations of Will. At the wedding, she watches his every move, noticing the way he interacts with others and, most disturbingly, how his charm seems to eerily mirror the way he once engaged with Alice. His interactions with her also take on a strange familiarity, as if he has mistaken her for her late sister. This unsettling realization sparks a stronger sense of fury and helplessness within her, especially as she sees him continuing to flourish despite the shadow of his past actions.

The wedding setting becomes a poignant contrast to Hannah's inner turmoil. Surrounded by guests who remain blissfully unaware of the weight of her emotions, she moves through the marquee, which intermittently grows dark, a fitting metaphor for her state of mind. With each passing moment, her desire for revenge deepens, and the festivity around her feels more like a reminder of Alice's lost potential rather than a celebration. The juxtaposition between Will's apparent success and the tragic end of her sister creates a bitter sense of injustice that Hannah cannot ignore.

The cutting of the wedding cake is a symbolic moment that becomes the climax of Hannah's emotional turmoil. Watching Will and his bride, Jules, perform this ritual of union and celebration, Hannah's anger reaches its peak. When Jules smashes cake into Will's face as part of the ceremony, Hannah is struck by the seemingly innocent act, but to her, it holds a violent undertone. The moment mirrors her inner conflict, the growing rage she feels toward Will, and her desire to lash out, to somehow make him feel the weight of the wrongs that have been done to Alice.

Hannah's narrative is a powerful portrayal of grief, betrayal, and the search for justice. Her emotions are complex, caught between the aching loss of her sister and the growing realization that she might be falling for a man who could have played a part in her death. As she watches the wedding unfold, the external joy contrasts sharply with her internal chaos, highlighting the difficulty of reconciling the public celebration with the private grief and anger that consume her. Through Hannah's eyes, the reader is drawn into a world where revenge and justice feel intertwined, and where the past's unresolved pain threatens to overshadow any hope of moving forward.