



Plus One

Mae Wood

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If you can stand the heat, there's a lickable single dad in the kitchen.

1 part tatted-up single dad restaurateur
1 part effervescent younger wine rep
Spice generously with sexual tension
Combine at a foodie conference
Serve steaming hot

At not-quite forty and with his son in his last year of high school, Bert's going to be dining alone.

His restaurant's wine rep has a few ideas on how he might sate all of his appetites.

He hasn't been buying what she's been selling, but she's only in Memphis for a few months before moving back home to California...and he is only mortal.

Besides, it's not like he's going to fall in love for the first time in his life or anything crazy like that, right?

****Plus One is a standalone, and it is also part of a series. The series is set around a restaurant, so the 1st and 3rd books are entirely independent but interwoven.**

Plus One Details

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Author : Mae Wood

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From Reader Review Plus One for online ebook

Kate's Corner says

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

Michelle Rodriguez says

Plus One (Pig & Barley #3) by Mae Wood

Review 5 Stars

Listen up people, whenever one of your favorite authors recommend another author and a book of theirs to read, you fucking listen, I'm looking at you Kate Canterbury. But being the bookwhore that I am, I had not had the time to read any of Ms. Wood's previous novels. Moving to the present, I saw a sign up that another blogger friend told me I had to absolutely sign up for, and she told me not to worry it was #3 in the series, since it was basically a standalone. After reading Plus One, I basically started stalking the author and told her to prepare to get a TRO on my ass since I basically fell in love with Bert and Drennan. Oh then proceeded to buy her previous two books! Enough of the fangirl, right!

Drennan is a wine rep visiting Memphis for a few months, in fact she's the wine rep for Pig & Barley. Bert is the owner of Pig & Barley. He is also a divorced father of 18-year-old Grady. He hasn't had a serious relationship since his divorce. I adored him as a father. Also, he and his ex-wife are great at co-parenting. As we may all know, co-parenting is hardly ever done in real life because someone from either party is always bitter. Not Bert and his ex-Amy. Bert is trying to come to the realization, he's going to become an empty nester now that Grady is graduating high school.

Drennan has had the hots for Bert, hence he earns the nickname likable. Oh he's likable alright with tattoos. Under the hot tattoos, he extremely smart and philosophical as well. The song and dance between Drennan and Bert is so sweet and hot. They are both not looking for long term, she having to go back to California, he trying to adjust to not have his son around soon. Plus, Bert has some issues with their age difference, that passed. But their fun loving ways, like food, wine, beer tasting, or taking bike rides can lead to some serious feelings. And oh the sexy times time, hot!

I can go on and on about this book. The writing was so witty and all the food and wine references just made me want to hop on a plane and go taste some good southern food. Bert is seeking up as Book Husband. We all need a Bert in our lives. Drennan can be easily my BFF and great at picking the best wine and pair it with the best food.

Plus One is a standalone, I knew this before I started the book. There are two secondary characters mentioned in Plus One, they are Marissa and Trip from Risking Ruin and Borrowing Trouble. You will not be lost reading Plus One, I promise. Having said that, you all should, like I have, one click those other two books. So the morale of this review you may ask? The next time an author recommends a book, fucking one-click, no questions asked.

*An ARC was provided for an honest review.

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Julia Bailey says

Like an irresistible wine whose elegance draws you into its orbit, Mae Wood's third Pig and Barley novel *Plus One* is sure to please not only the devoted reader base (anchored in *Borrowing Trouble* and *Risking Ruin*), but new readers as well, people looking for a steamy romance between two well-drawn characters: vivacious wine rep Drennan and sexy restaurateur Bert. No matter their ages differ by more than a decade, no matter he's a single dad with an eighteen-year-old son, no matter she's a California girl heading home soon to the family vineyards in Napa -- the story line is as palatably yummy as a carefully blended wine. The Drennan component offers a slightly spicy presence with hints of frangipani and orange blossoms, mingled with lacy underwear and innuendo. The Bert half of the blend, aged for nearly forty years in Memphis, is a pleasant profusion of swim trunks, biker shorts, and sage sexual advice for his college-bound son Grady. Not surprisingly, the Drennan and Bert blend pairs nicely with angel biscuits, Cajun edibles, late nights, and families prone to revealing childhood embarrassments. After hours, the well-balanced oak bar only enhances the naked characteristics of this blend -- robust and deep with good aging potential. It is fair to say that together Bert and Drennan are generous in the mouth and pleasant on the palate while prolonging your reading pleasure toward a satisfying conclusion.

Dawn Strickland says

Plus One is a Must Read!

Albert Tynes Forsythe IV is a good man. He is a great chef, athletic, and a sexy single dad. His marriage ended and he keeps his relationships shallow and brief.

Drennan McCutcheon is an independent woman. She is sassy, hard working, and a lover of food and wine. Her time soaking up knowledge and experience in wine sales is quickly coming to an end. Soon she will have to return to her hometown to takeover as COO of her family winery.

Their paths cross through business, yet Drennan would love to get more personal with the "lickable man." However, Bert does his best to resist the sexy, wine temptress. When fate, a food/wine festival, and lust combine their passion ignites!

I love the banter between Bert and Drennan. They bring out the adventurous side of one another. Their relationship is playful, sensual, and scorching!

Mae Wood's writing is thoughtful, detailed, purposeful, and engaging. Her characters are multi layered, bold, and endearing. *Plus One* will conjure feelings of joy and of sadness, invoke laughter, and renew your faith in love!

Anas Attic Book Blog says

Plus One by Mae Wood

Contemporary romance. Part of an interconnected Series but can stand alone. Great for Foodies.

I committed to read *Plus One* by Mae Wood back in February. I love a single dad book, especially a mature one, and was assured that this stood alone even though it was third in a series. I picked it up a few times, and it didn't grab me right away, so being as overbooked as I am, I kept moving it to my next month's to-read list. Well I finally got to it.

The first chapter or two was about people I felt I should have known, who I guess were from the previous books. I was kind of lost at the beginning until the book focused in more on our main couple. At first, Drennan came off as a kind of slutty tarte who used her tits to sell wine to the bars in Memphis. But then we learn it's not for all of her accounts, just one. The one she calls "Lickable Man", and she desperately wants his attention; she's been trying for some time. So despite my initial not-so-great impression of her, I really ended up liking her.

Bert owns The Pig & Barley, has been divorced for 4 years and has an awesome son, a senior in High School. He is about to turn 40, but he is still focused on being a dad, and isn't ready to date seriously, especially not Drennan, the 20-something blonde with the gorgeous legs. But when he learns she is only in Memphis for a few months before going back to California, he figures that's a perfect, no-strings relationship, and she is up for the same thing.

Their relationship was all about being foodies, wine lovers and craft beer lovers. I can't stand wine, don't drink beer and I eat like a picky 6 year old, so I totally didn't relate to this book. I think someone who loves all this may have loved it, but it took me TEN DAYS to read. I kept waiting for something to happen. There was a mystery about counterfeit wine that went nowhere, and the book just seemed so long to me even though it wasn't.

I liked the characters. I liked the storyline. Besides the food and wine thing, I can't really put my finger on why I had such a hard time. I didn't mind learning about food and wine, but it just felt like I never got excited at all until the very, very end.

Likes:

- Bert was smart, sexy and lickable. And an awesome dad.
- Drennan was smart, feisty and independent.
- He is an almost 40 dad of an 18 year old.
- Really healthy co-parenting.
- There was some hot sexy times.
- I was just in Memphis so it was kind of cool to read about it after.

Dislikes:

- A foodie or wine or craft beer lover would totally love this book. I am none of those things.
- There was a LOT about the wine industry and about food.
- The secondary characters were clearly from another book and I felt like I missed something, so though it is a standalone, I think reading the others first would have helped.
- Got really long and drawn out at parts, especially all the food adventures. It took me a rare 10 days to read.
- There were a few things that were introduced but never fleshed out, especially the counterfeit wine story.

The Down & Dirty:

If you are a foodie or wine connoisseur Plus One would probably be a great read for you. It was a large part of the story and something I am not at all interested in. Though it stands alone, I did feel like I missed something, and would have enjoyed it more had I been introduced to the characters better from the prior books. Bert was a hot, tattooed, almost 40, single dad restaurateur who was delicious. The storyline was

realistic and sexy, but it took me 10 days to read, as it never “called to me” to pick it up, I found myself on Facebook more often than reading. It just kind of stagnated in the middle to me. I enjoyed the end, but I would recommend Plus One only to the food/wine/craft beer/biking/swimming healthy crowd which is as far from me as you can get!

Rating: 2.75 stars, 4 Heat

Purchase Plus One by Mae Wood

ItaPixie says

Plus One is the story of a sexy and tatted DILF and a witty wine girl.

I've really enjoyed reading this third installment of the Pig & Barley series even if it wasn't at all what I expected from the blurb. It is funny and hot as the previous ones but also a lot more sweet.

I liked the main characters so much I cheered for their happiness from page 1.

It was about time that our Hero, Bert, started to live his life for himself. Fortunately he met the woman who will take him on more than one adventure making him try every day something new.

I'm already excited to read whatever Mae Wood will give us in the future.

Copy kindly provided by the Publisher/Author

Darlene Avery says

Plus One by Mae Wood follows the life of a single dad who finds himself attracted to a younger and sassy liquor rep that services his place of business.

It was fun reading a book set in Memphis, a city I'm very familiar with. I felt the interaction between the characters was little short, but overall I enjoyed this book.

Plus One has an interesting storyline that addresses issues facing many divorced parents.

3.75 Stars

Hilaria Alexander says

I was so invested in this story, I literally took my kindle with me everywhere. I was rooting for them since the beginning.

Bert is the handsome restaurateur with a fondness for literature, and Drennan is the spunky, younger wine rep who keeps her family business running. There's a twelve years difference between the two protagonists, and yet, their reluctant relationship blooms into something beautiful. I loved the unusual storyline of an almost forty-year-old with a teenage son who's refusing any commitment and the young girl who's just looking for a bit of fun until the hero gets under her skin. Can't recommend this story enough. These characters stole my heart.

Beth ~ Panda & Boodle says

His way. My way. It didn't matter. It was all the same way.

I'm a little ashamed to admit that it has taken me since February to read Mae Wood's *Plus One*. I bought it on release day and had great expectations of being able to read and review it ASAP. But then... ah, well, in the way it does, life got in the way.

And now, I can't help asking myself *why*? Why did I not make this brilliant book a priority? I can only say that, though I'd heard only the best things about Ms. Wood's writing and Bert Forsythe, sexy single father and restaurateur, I didn't know.

Guys, *I didn't know what I was missing*.

I didn't know I was missing Bert. I didn't know I was missing Drennan. I didn't know I was missing this relationship. The connection, the chemistry, which was taut and fraught with tension, bone-meltingly hot without ever being overt and over-the-top, and which felt *grounded*.

In fact, the entirety of *Plus One* felt that way. Like a smart, mature tribute to *life*. Reading this book, you get the sense that this author didn't just do research when it came to her topic—food and wine—but that it was something she knew. Understood. Lived. Her writing was smart and engaging. Though I am a dummy when it comes to fine wining and dining, I found myself drawn to the banter, the conversations that were a little bit verbal foreplay and a lot innuendo. Or, actually, *#overendo*.

Moreover, I was drawn to the characters. They weren't fresh-faced college kids (please, don't misunderstand me; I love a good NA romance as much as the next person), but rather men and women with experience—in the sack and out of it. With Bert nearing 40, which, coupled with his tattoos, beard and delicious DILF factor, totally got my motor running, and Drennan a mature twenty-something, it was easy to relate to the lives they were living. The hurdles they were facing. The choices they were making—and had made.

So, that. *That* is what I was missing and what'll you too will be missing if you don't find the time to read this book. A smart romance, with feels, with humor, with brains and sex appeal and a single father who cooks. A romance that shouldn't have sat on my Kindle these past months.

A romance that you don't want to miss.

She was as expansive as the sky. My constant companion, even if she didn't realize it.

~ FIVE *Good Man Found* STARS ~

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PRAISE FOR *PLUS ONE*:

"Seriously though, if you like *Single Dads*, good food, all the wine, and fitness coupled with stellar writing and extremely well-developed characters, then *PLUS ONE IS THE BOOK FOR YOU*."

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"Plus One will conjure feelings of joy and of sadness, invoke laughter, and renew your faith in love!"

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"My recommendation: You must read this book. Even if you haven't read any of the other *Pig & Barley* books, you must read this book."

Sarah/DragonflyReads says

4.5 stars! Really enjoyed this one! I've got to say, it's refreshing to have a hero that's got his life together. Bert and Drennan have a fantastic relationship and banter that I read through with ease. This is my first book from Mae Wood and definitely won't be my last. I definitely have to read the *Pig and Barley* series from the beginning so I can get everyone's story! With that being said, *Plus One* reads perfectly as a standalone, even though it's book three in the series.

Mari says

5 Indubitable stars

This is maybe my first book by Mae Wood, when Kate Canterbury recommends I listen, so had to check this one out. Suffice to say she was right, indubitably. While this is part of series, I was told it can be read as standalone and it does. The blurb had pique my curiosity and single dad bartender sold. Right away that writing style grabbed my attention, it was smooth and crisp with notes of humor. The characters are complex, dialogue is layered but straightforward.

We get introduced to the present Bert who had a tough relationship with his ex who he now has a grown up son with. Drennan who had a good background with wine. Drennan is smart, classy and confident heroine, a good balance. A wine rep for the restaurant of our hero Bert, *Pig & Barley*, she has had her eye on our hottie bartender for a while now, well he sounds quite lickable so of course. While there's that pretty big age difference factor for Bert, a little casual sexy time with the also eye catching Drennan can't be helped. She's in town for a while anyway.

Oh Bert, one good dad but lately feeling the empty nester can't pass up the lady who he also had his eye on. Accept he was hesitant for his own reasons. I like his passion for his restaurant, food and bike co-op; my favorite things. I like that he knows his stuff, well versed in the classics, an athletic guy always a plus for me. Also a devoted dad even if their circumstances weren't ideal, strong and kind. All in all total swoon. Suddenly from this intense chemistry, a budding friendship forms based on mutual likes and love of food. I like that they just organically transitioned and progression wise when it changed to becoming more. It felt right.

While these two are not so serious in their relationships before it's when they least expect it their missing half comes along. Oh and it's just wonderful. Sigh. Bert maybe at the point in his life where lots change is happening and Drennan is one of those but she adds color and gives him something new to look forward to. His relationship with his ex is not the best so having a best friend in her is something special. I loved their little moments, together they are awesome.

This book really ppealed to me for many reasons aside from Bert and Drennan of course, the food and beverage industry setting, the extensive knowledge of the terms used (descriptions of food, wine and beer). The foodie in me is happy with restaurants, food items whatnot. Mae Wood's words are articulate and captured the moments well. I really need to go back to the other two books now based on this. Truly, terrific all around.

*** ARC provided by author via Give Me Books for an honest review ***

Susan (susayq ~) says

3.5-4 stars

Drennan and Bert. Let me just start by saying I love her name. I also liked her. Drennan is working as a wine rep before going back to Napa to the winery she owns with her cousin. She meets Bert because his restaurant is one she sells too. She's been trying for a while to get him to notice her, but he hasn't been biting. Finally, at a food conference things heat up between them.

I loved that Bert was older and a single parent of a teen. I loved that he didn't want any kind of serious relationship because his main focus was his son. And I even get his trepidation of being with Drennan because of her being closer in age to his kid than him. Thank heavens he got over that and went for it.

I loved that Drennan was strong and independent. I felt like she really didn't want to go back to Napa and work for the family business. Her jokes with Bert were great. And I loved their food and drink adventures.

So why not 5 stars? Well, I was a little overwhelmed with all the food and wine talk. There was a mystery introduced about Drennan's wine being faked but we got no wrap up about it. And I'm kind of dying to know what the guy told her that made her so quiet after the ghost tour at the club there. These might be things that others wouldn't even blink at, but they left me wanting in this case.

Kate Farlow says

Y'all. This book.

So good. So, so good. I mean, come on. While there was SO MUCH in this book to like, what I **LOVED** was Bert's relationship with his son.

"I need you to understand that.

You were a surprise. Not a mistake."

And all the ladies swooned. Okay? Okay.

Seriously though, if you like Single Dad's, good food, all the wine, and fitness coupled with stellar writing and extremely well-developed characters, then **PLUS ONE** IS THE BOOK FOR YOU. So, go ahead, one click it and enjoy.

*Pairs well with a nice glass of wine.

Aaly says

** ARC kindly provided for an honest review. **

This was my first book by Mae Wood. The blurb was definitely catchy and I couldn't wait to read it.

It was quite good. This story about this restaurateur (Bert), and the sassy wine rep (Drennan) was fun, spicy and of course hot!

Bert is quite the catch, successful businessman divorced and happy father of no longer teen, he's living this life one moment at the time, especially when it comes to women.

Drennan is independent and caring for her family business. Coming from a well-known family in her field, she wanted to learn from her own, as a hard worker, she is always trying to learn new things. Passionate and sassy, she could not notice the hot restaurateur who is making all the women fawning all over him.

Drennan and Bert have great chemistry, it's undeniable. The story is entertaining, full of sexy parts and sexual tension.

I have just one thing that frustrated me, the way Drennan was trying to get Bert attention first, it was so far from her personality. Unfortunately, it spoiled me a bit for most part of the story.

I read this book until the end because it has great material to provide some steamy and sweet romance, but it was to me a bit drawn at times, especially in the middle when the constant descriptions, the hesitation and unsaid things made me lose my attention.

The part about their work life was kinda interesting. I really liked it. Hopefully the last part of the book got me hooked until the end. The writing was very good.

If you like steamy romance with a hot single dad, this one is for you. .

Laurie says

When you pick up a book just to read a couple of pages and you look up and two hours have passed? That's a

sign of a wonderful book. Indeed, Plus One is just that. Mae Wood is a new to me author, but if this book is any indication, I am all in!!

Plus One is swoony, sexy, good with chemistry and charm that dazzles. I fell for these characters in real time -- it is impossible not to. Together Bert and Drennan are pure magic, a love story that you want to see on a screen.

Bert Forsythe is a triple threat-plus - a tattooed, single dad, restaurateur, lover of the classics and an added bonus, the owner of a lethal southern accent. Being in his head was a special kind of treat, while he is his toughest critic, this man is goodness personified and loved by everyone in his life. He has earned his HEA, it's a matter of getting out of his own way.

Drennan McCutcheon is the heroine that you wish could walk off the page and join you for a beverage or ten. I loved every single thing about her. Her passion for life, wine and family. Her wit and way with people. While she might have a fear or two, she conquered them like the badass she was.

This book really did pull me in. From the writing -- the dialogue was so witty and brilliant that at times it felt Ephron-esque.. To the attention to detail -- it never once feels like you are being schooled, but the reader does get a better understanding of things like the art of winemaking, whiskey, Memphis and craft cocktails. But what I really need is a recipe for angel biscuits. Like yesterday.

In so many ways, Plus One is a book that never fails to delight -- from its humor, romance and absolutely beautiful heart. This is a book that you will want to get lost in a hundred times over just for the company of all of its characters. So good. Enjoy!!

Happy reading!!!

Laurie's Rating: 5++++++STARS
