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Opening extract from

The Cupcake Wedding

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For Eli



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Chapter 1

Wedding Plans

It was Saturday morning and Holly was baking a chocolate cake. Her sister Mia danced into the kitchen in her PJs.

"Guess what happened last night?" she said. "James asked me to marry him!"

Holly put the cake in the oven. "And what did you say?" she asked.

Mia grinned. “I said ‘YES,’ of course. We’re getting married in the summer!”

“Have you told Mum and Dad?” asked Holly.

Mia shook her head. “Not yet. James is coming round soon. We’ll tell them together.”

“You’d better get dressed then,” Holly said.

Mia laughed and danced upstairs. Holly started to mix some chocolate icing. ‘I wonder what Mum and Dad will say,’ she thought.

Dad was worried at first. “You’re only 19,” he said to Mia and James. “That’s very young to get married.”

“But they’re sensible,” said Mum. “And they’ve both got good jobs. I think it’s lovely!”

Mum gave Mia a hug. And then she hugged James as well. “Let’s have some of Holly’s chocolate cake!” she said.

Holly cut everyone a big slice of cake. While they ate it, they talked about the wedding.

“We want to invite all our friends,” said Mia. “And everyone in our families too.”

“Hang on,” said Dad. “Weddings cost a lot of money. How many people is that?”

“Let’s make a list,” said James. He took out his pen and he and Mia wrote down all their friends’ names.

“And there’s our mums and dads,” said Mia. “And Holly.”

“Don’t forget Auntie Alice,” Mum said. “And all your cousins.”

James wrote them all down. “And we *must* invite my football team,” he said.

“And the girls from work,” said Mia.



They kept thinking of more and more people. By the time they'd eaten their cake, there were a hundred names on the list.

When Dad counted the names, he went pale. "We can't afford it," he said.

"James and I have been saving," said Mia. "We can pay for some of the food."

"It's not just the food," Dad said. "There's the dress too. And the hotel and the cars and – "

Mum patted Dad's hand. "Don't worry," she said. "I'll make the dress. And we don't need to book a hotel. We'll have a big tent in the garden."

Holly grinned. "Uncle David will take the photos," she said. "And maybe Sally will do the flowers." Sally was the owner of the flower shop where Mia worked.

James nodded. “My boss will lend us some cars,” he said. (James worked in a garage.) “And I’ll ask my mum and my Auntie Kate to do the meal. They love cooking – except for cakes.”

“There’s got to be a *cake*!” Holly said. “It won’t be a proper wedding without a wedding cake.”

Mia sighed. “We can’t have everything,” she said. “We’ve got to be sensible. We’ll manage without a cake.”

“I could *make* a cake,” said Holly.

Everyone laughed and Mum shook her head. “You’re a good cook, Holly,” she said, “but wedding cakes are hard to make. And we’d need a *huge* one for all those people. Mia’s right. They’ll have to manage without one.”

‘No they won’t!’ Holly thought. Everyone loved her cakes. Her sponges were light. Her fruit cakes were super-fruity. And her brownies

were bursting with chocolate. She knew she could make a great wedding cake for Mia and James.

But she didn’t say anything. ‘It can be a surprise,’ she thought.

She fetched the rest of the chocolate cake. “Anyone want any more?” she said.

And everyone said, “YES!”

That night, Holly couldn’t sleep. She tossed and turned, thinking about the wedding cake. She knew how to make swiss rolls and jam tarts, flapjacks and lemon drizzle cakes. And everyone said her cupcakes were the best in the world. But a wedding cake had to be *special*.

How would she make it?

After three hours of tossing and turning, Holly gave up trying to sleep. She got up and went downstairs to make a hot drink.

Mia had left a wedding magazine on the kitchen table. Holly sat down and opened it. The first thing she saw was a picture of a big, white wedding cake with five layers. It was covered with fancy icing and hundreds of sugar flowers.

'HELP!' she thought. 'I don't know how to make those!'

Then she turned the page. There was a different kind of wedding cake. This one was a tall stand with ten layers, like a tower. But these layers were full of pretty little pink and white *cupcakes*!

'That's better!' Holly thought. 'I can make those!'

But there were going to be a hundred people at the wedding. That meant a lot of cupcakes. She might need some help with the baking. She took out her phone and sent a text to Poppy and Tom, her best friends.

Got something 2 show u. Cum 2 my house be4 school.

Then she went back to bed and fell fast asleep.