

Wed Lib

1. Proper Noun

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In May 2008, the couple arranged to meet at a _____ Proper Noun _____ restaurant in Manhattan after reading each other's profiles on JDate. It was raining and Ms. Levine, who arrived first, headed straight to the bathroom to fix her hair.

Mr. Steinberg arrived shortly afterward, looked around and figured that she had not turned up yet. While he did not have her number she had already texted him to say she was running late. The salsa band seemed loud and he went outside to wait, thinking he would suggest a quieter place.

When Ms. Levine came out of the ladies room she did not see Mr. Steinberg so she waited at the bar. And waited.

Thirty minutes passed and the bartender, trying to be helpful, told her about other female customers of his who had been stood up. Other bar patrons chimed in with their own hard-luck dating stories.

Ms. Levine, however, said she never doubted Mr. Steinberg. "I thought something bad had happened."

Outside, Mr. Steinberg was getting soaked. "I was just so puzzled why she said she was running late and hadn't showed up," he said, though a part of him worried that "she had driven up in a taxi, didn't like what she saw and left

."

After 40 minutes, Ms. Levine finally left the restaurant and that's when she saw Mr. Steinberg, dripping wet, and forlorn, clutching his BlackBerry and scrolling, possibly looking for a message from her.

When their eyes met there was an instant connection.

"I just looked at his eyes," she said. "He has the kindest, chocolate brown eyes that invited you in.

"I put my hand out as soon as I saw him, and asked if we could start over," she said. "Some day we'll laugh about this," she told him.

Mr. Steinberg said they both knew that "there was going to be a future to this story."

Five months later they were engaged.