

Vows

JORDAN SCOTT and NICK GASH

An Ear for Jazz, but Eyes for Only Each Other

By TAMMY LA GORCE

The 14 guests who sent screen shots of negative Covid tests to Jordan Scott and Nick Gash before their New Year's Eve wedding did so out of devotion to a couple whose love felt worth leaving home for amid a pandemic. But they couldn't have been blamed for expecting to attend a more action-packed celebration than normal.

Ms. Scott, 26, and Mr. Gash, 32, had flown over the Hudson River with their legs dangling out of a helicopter. They've taken a couple's wedding class. They've visited New York speak-easies, built their own lamp and, since Covid, painted each other in the style of Picasso as part of a virtual art class.

For Ms. Scott, the founder and chief executive of Cobble, an app that curates dates for couples who want to avoid the romantic doldrums, knowing how to generate a good time is a calling card. Mr. Gash, whom she met at a dive bar, gets credit for teaching her how.

Ms. Scott was an underage N.Y.U. student in April 2015 when she was introduced to Mr. Gash at the now-closed Exchange Bar & Grill in the Gramercy Park neighborhood. "Jordan likes to say it was a dive bar, but to

The trumpet player was the first one who knew where this was headed.

me it was just a very welcoming spot, a neighborhood hangout," Mr. Gash said. With the help of her N.Y.U. friend Natasha Van Duser, a bartender, the 20-year-old Ms. Scott slipped past the doorman on a crowded Thursday night. When Ms. Van Duser pointed out Mr. Gash, then an analyst for the personal finance company Bankrate, and introduced him as a regular, she fought an eye roll. "All I heard was 'regular,' and I thought, 'Um, no,'" she said. "But he put his hand out to shake, which I found strangely professional in a grimy bar, so I shook it." Then she lost herself, and Mr. Gash, in the crowded bar. "It was one of those nights we yearn for these days, with everyone smooched together and the music so loud you have to scream to be heard."

When she bumped into Mr. Gash later that night, the professional vibe was still with him. He told her he flew drones as a hobby and was considering starting a business around them. She mentioned she was interviewing for an internship at Vice the next day. A light bulb went off. "I said I thought drones would be a perfect story to pitch to Vice if they asked me for any ideas," she said. "Remember, it was 2015 and drones were especially cool."

She asked him for his number in case she had dinner questions before her interview. He took her number instead and told her he would text her in the morning. He never did. "Needless to say, at my interview, Vice asked if I had any story ideas," she said. "I said, 'Drones.' They said, 'What about them?' I had absolutely no further information and therefore never interviewed at Vice." She wasn't mad, though. Later that day, she visited Ms. Van Duser at the bar again. Mr. Gash was there.

"You were supposed to text me!" she said. "About drones!" By the time she left, the blown interview was forgotten, its memory chased off by Mr. Gash's charm. "He was so witty, I had no idea what was going to come out of his mouth next."

Mr. Gash, 32, grew up in Hauppauge, N.Y., with two sisters, Dayna and Jackie, and his parents, Jeffrey and Lisa Gash. He graduated from James Madison University in 2010.

"Moving to Manhattan after college was always the plan," he said. Having a serious girlfriend while he was in grad school, he wasn't really, but when he asked Ms. Scott for a first date a week after they met, he put together an elaborate plan.

"I felt I needed to up my game," he said. "Right from the beginning I knew Jordan was special and that I had to shake this dive-bar rep." In one of their chatted conversations at the bar, Ms. Scott had mentioned she had recently seen and loved the movie "Whiplash."

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Alexandra Olmsman, Zachary Frankel

At First, He Was Way Too Old for Her

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Nick Gash and Jordan Scott at their Dec. 31 wedding. Their 14 guests sent screen shots of negative Covid tests before arriving. "Right from the beginning, I knew Jordan was special," the groom said.

"It's all about jazz, so I thought I'd surprise her by taking her to a jazz club," he said. First he took her to Otto Pizzeria near Washington Square Park, where they decided to forgo pepperoni and be adventurous. "Neither of us had ever had a clam pie," Ms. Scott said. "It was the best pizza ever." A few blocks away at Zine Bar, both fell in love with the 10-piece house band. At intermission, they approached a trumpet player to compliment his performance. His response made Ms. Scott melt. "He was like, 'I wouldn't have guessed you two knew there was a band onstage, you were so busy looking into each other's eyes,'" she said.

Ms. Scott and Mr. Gash both lived with roommates in Gramercy Park at the time. They had barely said good night to each other when they met for a trip to Central Park the next day. The rendezvous they call their 48-hour first date ended that night with dinner at Pomodoro, an Italian restaurant on the Upper West Side. "It was the best date I had ever had, just so thoughtful," Ms. Scott said. But if love was dropping anchor, neither was ready to sit still.

"I was going away for a summer abroad with N.Y.U. and I told him I didn't want to be attached when I was in Italy," Ms. Scott said. Mr. Gash agreed they shouldn't get too close. "I told her, 'Yeah, you should be open and free,'" he said. Within hours of her flight touching down, though, they were exchanging text messages. When she returned to New York, "that was it. We were officially

together," she said. Mr. Gash had already met Ms. Scott's parents, Jeffrey and Lisa Scott, when she took him to their lake house in Averill Park, N.Y., that year on the Fourth of July. Weeks after they started dating, Mr. Scott had invited a group of friends to the foodie-magnet Manhattan restaurant ABC Cocina to celebrate his 48th birthday. He told his daughter the invitation was open only to couples, but she didn't want to miss out. "I was like, 'I'll do whatever I need to do to go to this dinner,' so I asked Nick," she said. "I had just met him, and all my dad's intimidating best friends were there, but he held up so well."

When he sent up a drone to film the lake house in July, he was still holding up nicely, though he had cause to be nervous. "I wasn't sure it wouldn't get shot down by the fireworks and blow up," he said of the drone. His enterprising spirit felt familiar to the family. "Looking back, Jordan was always full of energy for whatever struck her motivation," Mr. Scott said.

"I'd often come home to her having some sort of lemonade stand, selling stuff in our cul-de-sac," he said. "One time she did a bookstore and was charging \$100 for used books," he added with a laugh.

That was in Gaullerand, N.Y., where Ms. Scott grew up with an older brother, Dylan. "She would recruit other kids to work for her father said. 'There were definitely early signs that she was entrepreneurial.'"

When she graduated from N.Y.U. in De-

ON THIS DAY

When Dec. 31, 2020
Where An Astoria property in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

Two Days of Doing The couple and their 14 guests had a two-day celebration, which included a night-before murder-mystery party and a primer on making the traditional Portuguese soup caldo verde with a professional chef. Ms. Scott and Mr. Gash's mothers are both of Portuguese descent.

Two Weeks Later Ms. Scott said none of their guests, all of whom stayed at the house both nights, have contracted the coronavirus. "Hurray!" she said.

Something Old Lisa Scott wore the cap-sleeve ball gown Ms. Scott wore to her own wedding in 1996. The pandemic interfered with buying the dress she planned for the big October ceremony. "That was one happy thing that happened because of Covid," Ms. Scott said. "I've always loved that dress."

The Finale To ring in 2021, Ms. Scott and Mr. Gash led a group explosion of a pair of crottini canons.

ember 2015, she wasn't sure where that instinct would lead. Her degree was geared toward a journalism career, she had interned at *Competition* magazine, NY1 and NBC News. But her first real job, as a news associate at "CBS This Morning," caused second thoughts. "As much as I loved the show, I realized pretty quickly that I didn't want anyone else's job there," she said. Six months in, just after she and Mr. Gash moved to the West Village together, she quit.

"It was like, 'Oh, I know we just moved in, but I'm quitting my job and I'm not going to look for a new one,'" she said. Mr. Gash, who was moving up the ladder at Bankrate and is now vice president for partnerships at the real estate tech company Clever, was unconcerned. "I hadn't envisioned her quitting her job that first month, but I was totally confident she was going to be able to do what she set out to do," he said.

What she set out to do was start Cobble, which she envisioned as an extension of sites like Tinder. "Dating apps were becoming superpopular at the time, and I was thinking, 'There needs to be an app for once you find someone and delete the dating app,'" she said. "Now you're growing your relationship. What would an app for me and Nick look like?" First she built a website, idk tonight, that drums up New York date ideas, like "See the city from your own private igloo on a rooftop." But "I knew there needed to be some extra tech to sort of guide couples through content, to help them make decisions," she said.

That extra tech became Cobble. The app was in development by 2018, the same year Ms. Scott won Entrepreneur Magazine's E-Concept Pitch competition for the concept. "The launch was supposed to be in 2020," she said. "That's when the world went crazy."

If there was a stabilizing force amid the craziness, it was Mr. Gash, who had proposed on Dec. 31, 2018, during a vacation to the Bahamas. On a beach walk, he asked her to stop at a jewelry store. "Can you go stand on that rock?" she said. She thought it was an athletic challenge and climbed to the top. When she looked down, he was on one knee. With his words "Will you marry me?" and hers, "Yes," those on the beach erupted in cheers.

Planning a wedding would become nothing of their guests, all of whom stayed at the house both nights, have contracted the coronavirus. "Hurray!" she said. "Something Old Lisa Scott wore the cap-sleeve ball gown Ms. Scott wore to her own wedding in 1996. The pandemic interfered with buying the dress she planned for the big October ceremony. "That was one happy thing that happened because of Covid," Ms. Scott said. "I've always loved that dress."

It also set them on a path to envisioning how an intimate at-home wedding might be made spectacular. A little scouting this winter turned up an Airbnb property in Mount Kisco, N.Y. It was big enough to accommodate both families and a few friends, including the maid of honor, Lexi Kabani, an actor who moonlights as a yoga instructor, and her boyfriend, Matthew Farcher, an actor who was ordained through the Universal Life Church to officiate.

On Dec. 31, Ms. Scott, holding a bouquet and wearing her mother's wedding dress, walked arm in arm with her parents down the Arden's hallway to a formal living room. Mr. Farcher and Mr. Gash, in a velvet tuxedo jacket and bow tie, awaited her near a candlelit bay of windows, with sofas arranged to face the makeshift altar. "We are observing an outward sign of an inward union that already exists between these two," Mr. Farcher said. The couple read handwritten vows. "I promise to provide you with the space you need to grow and shine without ever being out of reach," Mr. Gash said.

Ms. Scott reflected on the path she carved to founding Cobble. "For a living, I think about decisions and figuring out how to make them," she said. "Marrying you has been the biggest decision I've ever made, and hands down the easiest."

WEDDINGS



degree in real estate development from Columbia. "I was floating," she said. "I knew I had met someone special."

He walked her home across Madison Square Park, and as they sat on a bench they had their first kiss.

They met again Sunday for dinner at the Clocktower restaurant on her side of the park, and soon they went museum and gallery-hopping in New York and Philadelphia.

In January 2017, while her parents packed for a move to San

and he proposed Thanksgiving weekend 2019 at their favorite spot — the Brodsky Gallery near Brancusi's "The Kiss" sculpture, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

In March 2020, Ms. Olmsman packed a bag to stay in Philadelphia with him for a couple of weeks, but after a few months they decided to move there.

"We're happy to be home," she said, and they planned a Jewish ceremony in San Miguel de Alencastro, Mexico for next month, but in the face of the coronavirus pandemic postponed it until fall.

On Dec. 27, Maru Rosenthal Chaikin, ordained by American Marriage Ministries, and a cousin of the bride, officiated at Pacifica Senior Living Forest Trace in Landerhill, Fla., where their maternal grandfather, Bernie Levy, lives. It was also his 100th birthday and the reason they picked the date and place. The groom's parents were there, while the bride's parents watched via Zoom. They celebrated with Mr. Levy's favorite foods — deli sandwiches and oysters.

In February 2018, she moved into his West Village apartment,

ROSALEE R. RADOMSKY