

It Was Fate...

Irene hates parties, so just over ten years ago, she was surprised to receive an invitation to a New Year's Eve party from somebody that she didn't know very well. She did not really want to go by herself, so she asked her friend Jackie to go with her. Before the party, Jackie and Irene had a nice dinner together at Jackie's house. It was a cold, snowy night and when it was time to leave for the party, all Irene wanted to do was stay home and watch a movie. Jackie persuaded her to change her mind, however, and after they had driven all the way across town, Irene realized that she had left the party invitation at home. Jackie wanted to go back and get it, but Irene thought she could remember the address. They found the right street, but Irene wasn't sure about the number of the house, so they drove around until they came to a house where there was a party going on. They decided this was the right place. They didn't recognize anybody there and Irene wanted to leave right away. However, Jackie, who wasn't as shy as Irene, persuaded her to stay. Feeling very uncomfortable, Irene stood in a corner by herself, watching Jackie have a good time. After about an hour, she decided to go home. As she was leaving, she tripped and fell down some icy steps outside the house. Luckily just at that moment, somebody was coming up the steps on his way to the party and he caught her in his arms. And that's how Irene met her husband....

Irene and Jeff have now been together for ten years, and they are still amazed at the way they met. For a start, Irene had gone to the wrong party. The one she had been invited to was a couple of blocks away. Then, it turned out that Jeff hadn't been invited to the party either. In fact, he was only in town because his sister was very sick, and he had flown in from out of state to take care of her. His sister lived next door, and when he ran into Irene, he was on his way to ask the neighbors if they could turn their music down. Jeff, who is an anthropologist, was supposed to leave the next day to spend two years in South Africa, but that night there was a terrible snowstorm and the airport was closed for three days. It was during those three days that Jeff and Irene first got to know each other, but that's not all. When Jeff got to South Africa, there was a great deal of political turmoil in the region where he was working. After two months, he was forced to abandon his research project. The first thing he did when he got back home was call Irene.

Now, every New Year's Eve, Jeff and Irene laugh about how they almost never met. "What if....?" Jeff always asks. "Don't even think about it," Irene always replies.

*Think about how Jeff and Irene met (and how they almost did not meet). Write 14 conditional statements containing untrue conditionals in the past. For example: **If Irene hadn't received the party invitation, she wouldn't have gone out New Year's Eve.***

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