

It was a sunny Thursday afternoon in September when Jess walked into the crowded coffee shop. She had just finished her shift at the hospital and was looking forward to a nice cup of coffee before heading home.

As Jess waited in line, she glanced around at the other patrons chatting away and typing on their laptops. She loved coming to this coffee shop because it had a nice community vibe while also allowing her some peace and quiet.

After ordering her usual - a medium latte with an extra shot of espresso - Jess found an open table by the window. She sat down, took a sip of the hot coffee, and opened her laptop to catch up on emails.

That's when she noticed him at the table across from her. He had light brown hair that fell across his forehead as he intently typed on his laptop. Something about him seemed familiar to Jess, though she couldn't quite place it.

As Jess tried to remember how she might know him, the man suddenly looked up and met her gaze. They both smiled instinctively. Then it hit her - it was Ben, her friend from medical school!

Jess got up and went over to his table. "Ben! I can't believe it's you. How are you?" Ben looked surprised but then recognition flashed across his face. He stood up to give Jess a warm hug.

"Jess! Wow, I can't believe you recognized me. It's been so long," said Ben. The two old friends chatted about how life had been since graduating medical school five years ago. Ben was now doing his residency in family medicine, while Jess worked as a nurse at the children's hospital.

Though it had been awhile since they last talked, it felt like no time had passed as they slipped into easy conversation. Jess told Ben about her patients at the hospital while he shared funny stories from his residency.

After almost an hour of reminiscing and catching up, Jess noticed the time. "I better get going soon, but it was so nice bumping into you!" Ben agreed and suggested they exchange numbers to meet up again soon.

As Jess walked out of the coffee shop with a wave goodbye to her old friend, she felt light and happy. She was glad she had decided to stop for coffee after work today. Running into Ben had been a wonderful surprise and reminder of their times in medical school together. Jess walked to her car with a smile, warmed by the hot coffee and even more so by the unexpected reconnection.