









# IT'S A DREARY AFTERNOON IN MANHATTAN, AND A BOY CHASES A GIRL DOWN THE STREET— AT THE COMMAND OF A CAMERA CREW.

"Watch my wife in action," says Kunal Nayyar (otherwise known as Raj Koothrappali, Indian supergeek on TV sitcom The Big Bang Theory), gesturing at his new bride. Neha Kapur, a former Miss India, is no stranger to the camera, that much is clear. The day's gloomy mist lends a grittiness to the streets, but against this backdrop. Nayyar and Kapur's sparkle is even more irresistible. Following their lavish Delhi nuptials in December 2011, they've settled into a new home in LA, and regularly finish each other's sentences as they talk about everything from their first meeting to their last fight. Their chemistry is palpable, infectious. The giddy couple settle into a table at the Biergarten at New York's trendy Standard Hotel to grab a drink and explain to me exactly how TV's best-loved geek landed a beauty queen.

#### THE PICK-UP LINE

Neha Kapur: Kunal was visiting India, and my friend called me, saying, 'Oh, this really great guy is visiting from America.' There was a party at a bar, and I saw Kunal dressed all LA, the star; the glasses—

**Kunal Nayyar:** Not sunglasses! **NK:** No, reading glasses. Very artsy.

**KN:** That's the word. Not LA. Say 'artsy'.

**NK:** I was like... *him*? I couldn't even see [his face], he was wearing a cap.

**KN:** I thought, 'Wow, she's hot.' I wanted to hook up with her, to be honest. And then, she was so tall...

NK: I was a giant!

**KN:** She was 6ft5in because she had seven-inch heels. She's 5ft10in and I'm 5ft8in. I said, 'Hey, sit down, I'll buy you a drink.' And that was it.

#### THE WHIRLWIND

**KN:** We sat in a corner at a little table with a candle for three hours. It was amazing. Then I had to go back to Los

Angeles in nine days. So we spent every single day together.

**NK:** Our first proper date was a blast. We just hopped from one bar to another, and by the end of it we were hammered.

KN: It was very romantic.

**NK:** We only laughed. We laughed for five hours.

**KN:** We ended up at a place where there were all these older people. Then, in the corner was this couple, in a tuxedo and dress, slow-dancing.

**NK:** It was the sweetest thing. We sat there watching them.

KN: We saw a lot of signs that we were meant to be together. And I really feel like that was one of those signs, where something inside both of us said, 'Wow, how lovely would it be to be those people? And why can't life be like the movies?' It's cheesy, but so what? We'd gotten close, so what next? We could say, 'It's been a lovely 10 days and goodbye,' or we could—
NK: I laugh at this.

**KN:** She says I gave her an ultimatum. I said, 'Listen, I'm in the middle of my shooting season, I can't come back to India till April. And I don't want to wait that long. Because there's no point.'

NK: He was very straightforward.

**KN:** 'If this is something we want to do, we have to do it now. You have to come and see me in three weeks.' And three weeks later she was on a plane.

**NK:** I was in a fog, there were all these little thoughts, like, '*Eeeeee*...'

**KN:** '... What if he's a psychopath? I don't know anything about him!'

**NK:** 'What if he doesn't come to the airport?' But then we just trusted our instincts.

**KN:** I knew in the first 10 days that I'd never met anyone like this before. There was this comfort I'd never felt, I'd never met anyone that I'd loved more than myself. And that's when I

knew. (All my exes are going to read this and burn me.)

## THE WEDDING

KN: My favourite moment was seeing Neha for the first time that day. It still gives me the shivers to think of how beautiful she looked. I mean, I obviously know my wife is beautiful, the whole world knows she's beautiful. But there was something more than physical beauty at play when she was walking. It was spiritual, she was a vision. I'll never forget that till the day I die.

**NK:** On our wedding night, he took my pins out from my hair.

**KN:** I fell asleep taking the pins out from her hair. That's how crazy our wedding night was.

**NK:** I was like, 'Ahh, be gentle! My head hurts!'

**KN:** Everyone else probably thought we were having a good time because there were these *sounds*, but we were actually taking out pins.

### THE EVER-AFTER

**KN:** There's an adjustment period, getting used to having someone there all the time. I had to buy a coat rack because I couldn't just throw my coats on the floor any more.

**NK:** We just bought a house in Los Angeles, and I'm super obsessive about cleaning it all the time. It's more like having a baby.

KN: ... Not the husband, the house.

**NK:** We're still learning. We can't say we're the perfect couple and it's all hunky-dory; we also have our moments of sulking.

**KN:** We fight and scream and tear each other's hair out.

**NK:** Our fights are so silly, over the most inane things.

KN: Silly stuff. I can't even remember now. But I so love being married.
—Sarah Khan ■















