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A minor royal wedding - but no showboating romance; Princess Eugenie, youngest daughter of Sarah Ferguson and Prince Andrew, has coped with her share of scandal and strife. Her wedding to long-term boyfriend Jack will bring her a 'pillar of support,' writes Julia Molony

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IT began, as many Sloaney romances have, in Verbier. It was there, in the world's most exclusive ski resort nestled in the Swiss Alps, that Princess Eugenie, ninth in line to the throne, met Jack Brooksbank, the man who will become her husband this October.

The location was auspicious. For Eugenie, Verbier has always been something of a haven. In 2015, almost 20 years after their very public divorce, her parents, the Duke and Duchess of York, bought a chalet there together - a shared holiday home. And throughout the various media storms that have, over the years engulfed the House of York, Verbier is where they have gone to spend time together, to reinforce their family bonds and crucially, the unity between Sarah and Andrew; the friendliest exes in royal history.

But rewind back to 2010: Eugenie, her sister Beatrice, their parents and assorted high-society friends had gathered to celebrate the Duke of York's 50th birthday party. Eugenie was just 20. Brooksbank, four years her senior, was the manager of Mahiki - Prince Harry's favourite West London nightclub. Eugenie and Jack have a link which spans generations - they are distant cousins and his great-grandfather was equerry to Queen Mary.

But theirs was a modern courtship and friends have suggested that they bonded over their love of a good party. She later said it was "love at first sight". The following year, pictures of the couple snapped at their first public outing together, at Royal Ascot, set the tone. The easy confidence between them was evident from the first.

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