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The ANGELL Family

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The ANGELL FAMILY

By Jessica Miller | Photos by Gina Main

Everyone talks about marrying their best friend, but Jacquie and Marc Angell actually did it. They're the kind of couple who can turn a disastrous vacation into a favorite story, plan a wedding in days, and somehow keep each other laughing through life's toughest moments.

"My best friend and husband is Marc Angell." It's the first thing Jacquie says about him, which feels fitting for two people who have known each other for nearly 30 years. They've been married for 13, though their engagement lasted so long it eventually became a running joke. Life kept getting in the way of planning the wedding until they finally stopped waiting for perfect timing altogether. "We planned the big day in 2 weeks and Ta-Da... FINALLY we were married."

Navigating life with your best friend has made each obstacle easier. Since Jacquie's third battle with cancer began in 2021, she has faced years of chemotherapy treatments, surgeries, and the exhausting routines that come with fighting Stage IV breast cancer. Marc has been there for every part of it. "He has never missed one single doctor's appointment or chemo treatment, not even a single blood test since we started this fight together over a decade ago."

Inside the Angell Family

The Angell family stretches from Thousand Oaks all the way to upstate New York, but they remain tightly connected no matter the distance. Jacquie and Marc have two children, Alexandria, 27, and Anthony, 23, while Jacquie's parents, Gail and Jan Carter, still live in the small New York town where she was raised. Gail, now in her early 80s, is not only her mother but also her business partner—something Jacquie clearly treasures. Her parents have been married for more than 60 years, setting the kind of example that naturally carries into the next generation.

For years, the Angell household ran on packed calendars. Between Alexandria and Anthony, there was soccer, football, baseball, swimming, karate, cross-country, lacrosse, and sailing. Pretty much anything that required equipment, practice schedules, or folding chairs on the sidelines. "I'm exhausted just thinking about it."

Anthony eventually went on to start the first Sailing Club at Oaks Christian before graduating from Baylor University as a commercial pilot with a degree in Aviation Science. Alexandria went on to build a career in real estate with Keller Williams.

With having such a close family, comes the traditions. Every Christmas Eve (Marc's Birthday), Santa's elves still leave pajamas under everyone's pillows. This tradition began at Jacquie's parents' house decades ago in snowy upstate New York. The only difference now is that the pajamas have gotten increasingly more ridiculous over the years. "We could all be elves, zoo animals in onesies, you just never know." By the end of the night, the whole family is usually gathered together in matching chaos, playing games.

Furry Family

The pet stories alone could probably fill their own article. At one point, Jacquie announced she wanted a tiny, short-haired female kitten. Instead, the family accidentally adopted Bootsie, who grew into a giant 20-pound long-haired cat. "I got her

the cutest little pink collar..."

But while Jacquie was on a two-week work trip, her family made quite the discovery. "Anthony looks at me and says, 'We have something important to tell you. Your little girl Bootsie is a Boy!'" Shortly after that, Bootsie became Mr. Boots.

Trixie entered the family later after Jacquie made the dangerous mistake of "just quickly looking" inside an adoption room at a pet store. A tiny kitten reached out her paw as Jacquie walked by and that was pretty much the end of the discussion.

Marc showed up with the kitten the next morning.

The Catalina Disaster

Marc is an ocean person. Sailing, surfing, fishing—anything involving water, he's in. Jacquie, meanwhile, claims she "gets seasick looking at the rain," which honestly should have been everyone's first warning sign.

Still, early in their relationship, Marc planned what was supposed to be a romantic overnight trip to Catalina Island aboard a catamaran. He promised her this magical boat ride would be so smooth she wouldn't even realize they were on the ocean.

Things started out fine enough before the weather suddenly turned violent somewhere in the middle of the trip. "I ended up holding on for dear life in the bathroom with the door swinging open and shut and waves of water hitting me. I am as sick as you can imagine, green, and thinking we are all going to die. Even the Captain who had been sailing for decades was sick and said he had never experienced anything like this day's events."

By the time they reached Catalina, Jacquie was drenched, miserable, violently seasick, and refusing to step foot on that catamaran ever again. Returning home by boat was absolutely out of the question. So, Marc improvised and got her home by helicopter instead.

"So much for a romantic weekend!" Naturally, she has never let him forget it.

New York To California And Beyond

After graduating from the State University of New York at Oneonta with a degree in Communication Studies, she moved to California still trying to figure out where she fit professionally. At one point, a recruiter called asking for a favor: a company desperately needed a temp employee after one





executive had apparently burned through nearly the entire temp agency.

The recruiter's exact warning? "She will probably end up firing you before lunch anyway."

Jacquie immediately regretted agreeing to it and spent the entire weekend trying to back out, unsuccessfully. Monday morning arrived, and she reluctantly walked through the door anyway.

Eighteen years later... She left that same company as Director of Worldwide Training and Education, representing nearly 100 countries around the world.

"When opportunity knocks... answer that door!!!"

It's advice she genuinely lives by. "During her freshman year of college, fresh off chemotherapy and stepping into a new chapter of life, she remembers sitting in class watching snow fall outside the window and realizing something important all at once... "There was no way I could spend my career in a classroom looking out the window. I wanted to be outside the window."

Years later, she would travel to more than 90 countries.

Sparkles & Splatters

These days, one of the things bringing Jacquie the most joy is also something she never expected: art.

A few years ago, she started creating whimsical illustrations. Anything from mermaids, hummingbirds, Marilyn Monroe portraits, even "the occasional elephant wearing a tutu", and more. What began as a creative distraction slowly turned into Sparkles & Splatters, the art business she now runs alongside her mother, Gail.

"With my mom's beautiful additions to each art piece... it gives the two of us the opportunity to do something together that takes the narrative away from the negative parts of cancer that we are living and helps us focus on the positive."



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“The artwork has also become deeply connected to advocacy work supporting cancer awareness and people navigating treatment. As ambassadors helping bring awareness to metastatic breast cancer, Jacquie and Marc speak at events for patients, doctors, and researchers around the country. Through humor, honesty, and grace, they encourage others to approach cancer in the way that feels right for them while sharing hope, positivity, and individuality throughout their cancer journey.”

“If I can give just one person hope or happiness then I’m fulfilled.”

Life with Jacquie and Marc

There’s a generosity to the way Jacquie and Marc move through life. “If you need help with something, no matter how trivial it may seem, please reach out. Maybe we can help.” That outlook seems to shape everything they do from supporting local businesses to speaking with cancer patients around the country or creating joyful artwork in the middle of hard seasons.

In many ways, the Angell’s story is a reminder to us all that nothing’s better than getting to go through life alongside the people you love. For Jacquie, that means marrying your best friend, raising two wonderful children, and now creating art alongside her mother years later. Wishing Jacquie, Marc, and their family continued strength, joy, and many more meaningful chapters ahead. 🌸



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