

# Marilyn Henner's MAGIC MARRIAGE TO COLLEGE PAL

**N**URSING an old college pal through a life-threatening bout with cancer led to marriage No. 3 for still-gorgeous Marilyn Henner.

The former "Taxi" star, 54, married publisher Michael Brown at her Los Angeles home in front of 100 guests on Dec. 21.

"Marilyn and Michael realized that life is too short to hold back," a source close to the actress told *THE ENQUIRER*.

"They already missed out on nearly four decades together, and when Michael recovered from his life-threatening surgery, they both had the same thought in mind — 'Let's go for it.'"

Marilyn and Michael had attended the University of Chicago together — and Marilyn always had a crush on him — but Michael was dating her roommate at the time. When Michael and the roommate broke up, Marilyn didn't pursue him because of the "girlfriend code" — the unwritten rule that you never date a friend's ex.

"I had no idea she felt that way," said Michael. "I'm a guy. I don't have that radar."

Thirty-six years later, in 2001, a mutual friend gave Marilyn's phone number to Michael, who called the stunning redhead and left a message on her voicemail.

"My heart was pounding when I called him back," said Marilyn. "I twisted like a pretzel to put the tension in my body so he wouldn't hear it in my voice."

They made plans to meet and fell in love after their first date.



Marilyn's two sons and Michael's daughter and grandson celebrate the new couple

sion, the happy couple finally tied the knot.

The bride was given away by her two sons Nicky, 12, and Joey, 11, from her second marriage to TV director Robert Lieberman. The groom's twin brother, a Universal Life minister, officiated.

Michael, who's also 54, had been married once before and has three children.

Added the source: "Just by looking at them you can see that they're totally in love and meant to be together."

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI**