

# **Mom Letters**

*Covering 1999 in Chicago*

A novel by  
Jack Brackitt

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For Dad.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanking everyone would almost be a book in itself. It would fill many pages, and I would still miss a lot of people.

So, if you have a question about who should be thanked for what, could you e-mail me at [brackitt@yahoo.com](mailto:brackitt@yahoo.com). You'll receive a response, and – depending on the circumstances – I'll probably put the answer up on the book's website: <http://www.geocities.com/brackitt>. My plan is to make the website a timely source of information about *Mom Letters*.

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### Character list by circle

The families are shown in age order, and the circles are in alphabetical order.

<b>Immediate family</b>	
Andy, b. 1998	son
Grimbo, b. 1986	cat
Jack, b. 1963	self/copywriter
Jimmy, b. 1994	son
Karen, b. 1961	wife/accountant
Ryan, b. 1989	son
<b>extended family</b>	
Mutte, b. 1883	great-grandmother
Grandma, b. 1901	grandmother/homemaker
Gram, b. 1903	grandmother/homemaker
Grandad, b. 1903	grandfather/bookkeeper
Grandpa, b. 1911	grandfather/doctor
Fritz Markley, b. 1929	father-in-law/locksmith
Martha Markley, b. 1933	mother-in-law/special education instructor
May-Jane Flick, b. 1936	godmother/principal
Neil Berensen, b. 1955	brother-in-law/IT professional
Irvin Nielsen, b. 1955	brother-in-law/doctor
Madeline Nielsen, b. 1967	sister-in-law/nurse
Peggy Brackitt, b. 1967	sister-in-law/nurse
Sylvester Brackitt, b. 1991	bird
Eva Brackitt, b. 1998	niece
Ava Brackitt, b. 1999	niece
<b>original family</b>	
Al, b. 1959	brother/lawyer
Dad, b. 1934	father/IT professional
Doug, b. 1962	brother/lawyer
Drew, b. 1970	dog
Mom, b. 1936	mother/writer
Sam, b. 1960	brother/artist
<b>Chicago circle</b>	
Angela Freeman	researcher
Brian Love	lawyer
Carl Freeman	English instructor
Chaim Popkin	lawyer
Chloe Goodfriend	art instructor
Chris	graphic designer
David Daniels	illustrator
Dorothy P. Woods	writer
Elizabeth Fluornoy	IT professional
Emily Freeman	playmate with Jimmy
Evan	artist
Guy Kitterman	classical musician

Gwen Martinez	daycare provider
Heather Johansen	editor
Henry Russell	sales professional
Jennifer Anderson	sales professional
Jessica Morgan	bank professional
Joe Anderson	CEO
Julie Clarke	office administrator
Kyle Edwards	IT professional
Lee Kirby	artist
Lou Morgan	home contractor
Maja Lorenzie	school counselor
Marco Torez	security officer
Matt Benjamin	IT professional
Matthew Martinez	supervisor
Melanie Bricker	office administrator
Michelle Jennings	office administrator
Nikos	IT professional
Odin Martinez	dog
Paul Lorenzie	IT professional
Rebecca Johnson	doctor
Roz Sandburg	writer
Sarah Popkin	Marketing professional
Sari Fare	tailor
Sebastian	illustrator
Sid Fluornoy	sales professional
Tammy Lorenzie	playmate with Ryan
Taylor Johansen	playmate with Jimmy
Terrence Johansen	supervisor
Tommy Morgan	Playmate with Jimmy
Valentina	entertainment facilitator
Warren Sandburg	bank professional
Windy	dog therapist
Wyatt Sandburg	playmate with Jimmy
<b>St. Louis circle</b>	
Cleveland Como	sales professional
Bert Dunne	lawyer
Frank Dinty	IT professional
Jeff Larson	IT professional
Larry Lawrence	meteorologist
Louis	artist
Luke Westerhold	delivery administrator
Russ Orvis	entrepreneur
Scott Rush	editor
Tim Campbell	sales professional

## 1. January

### 1.1 Timeline

*In Mom Letters, the first part of every “month chapter” is devoted to the timeline – some events that actually happened in the month.*

*OK – why isn’t everything that happened in January in the January chapter? Because this book is weird! Since a lot of Brackitt family activities aren’t time-related, they’re lumped together by topic. This will all become clearer as you go along...maybe.*

*Now, here are three notes I need to squeeze in before you get started.*

*1. A lot about the book is explained in the “Afterwords” section. You’ll find it after the December chapter.*

*2. We live on the north side of Chicago. My Mom and original family reside in St. Louis, and all that gets explained in a February section called “Goodbye to the family home.”*

*3. I’m 35 years old. My wife, Karen, is 37 (she doesn’t mind me saying so), and we have three sons. In this January 1999 month, Ryan is 10, Jimmy is five, and Andy is five months old. This makes for a great game of Three Billy Goats Gruff.*

Dear Mom,

Last night we had a big blizzard. Once it was over, I walked through 21.6" of snow and returned three videos.

Karen: Did they clear the sidewalks south of us?

Me: I didn’t have to walk that direction.

Karen: Where’d you drop off those videos?

Me: Uh oh. Did I go to the wrong place?

Karen: Yes! Can you go back out? We don’t want to get lost video charges.

So, I tromped all over the neighborhood and straightened it out. The worst part: I couldn’t think of anyone to blame.

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