

# Skippy Dimpledot

## Christmas in Europe



### Margie & Claire Brody write second Christmas book

As co-authors of the Skippy Dimpledot children's books, Margie and Claire Brody, of Lufkin, share a bond beyond that of mother and daughter. The duo has created a cast of lovable characters that each year leaves behind a legacy of happy memories for children who believe in the magic of Christmas.

Margie and Claire began writing the original Skippy Dimpledot book while Claire was still in elementary school. It was published two years later, in 2004, when Claire was a seventh-grader.

"Skippy Dimpledot, The Christmas Elf," tells the story of Annie, a little girl who gets a special elf for Christmas and discovers that it is full of surprises.

"Annie exchanges letters with

her elf, Skippy Dimpledot, and they form a special friendship," Margie explained. "On Christmas Eve, when Santa delivers Annie's gifts, Skippy returns to the North Pole on Santa's sleigh."

The story was inspired by Claire's second-grade teacher, Cindy Akeroyd, who had a "magic" elf in her classroom.

"This was the beginning of a new tradition in our family," said Margie. "We wanted to share our Christmas tradition with other families and decided to add a Skippy Dimpledot plush toy so children could write to their own elf."

Later, the Brodys released three more plush toy elves to join Skippy.

After the book was released, the duo would do readings at local schools, to entertain children and



encourage creative writing. The success of the first book led to a sequel, "Skippy Dimpledot, Christmas in Europe," released this year, just in time for the holidays.

"Each year, people would ask my mom and me if we were planning on writing another book, or if another elf would join the gang," Claire said. "Since it was my senior year, my mom and I decided

## Skippy Dimpledot Characters

"Christmas in Europe" introduces two new elves to join Skippy and friends in their adventures. The books and toys are available online and at several locations in Lufkin.



**SKIPPY  
DIMPLEDOT**



**DAISY  
DIMPLEDOT**



**HENRY  
DIMPLEDOT**



**MARCO  
MACARONI**



**JAZZY  
GELATO**



**JULIE  
JELLYBEAN**

that it would be fun to write another book before I left for college. During spring break this year, we traveled to Marco Island, Florida together and wrote "Skippy Dimpledot, Christmas in Europe."

The new book introduces two new elves, Jazzy Gelato and Marco Macaroni, who with the original four, join Annie on her trip to Europe.

"It is really important to us that our books be educational," Margie said. "Skippy Dimpledot, Christmas in Europe" introduces children to exciting new places

through Annie's sightseeing trips, not to mention some surprises along the way. After all, elves visit children all over the world!"

Also new is the Brodys' collaboration with FireHydrant Creative Studios, who published the book and will work with them on future Dimpledot projects, like their next book, which they plan to release in time for Christmas 2012.

While writing the books was exciting, Margie said, working with her daughter made the project even more special.

"My favorite part of this whole

experience is that I get to share it with Claire," she said. "She is a freshman in college now and is a mature young lady with many wonderful suggestions and ideas. It continues to be a wonderful and valuable experience for us both."

For Claire, working alongside her mom was an "incredible" experience, she said.

"She is my best friend, and biggest fan, and I am so blessed to have someone that I look up to with such a significant amount of respect," Claire said. "Every moment with her, I cherish, and I

truly hope I can share something this special with my children someday."

Now a student at The University of Texas at Austin, Claire has already learned much about life from her Skippy Dimpledot experience.

"I have learned that the magic of Christmas is something that people must not take for granted, and we will never be too old to believe," she said. "I have also learned that letting children set their mind free, and encouraging them to engage in creative writing, is extremely beneficial. Most

of all I have learned that life is too short to sit back and watch things unfold, and we should be truly living each day to the fullest. Wake up, and go. Write a book! Film a movie! Travel the world! Whatever it is, go for it, and do not ever doubt yourself!"

Skippy Dimpledot books and toys are available at The Wishing Well, The Very Thing and Katie's in Lufkin, or online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [skippydimpledot.com](http://skippydimpledot.com). To read letters from Skippy's mailbag, play games, register your elf and more, visit [skippydimpledot.com](http://skippydimpledot.com).