



Bob Sparkle makes a special friend!





Just like your house, your heart also has several rooms.

But the rooms in your heart were not built to cook in, like the kitchen.

Or to play in, like the playroom.

Or to study, like the office.

Or to sleep in, like the bedroom.

Quite the contrary in fact! A lot goes on in the rooms of your heart.

It's a really busy place!

And do you know who does all that hard work?

Bob and Boris Sparkle!

Bob lives on the top floor of your heart

and Boris on the ground floor.





Bob Sparkle has a problem.

Drops of blood which travel through your body are constantly visiting Bob. Bob has a very special job: he makes sure that all those drops of blood can get in and out of your heart to do their own jobs in your body.

Do you want to know how exactly Bob does all that work? Keep on reading:

When a drop of blood arrives by lift on the top floor of your heart where Bob lives, he pulls a big lever.

This lever is not just any lever! You have to be very strong to pull it. When Bob has pulled the lever, the floor of the lift shaft slides open. This allows the drop of blood to continue its journey to the ground floor of your heart.





Bob works night and day to help all the drops of blood get from the top floor to the ground floor.

He has little time to take a break.

Because as soon as one drop of blood has left, the next one is already there!

But Bob was made to do all this hard work day in and day out.

Especially for you.

Everyone has his or her own Bob: your friends, your mum and dad, grandma and grandad, uncles and aunts all have a Bob Sparkle living on the top floor of their hearts.





Every Bob is special. But your Bob is just that tad more special.

The Bob living in your heart is a bit different:

he gets tired very quickly!

And unfortunately there is nothing he can do about that ...

But a Bob who gets tired quickly is not the end of the world!

Do you want to hear the story about your Bob?





Bob Sparkle gets help.

It was a day like any other.

The drops of blood were running around like usual.

They didn't even have time to stop for a chat with Bob!

Bob didn't mind too much, because he had a lot to do too.

He'd been pulling the lever all day

to let the drops of blood through.

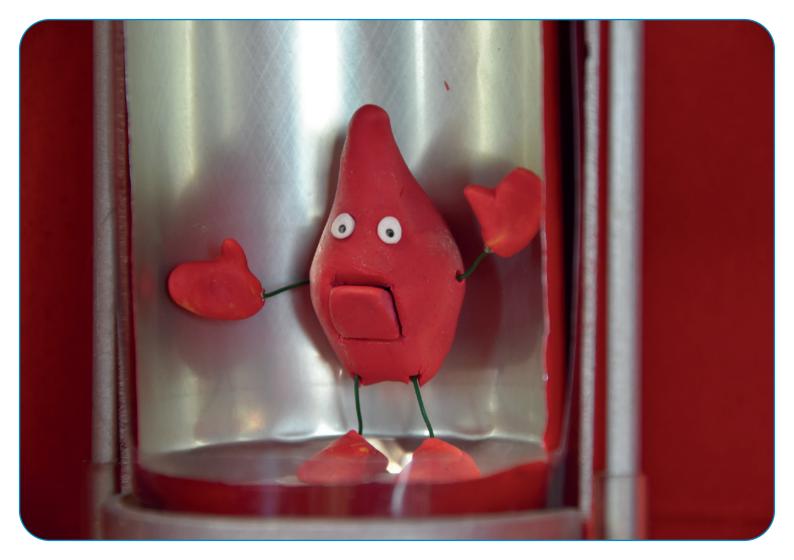
Luckily there was a nice tune playing in the background.

The drops of blood were enjoying it too.

But when Bob wanted to pull the lever for the umpteenth time it felt different.

Bob felt different ...





'What's going on?', Bob wondered. 'I feel weird?' While Bob was wondering what was happening, he forgot to pull the lever.

'Oi, Bob!', a drop of blood shouted. 'Pull the lever!

I'm in a hurry and there are lots of drops of blood behind me!'

Bob was startled. 'Sorry, sorry! I just feel so ... so ...'

The drop of blood shouted impatiently: 'No time, sorry! I'm in a hurry!'

Those drops of blood can be so annoying.

Bob felt his eyes closing. But before he could close his eyes, the drop of blood shouted again: 'Keep going!'

Bob's eyes immediately opened again. He pulled the lever as soon as he could. But Bob felt it was a huge effort.





'Am I feeling ... tired?', he thought.

'Surely that's not possible? I'm not supposed to be tired? People can be tired, but surely I, Bob Sparkle, can't?'

He thought about it, but it made him even more sleepy!

Bob wanted to pull the lever again,

but this time he really couldn't.

His eyes were so heavy,

he was unable to lift his little arm and then ...

Bob suddenly fell asleep.





There was nobody to pull the lever anymore.

The drop of blood that had just been shouting at Bob impatiently, didn't know what to do!

Many more drops of blood had arrived in the lift in the meantime.

It was getting very crowded and there was little room.

The energy reader kept going down because the drops of blood were unable to travel any further ...





'Oi! Bob! Wake up!', shouted the drops of blood.

'We're in a hurry, we're in a hurry!' They were getting afraid.

'Someone has to sound the alarm!', said the first drop of blood.

They all started shouting very loudly.

They hoped Bob would wake up,

but he was fast asleep ...

The lights started to blink and a loud alarm sounded.

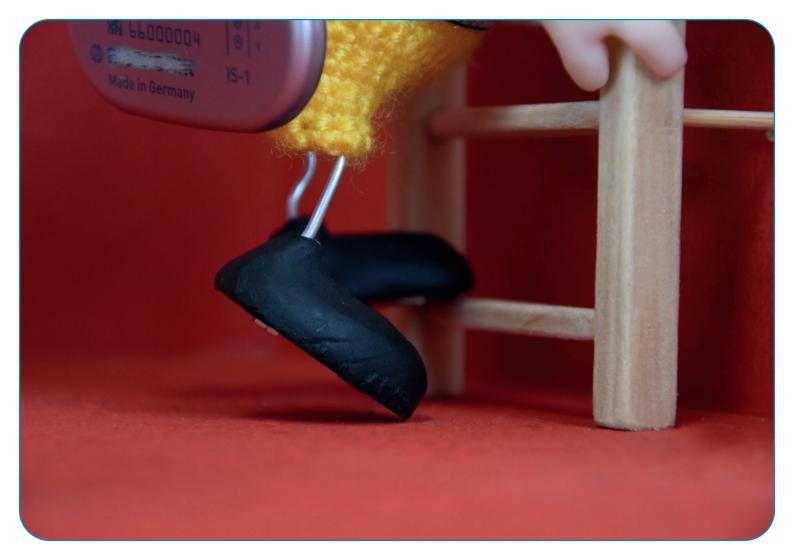
It seemed as if everything was going to fall apart!

Suddenly it got very dark and quiet.

And then ... a small light came on.

Was someone coming to help?





Sure enough: there was an emergency ladder in the corner of the room and someone was coming down it. It was a little man nobody had ever seen before.

The drops of blood had no idea who the little man was, but he had come to help out.

'What's going on here?',
asked the unknown little man standing on the ladder.
'Bob fell asleep!', the drops of blood shouted almost in unison.
The unknown little man looked around the room and saw Bob lying on the floor.

He rushed to Bob.

'Hey, Bob, wake up!', the lifesaver said.

'The drops of blood need you!'





Bob gently woke up and blinked.

'Where ... Where am I? Who are you?', asked Bob.

'I'm Pacemaker and I am here to help you.'

Bob was starting to understand what had happened.
'Oh no ... Did I fall asleep?',
he hesitated. 'I am so sorry ...
Quick, quick, I have to pull the lever!'

Pacemaker answered: 'I'll do it. You take your time and wake up.'





Bob saw how Pacemaker pulled the lever effortlessly.

He was very impressed.

The drops of blood were able to continue their journey and before Bob realised, Pacemaker had solved everything.

'You can also pull the lever?',
asked Bob hesitantly. 'Exactly. I'm Pacemaker.
I came here to help you, because I heard you get tired quickly.'

Bob went red in the face.
'I don't understand... I shouldn't get tired so quickly,
but it happens. I hate it when that happens.'

Pacemaker smiled: 'Don't worry Bob. I have a solution!'





Pacemaker kept pulling the lever as if he had been doing it for years.

'Look, I have a hammock for you', he said.

'We'll hang it here in your room.

If you start to feel tired, just push a button, and I'll come immediately. I'll take over so that you can have a rest in your hammock.

What do you think?'





Bob laughed out loud: 'That's fantastic! Can I try the hammock now?'

Pacemaker nodded enthusiastically. 'Go ahead! I'll take over here.'

Bob had a lovely nap in his new hammock. Not much later he woke up completely rested and took over again from Pacemaker.





From now on Pacemaker will always be around to take over when Bob gets too tired and wants to have a little lie-down in his hammock.

In addition, Pacemaker and Bob get on really well with each other. Bob has made a very special friend!



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