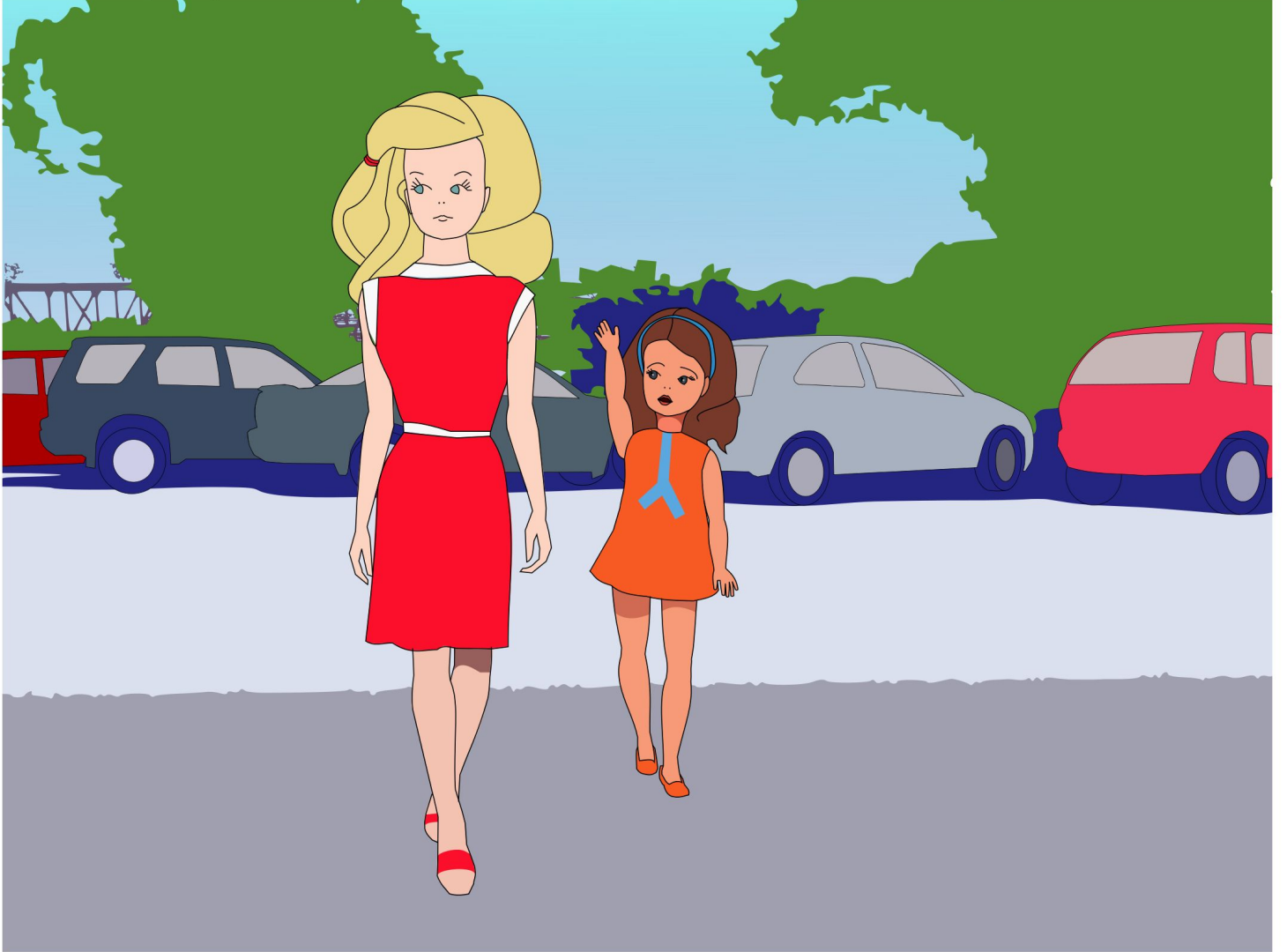


Sindy and the Antibiotics

Edward Picot

Sindy had a cold, so her Mum took her to see Dr Hairy.



Dr Hairy was banging his printer with his shoe.

'Dr Hairy,' said Cindy, 'why are you banging your printer with your shoe?'

'Because the stupid thing won't work properly,' said Dr Hairy.

'But banging it with your shoe won't make it better,' said Cindy.

'You're probably right,' said Dr Hairy, sitting down.
'What can I do for you today?'

'Sindy's got a cold,' said Cindy's Mum, who was called Tressy. 'I think she needs some antibiotics.'



'Actually,' said Dr Hairy, 'antibiotics don't make any difference to a cold. If we keep giving people antibiotics when they don't really need them, all the bugs will develop resistance, and the antibiotics won't work any more.'

Tressy got very cross.

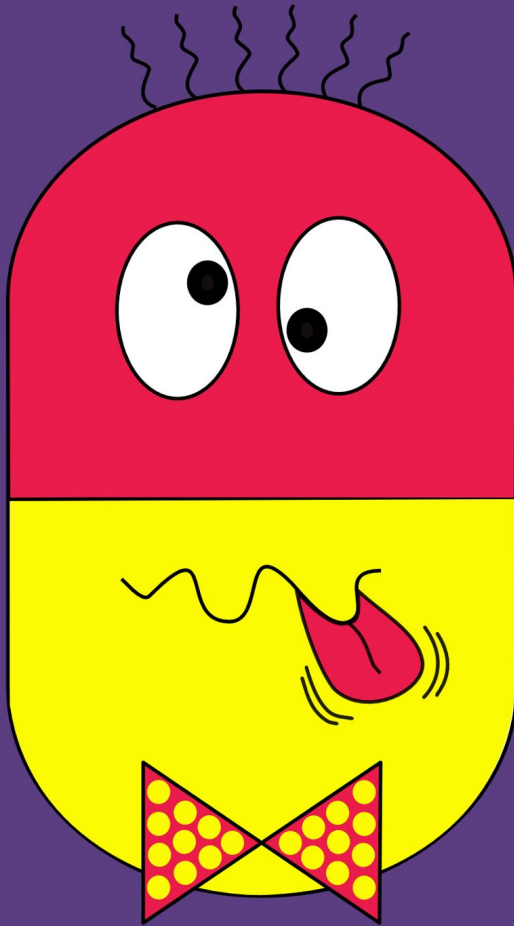
'Sindy's got a weak chest,' she said. 'Every time she gets a cold it gives her a chest infection. I had to take her to the hospital last time, because you didn't have any appointments. If you won't give her antibiotics, I'll just have to take her there again.'

'Well, all right,' said Dr Hairy grumpily. 'But I really shouldn't be doing this.'

He had to write the prescription by hand, because his printer wasn't working; and when they went out he was banging it with his shoe again.

'Flipping thing!' said Dr Hairy.

Don't be
a silly pilly



The next time they went to see Dr Hairy, he had a big wet patch all down his jumper, and he was mopping his desktop with his handkerchief.

'Dr Hairy,' said Sindy, 'why have you got a big wet patch all down your jumper, and why are you mopping your desktop with your handkerchief?'

'Because I've just knocked my coffee over,' said Dr Hairy.

'You should mop your desk with paper hand towels, not your handkerchief,' said Sindy. 'Otherwise your handkerchief will be all wet and horrible when you want to blow your nose on it.'

'Yes, you're probably right,' said Dr Hairy. 'Now, what seems to be the trouble today?'

'Sindy's got an earache,' said Tressy, 'and she needs some antibiotics.'



'Actually,' said Dr Hairy, 'an earache normally gets better by itself without antibiotics. We really shouldn't be using antibiotics for things like earaches.'

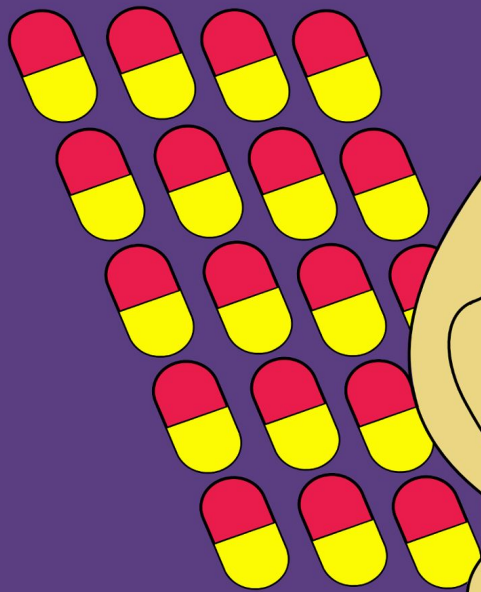
Tressy immediately got cross again. 'Well, she was up with it all last night,' she said, 'and in the end she had to come in and sleep with me, so Ken had to go and sleep on the sofa, and he says if that happens again he's going back to Barbie, and I can't handle any more rejections at this point in my life. If you don't let us have the antibiotics, I'm going to make a complaint.'

'Well, all right,' said Dr Hairy, looking upset. 'But I really shouldn't be doing it.'

He printed off a prescription, which he put on the desk to sign. There was still some coffee there, and the prescription got all wet and brown.

'Aaagh!' said Dr Hairy.

Under the weather?
Antibiotics may not help.



The next time they went to see Dr Hairy, he was sitting at his desk with his head in his hands.

'Dr Hairy,' said Sindy, 'why are you sitting at your desk with your head in your hands?'

'Because I've just been looking at my bank account online,' said Dr Hairy, 'and I've got three thousand pounds less than I thought I had. I don't know how I'm going to pay my tax bill.'

'Well, it's no good sitting at your desk with your head in your hands,' said Sindy. 'You need a proper financial plan.'

'Yes, you're probably right,' said Dr Hairy. 'However, what have you come to see me about today?'

'Sindy's got a tickly cough that won't clear up,' said Tressy, 'and she needs some antibiotics.'



Dr Hairy listened to Cindy's chest with his stethoscope, which was so cold that it made her jump.

'Well,' he said, 'we've got an awful lot of patients with a tickly cough at the moment, and there's no sign of any chest infection in Cindy's case, so I really shouldn't be prescribing antibiotics.'

Sindy's mum immediately went very red and cross-looking and opened her mouth to argue.

'But,' said Dr Hairy, 'I will prescribe them for you this time, because I'm having a terrible day and I really don't want an argument.'

Just as they were leaving with their prescription, Tina the Receptionist came in and said 'I've got the electricity company on the phone, Dr Hairy. They're going to cut us off if we don't pay our bill.'

'Flipping heck,' said Dr Hairy, and put his head back in his hands.

Are we
putting
too much
on the tab?



The next time Cindy and Tressy went to the doctor's, it wasn't Dr Hairy who saw them but a handsome man called Dr Smoothie.

'Where's Dr Hairy?' said Cindy.

'Something went wrong with his car,' said Dr Smoothie, 'so I was called in at the last minute. Sorry if you were expecting him.'

'Ooh, I daresay you'll do,' said Tressy in a giggly voice.

'What can I help you with?' said Dr Smoothie.

'It's my knee,' explained Tressy. 'I grazed it when I was out jogging and it's gone a bit weepy. I was worried that it might be infected.'



Dr Smoothie held Tressy's leg and examined her knee. 'It doesn't look too bad,' he said. 'It'll probably be all right with some antiseptic cream. You could have some antibiotics if you're concerned, but -'

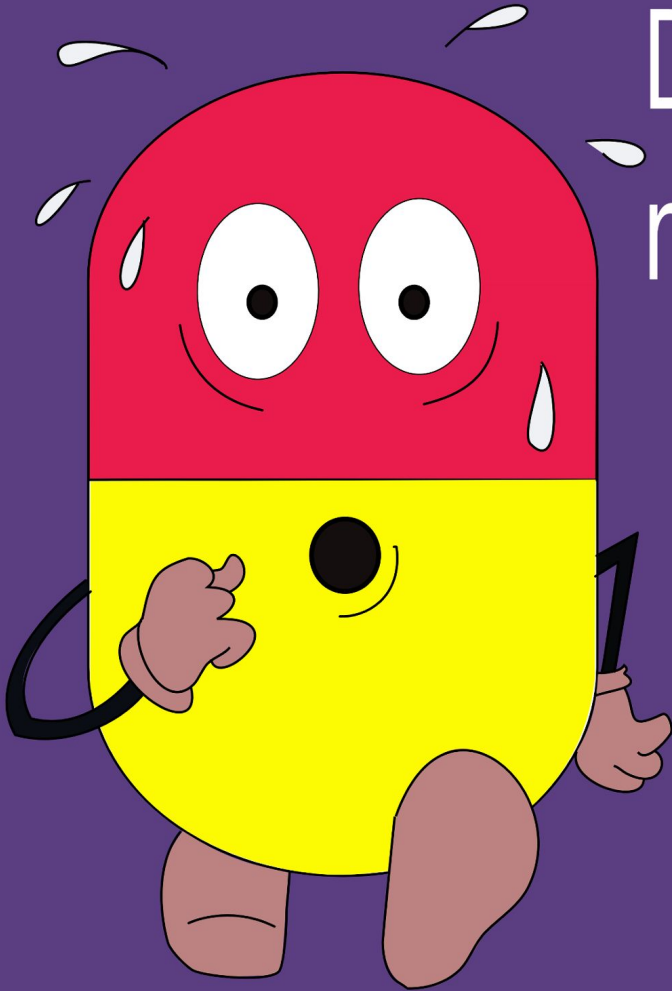
'Oh no!' said Tressy. 'I know we're not supposed to use antibiotics too much, in case they stop working. If we use them for silly little things like my knee -'

'It's a very nice knee,' said Dr Smoothie.

'If we use them for things like my very nice knee,' giggled Tressy, 'then they might not help us when we really need them, might they?'

'Exactly what I was going to say,' said Dr Smoothie.

Don't wear
me out!



On their way out, they met Dr Hairy on his way in.

'What's the matter with your car, Dr Hairy?' said
Sindy.

'I don't know,' said Dr Hairy. 'Stupid thing. I hate
cars.'

Just then there was a whump from across the car-
park, and a flare of yellow light.

'Dr Hairy,' said Sindy, 'isn't that your car that's just
burst into flame?'

'Yes, you're probably right,' said Dr Hairy, and
looked round slowly.

Sure enough, it was.

'Oh bother,' said Dr Hairy.



As well as appearing in this book, Dr Hairy is also the main character in a series of puppet-videos, and gives his name to a numbers of books and training-courses.

For more information about Dr Hairy, please visit the website:

www.drhairy.org