

CRIBBLE

Saves the
toothfairies



Story by Peter Larner

Art by Tilly Marsh

**Cribble saves the
Tooth Fairies**

The Haiderian Medical Centre is a GP Practice in East London. We co-created this project with Peter Larner, the author and a patient at the practice, and illustrator Tilly Marsh. We are passionate about the care of children in our community. This book encourages parents to read with their children. It opens a conversation about wellbeing and health in a way that is easy for young children to understand. It is meant to be read before the three-year immunisations, but this book can be read with your children at any time - we hope you enjoy it!

Cribble saves the Tooth Fairies

Early one morning, before anyone stirred,

Olive was woken by something she heard.

To her surprise, an elf lay on the floor,

He had fallen asleep and was beginning to snore.



Clutched in his fingers a tooth, he held tight.
The one Olive put neath her pillow last night.
Stirring awake, he peered through the gloom,
Dismayed at being found asleep in her room.



Where had he come from? What was his aim?
Olive began by asking his name.
‘Cribble,’ the elf politely replied.
‘What are you doing here?’ the little girl cried.

‘From under your pillow, I collected a tooth.’

A shiny new coin he offered as proof.

‘I’m not a burglar. I’m not a thief.’

‘I just fell asleep collecting milk teeth.’



‘Collecting our teeth is the Tooth Fairy’s job.’

‘It is,’ he replied, beginning to sob.

‘But they’ve become ill, and it’s now left to me,

to cover the job till they’re better, you see.’

‘What’s wrong with the fairies? What is to blame?’

‘They’ve all fallen ill. They have spots, all the same.’

‘Poppy the fairy was feeling unwell.’

‘Then lots of the fairies fell under its spell.’



‘They should go to the doctor,’ Olive then said.

But the elf stood there shamefully shaking his head.

‘They don’t like doctors. It’s just how they’re made.’

‘Tooth Fairies, like elves, are far too afraid.’

‘What about your injections? You must have had some.’

Again, Cribble confessed he hadn’t had one.

‘We all fear injections,’ the elf ruefully told her.

‘Young fairies and elves, even those who are older.’



‘To miss your injections is an absolute shame.’

‘Injections stop illness,’ Olive tried to explain.

She could see he was nervous and took hold of his hand.

‘It’s okay to fear things that you don’t understand.’

‘It’s okay to be nervous. It’s alright to be scared.’

‘I was, to begin with, but now I’m prepared.’

‘In fact, in the morning, I’m going myself.’

‘For a booster jab that will improve my health.’



‘Why don’t you come with me? You might find a way,’

‘To help fairies get better. Come on, don’t delay.’

Feeling suddenly brave, Cribble nodded his head.

‘I’ll go to the doctor. I’ll be brave,’ the elf said.

Olive explained to her mummy that night
About Cribble and the 'Tooth Fairies' terrible plight.
She was quite sympathetic. That was easy to tell.
She changed the appointment, adding Cribble as well.



‘Good morning, Nurse Cathy,’ they all said politely.

Cribble, still nervous, held Olive’s hand tightly.

‘Good morning,’ said Cathy, adding, ‘what a surprise.’

Then she found two small chairs, just the right size.



Nurse Cathy told Olive, ‘This doesn’t take long.’

‘The injection will make you healthy and strong.’

Olive confessed she felt nothing at all.

She got down from the chair, feeling twenty feet tall.

She then told the nurse of the Tooth Fairies' plight.

Nurse Cathy said she could put everything right.

'They'll all need injections. They might need to queue.'

Then, looking at Cribble, she said: 'Let's start with you.'



The elf rolled his sleeve up and took off his cap.

She gave the injection, saying: 'Well done, young chap.'

'Simple,' said Cribble, stepping down from the chair.

I'll go tell the Tooth Fairies to come and have theirs.'

Cribble met with the fairies who had the infection,

To tell them about the awesome injection.

‘There’s no need to be nervous. Don’t be affeared,’

‘It will make you all well again.’ The fairies all cheered.



And so, in the morning, the Tooth Fairies went

Off to the doctor for the welcome event

After they queued, the injections were done.

The infection was over, and the victory won.

The injection had ended the Tooth Fairies' fear.

They went back to their work with a laugh and a cheer.

Collecting the teeth of small girls and boys

And Cribble went back to making his toys.





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