

**Dotty the
Dalmatian
has Epilepsy**

From the Dr. Weil book™ Collection

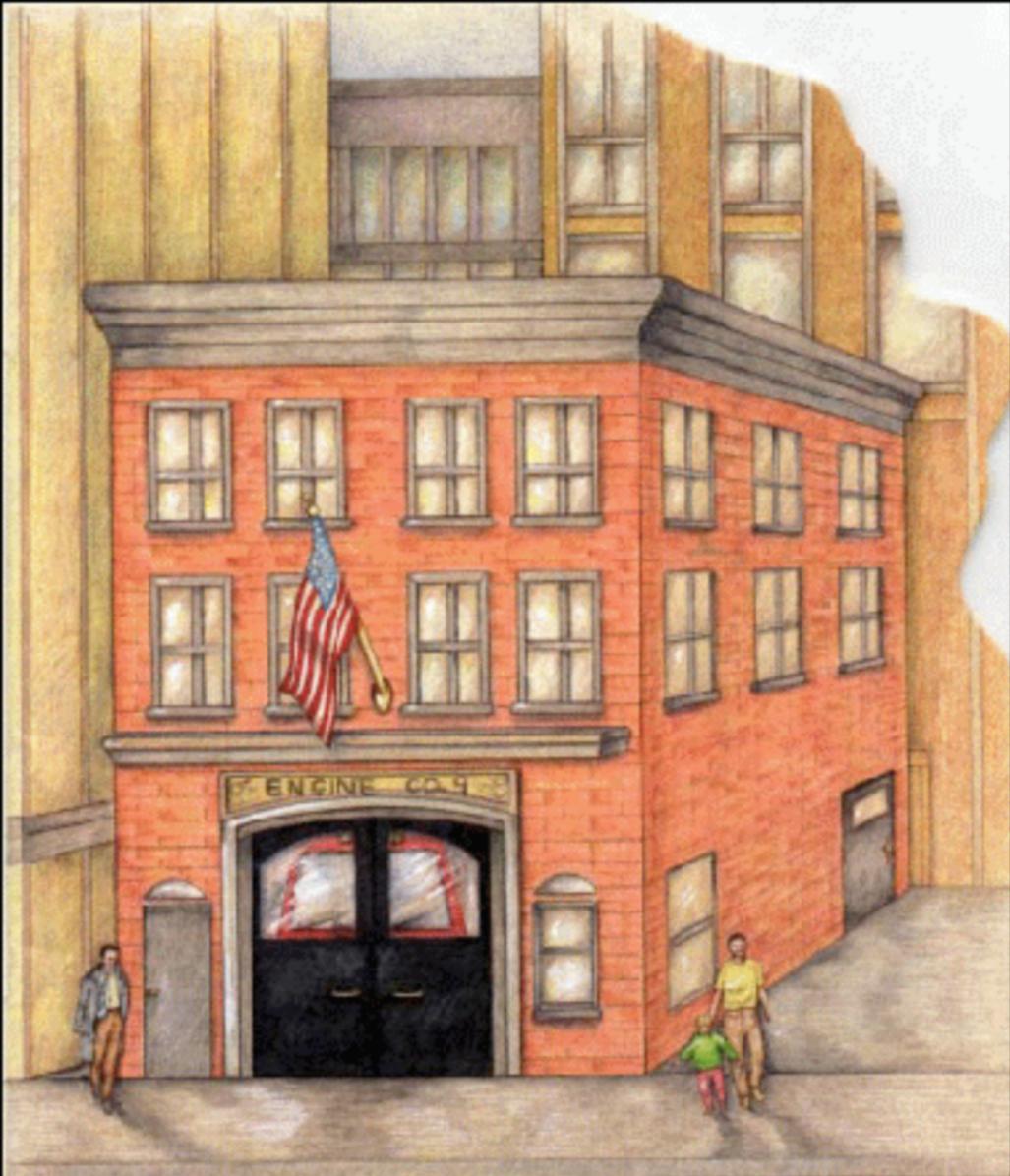


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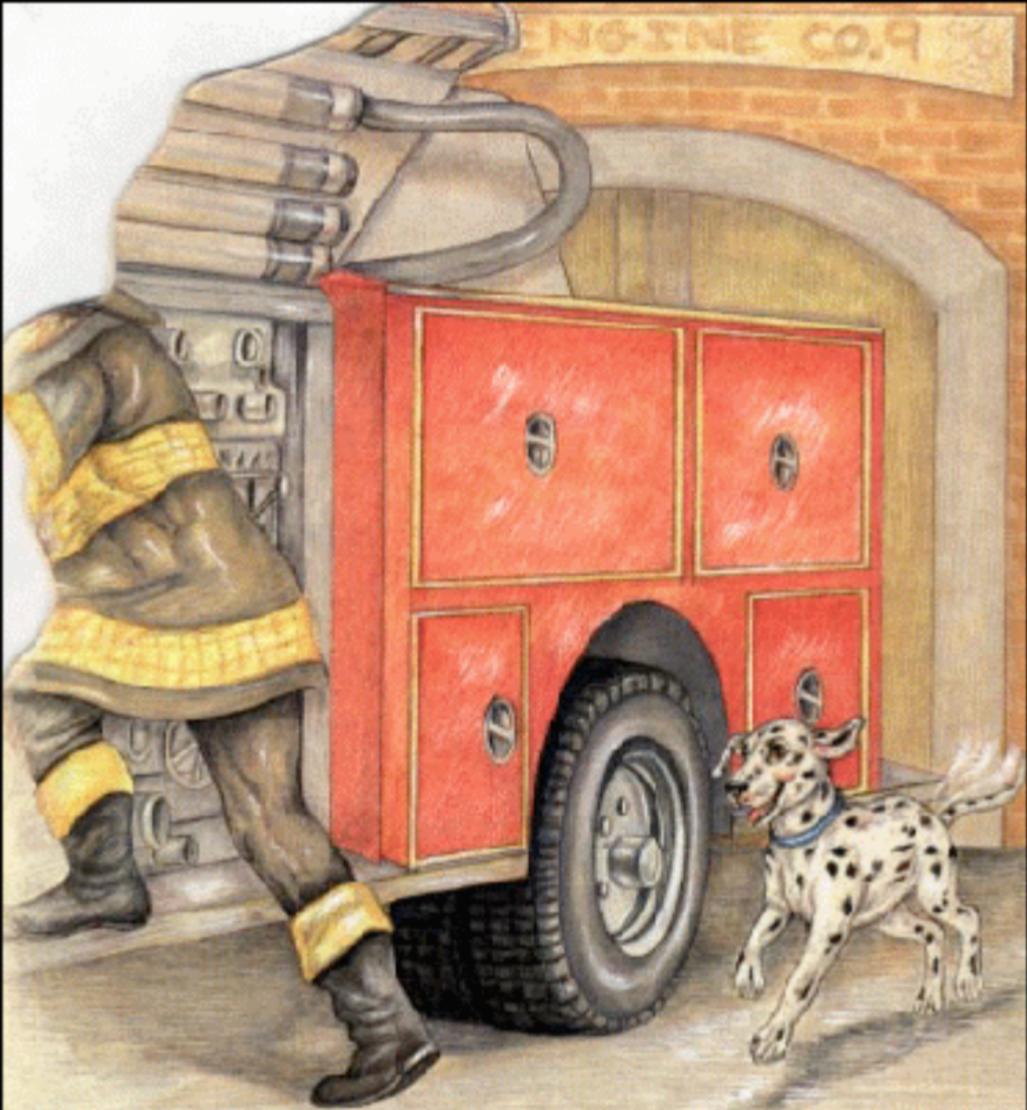


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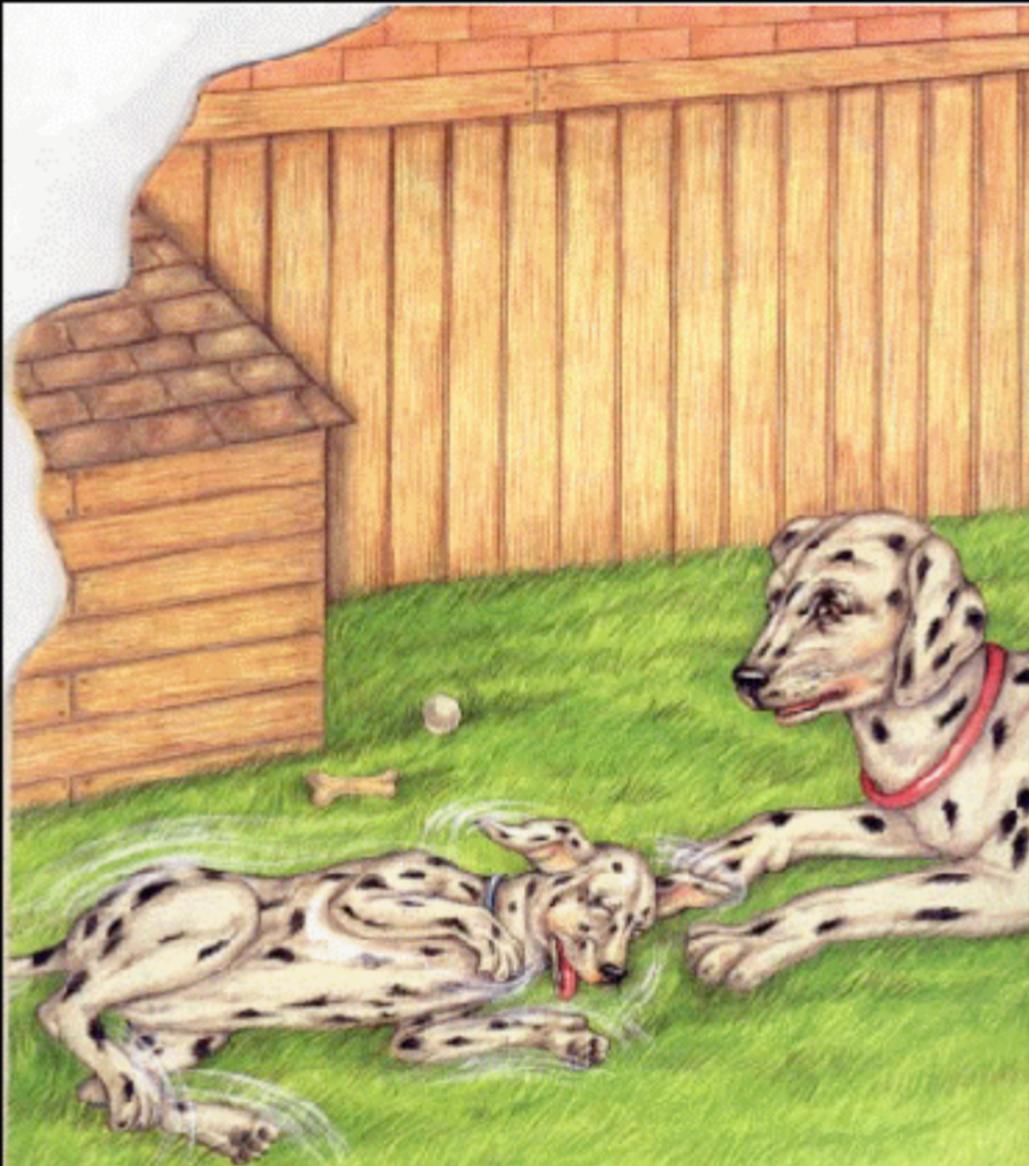
In the center of the city, in an old brick building, was Firehouse No. 9. Inside the firehouse lived a Dalmatian named Dotty and her mother.



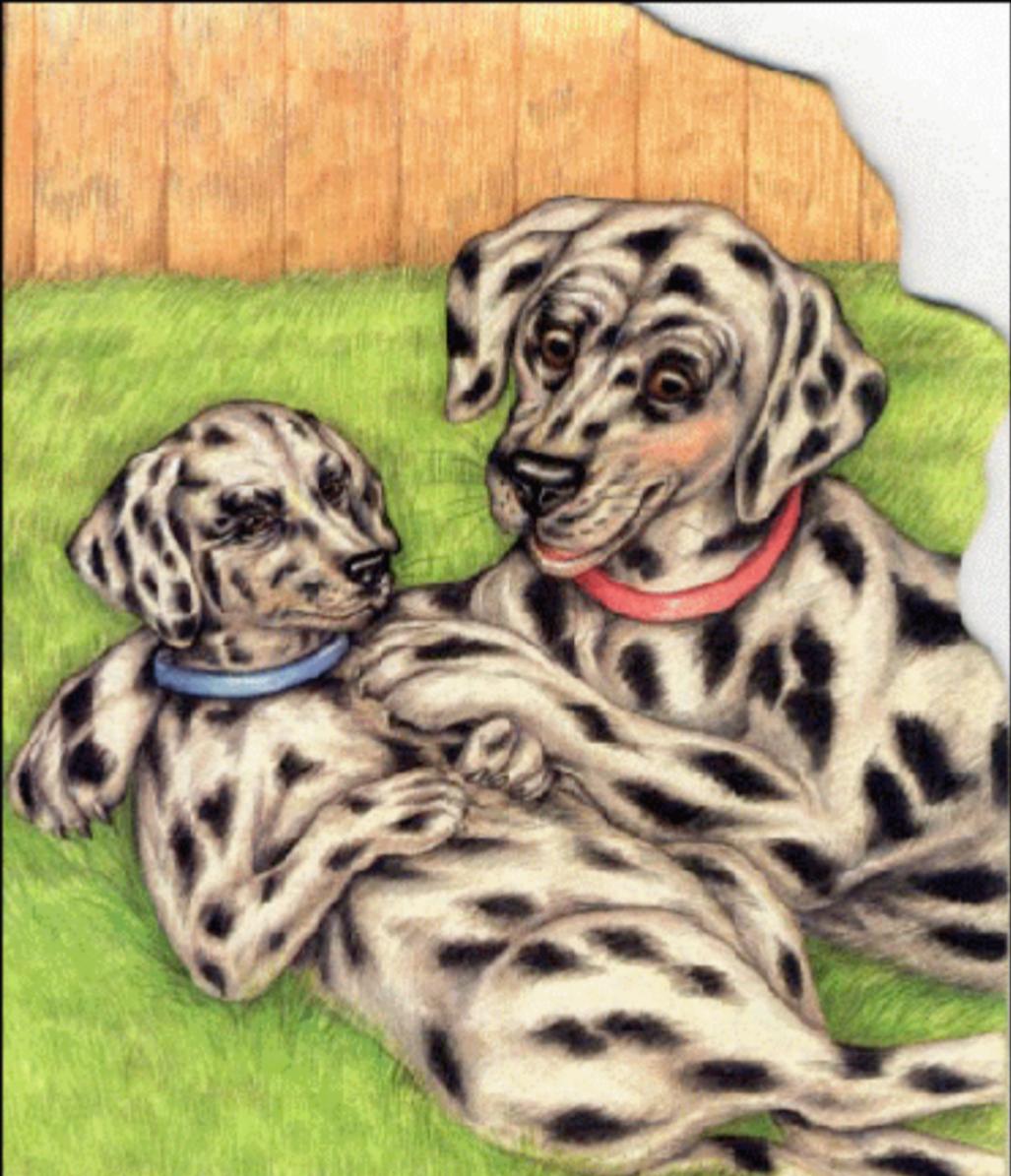
Each day Dotty wagged her tail with excitement as the fire engine with firefighters rushed off to put out fires.



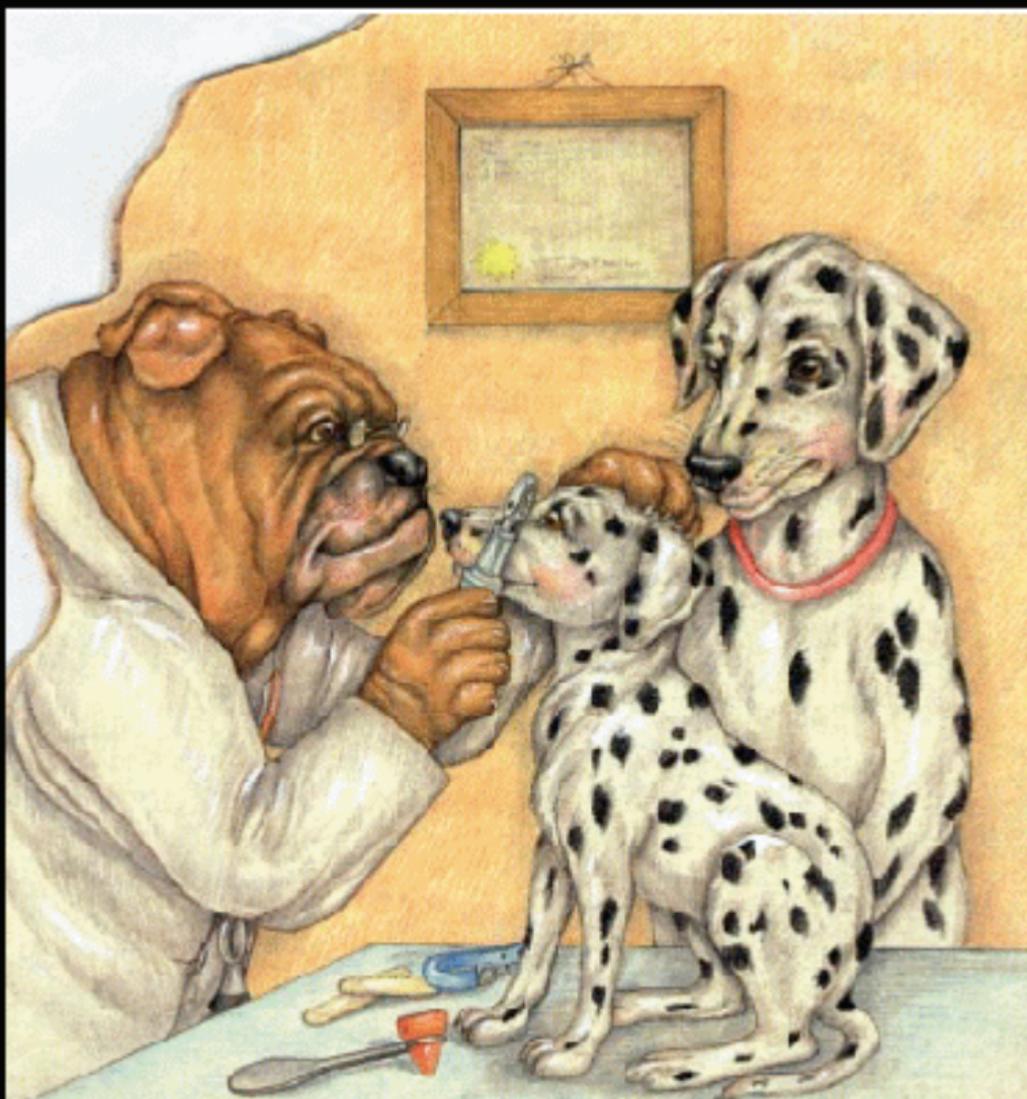
Dotty became best friends with a fireman named Bob, and she had a lot of fun playing on the fire engine with him. Dotty dreamed of the day when she would become the firehouse mascot.



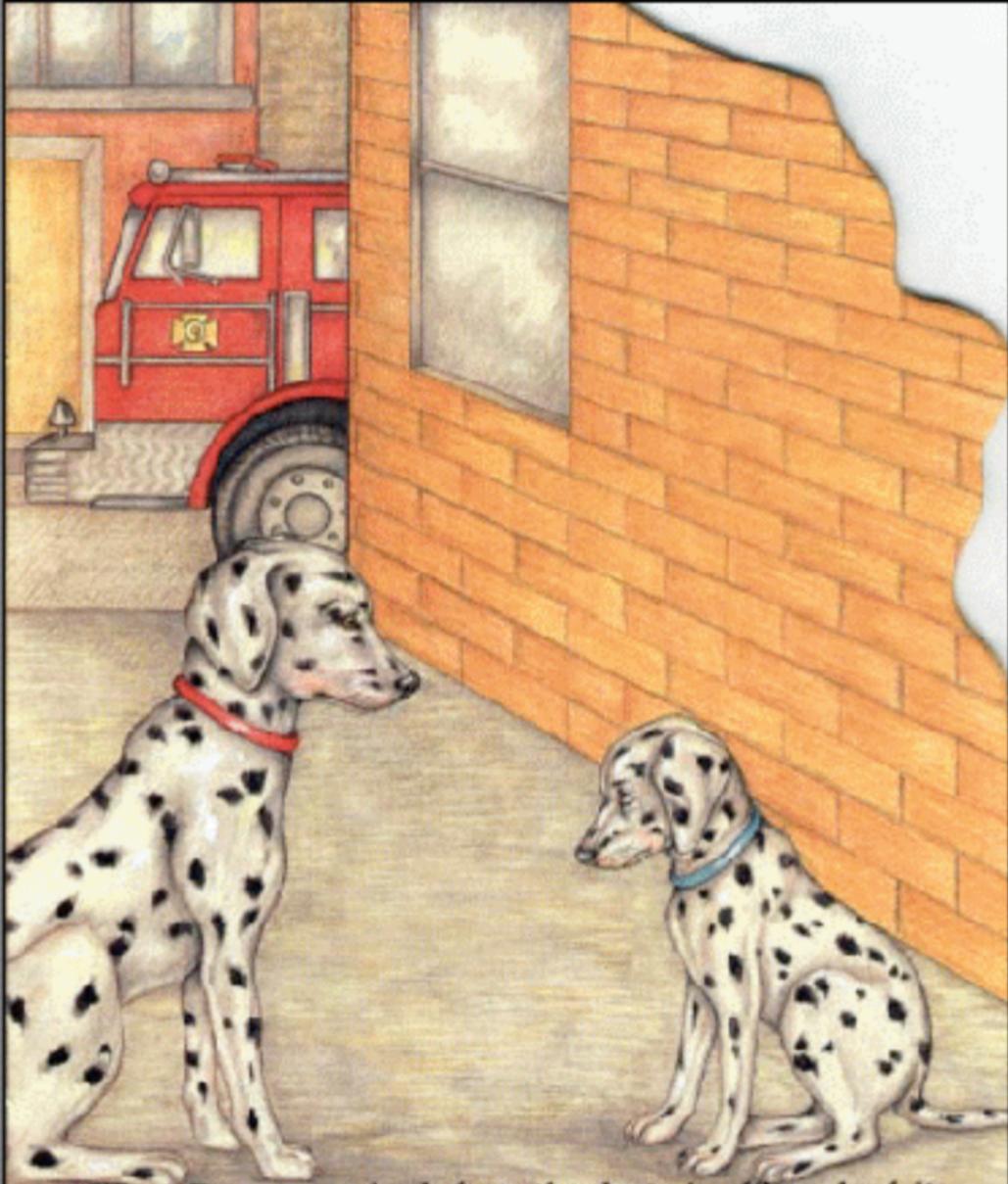
One sunny day as Dotty was playing behind the firehouse, something happened. She felt a tingling sensation in her legs and a full feeling in her tummy. Before long, Dotty's whole body was shaking helplessly.



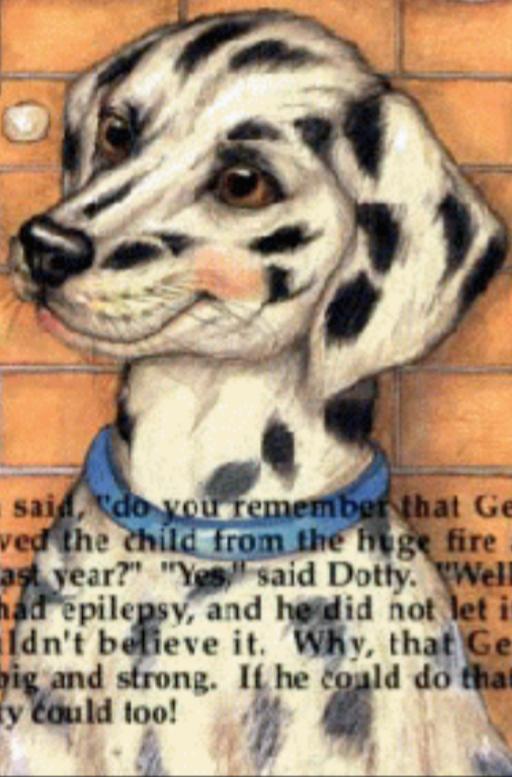
Dotty's mother rushed to her side and rubbed her gently until she felt better. "What happened?" a confused and sleepy Dotty asked. "I'm not sure, Dotty," said her mother. "We'd better go see the doctor."



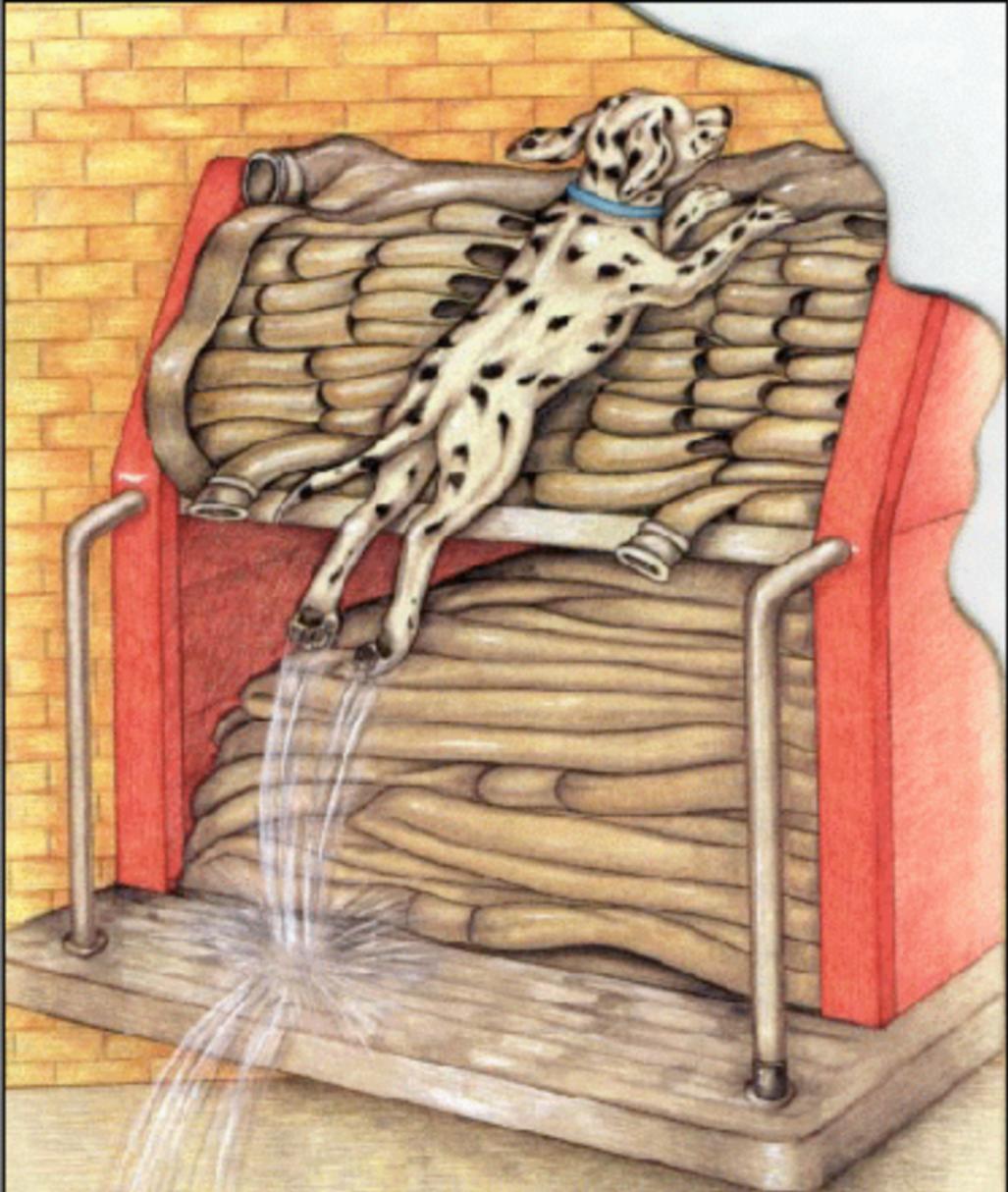
Doctor Bones examined Dotty carefully and asked how she felt. "I am a little tired," Dotty said. The doctor explained, "Dotty, the shaking you felt earlier may have been an epileptic seizure. Epilepsy is a very common disorder, and we have a medication to help prevent convulsions like yours." And the doctor prescribed a medicine for Dotty, which she took every day.



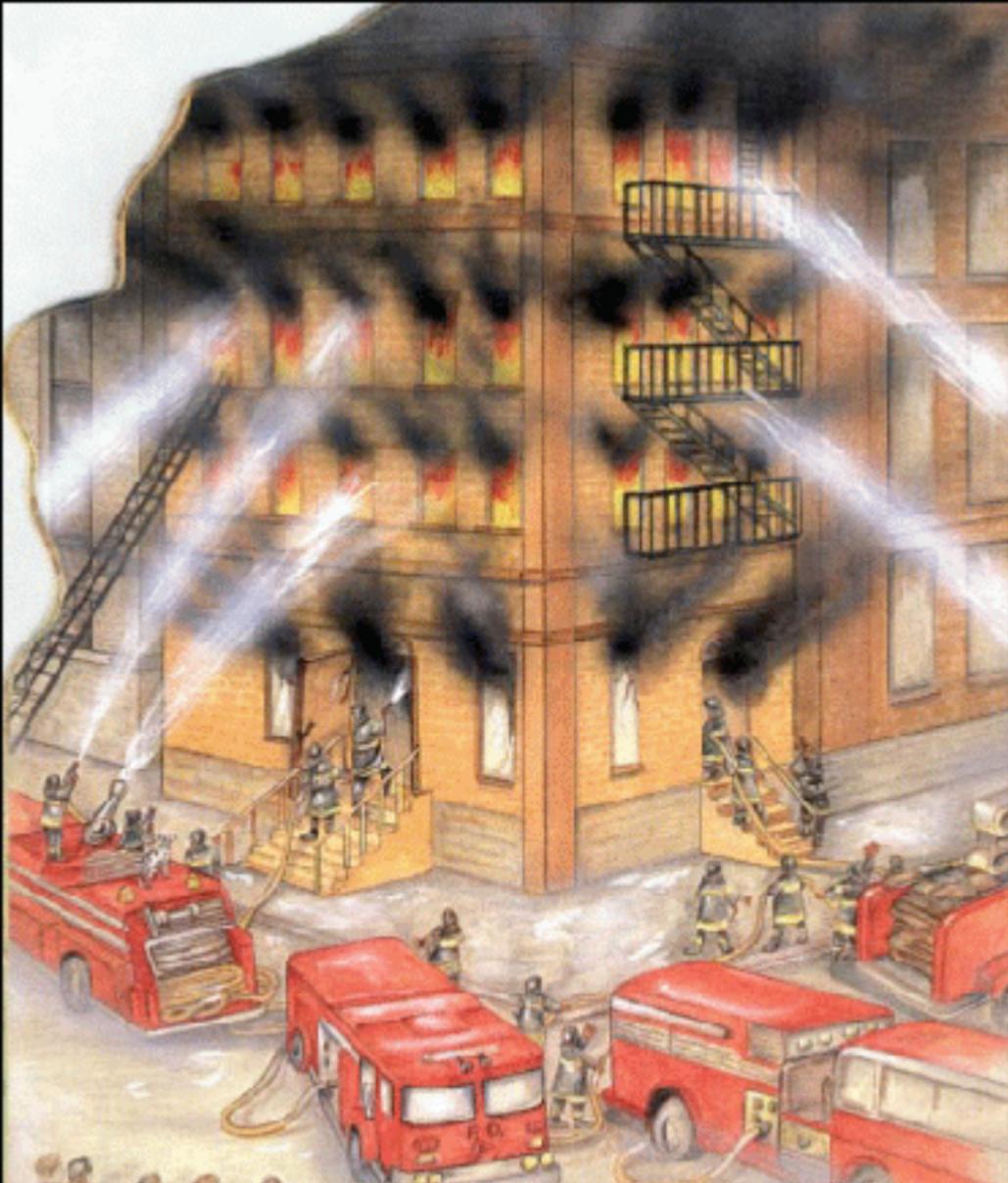
When Dotty came back from the doctor's office, she felt embarrassed about her convulsion. Now she was afraid she would not be the mascot. Several weeks went by, and she still refused to go into the firehouse.



"Dotty," her mom said, "do you remember that German Shepherd who saved the child from the huge fire at the department store last year?" "Yes," said Dotty. "Well," her mother said, "he had epilepsy, and he did not let it stop him." Dotty couldn't believe it. Why, that German Shepherd was so big and strong. If he could do that with epilepsy, then Dotty could too!



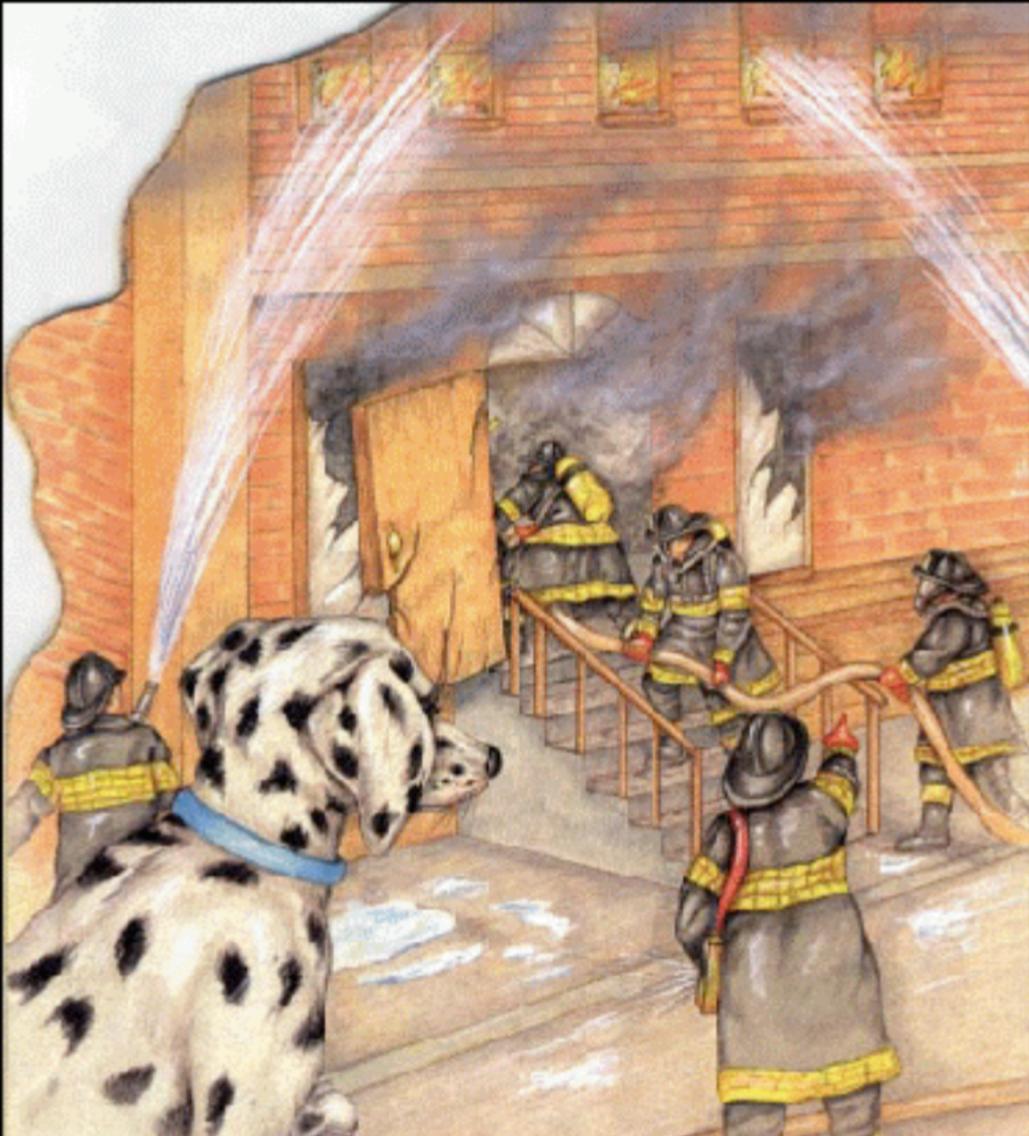
As Dotty made her way to the firehouse, the fire alarm sounded loudly. She ran and jumped up on the fire engine as it zoomed out of the firehouse on its way to the fire.



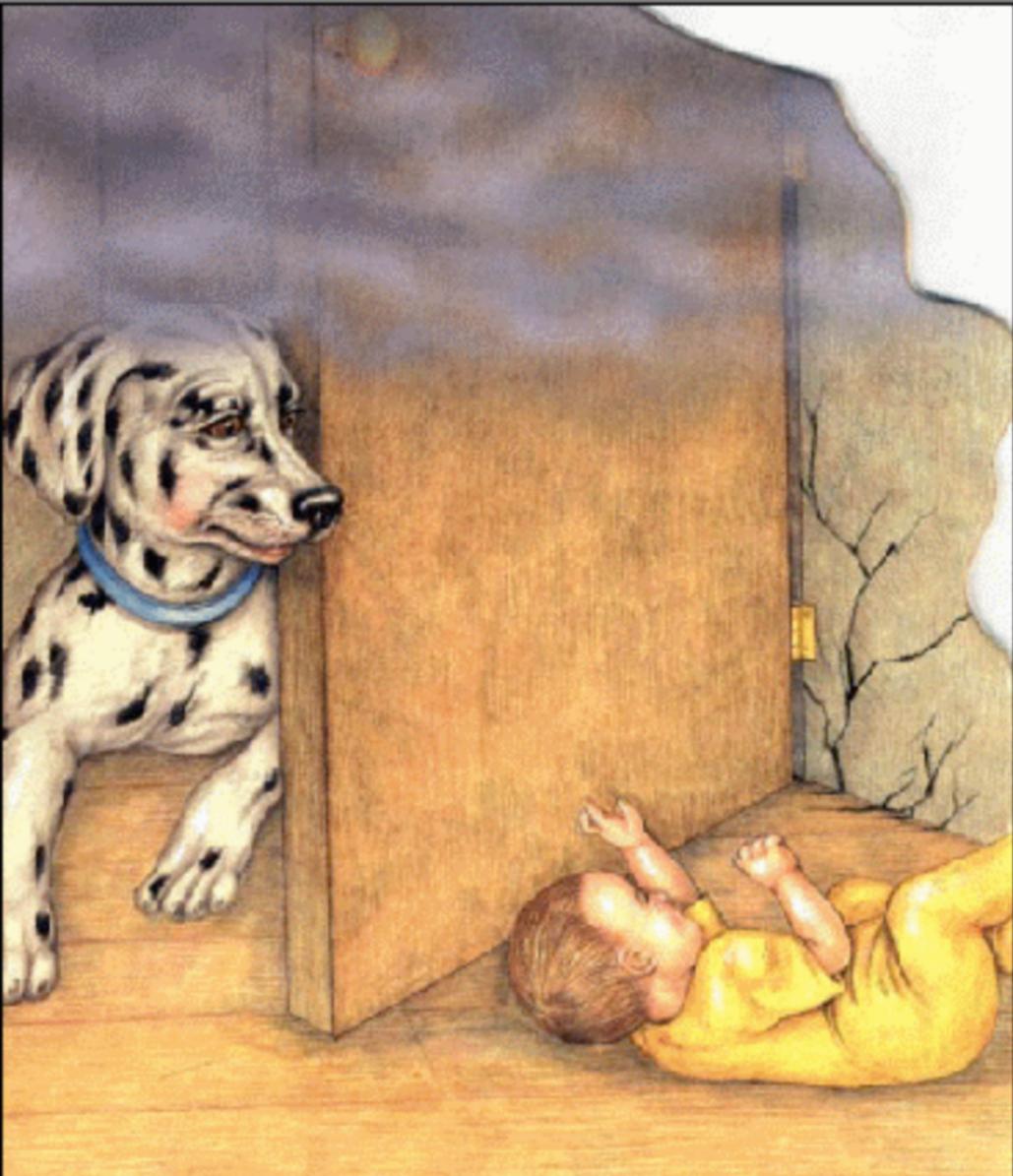
When they got to the fire, it was out of control. Firefighters from all over the city were hosing down the building, and the fire was so bad that the fire chief thought about taking all the firefighters out of the building.



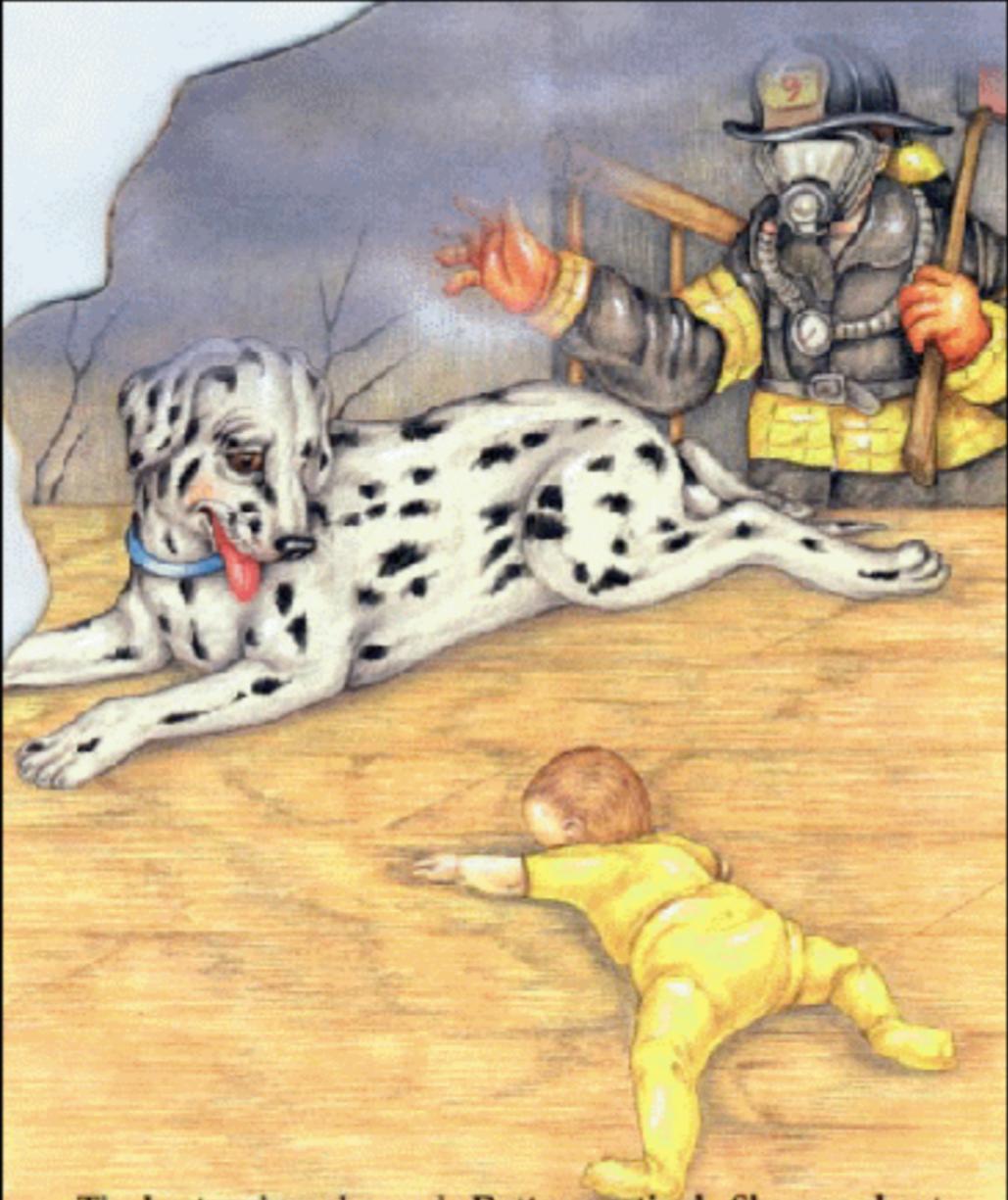
Then a mother screamed, "My baby! My baby! He is still on the top floor." Bob put on his safety mask and ran into the building. The smoke was getting thicker as he searched for the baby. Suddenly, a bell ringing on Bob's air tank told him his air supply was almost gone.



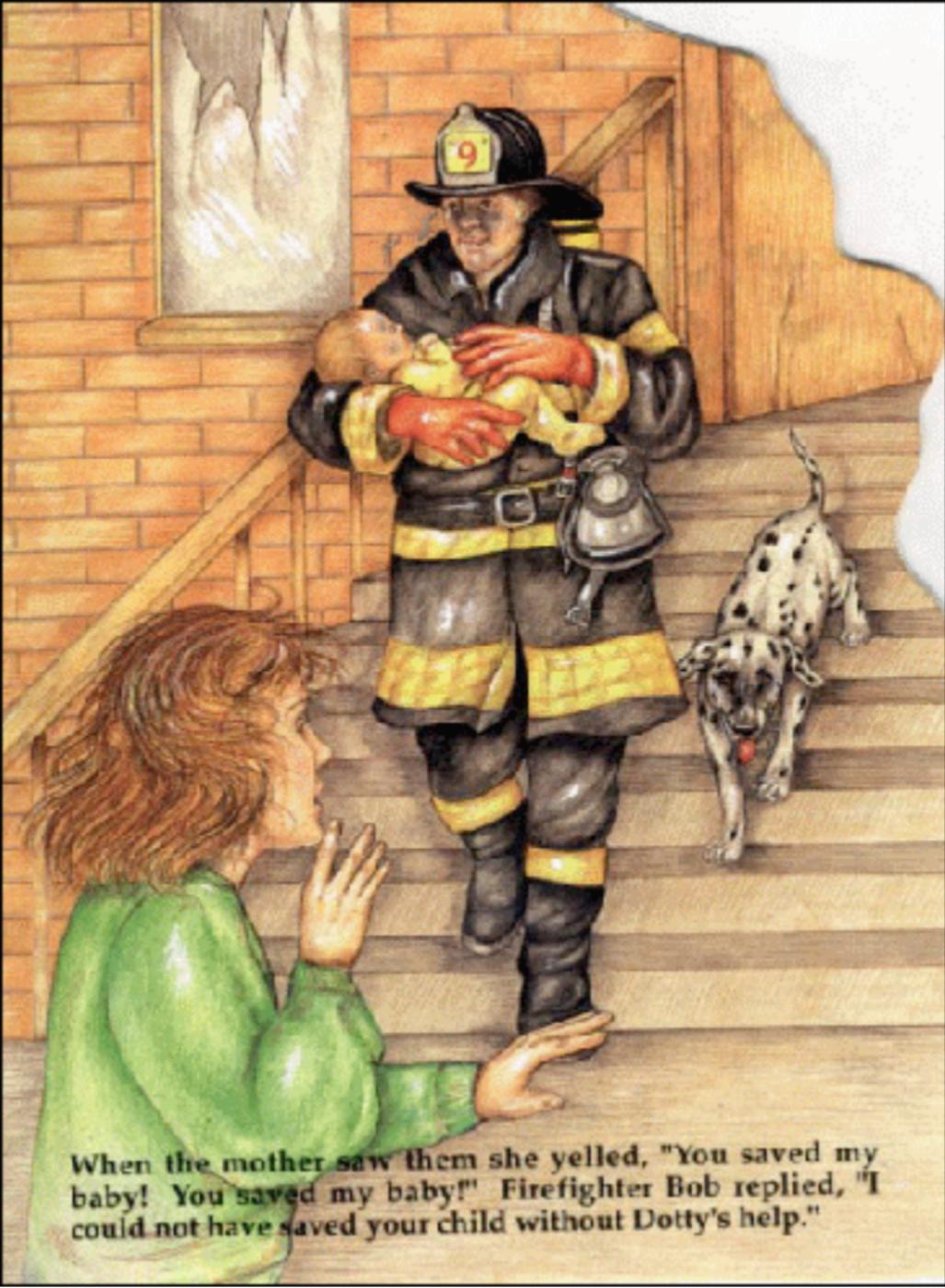
Firefighter Bob radioed down to the chief that he had not found the baby. When Dotty heard this, she jumped from the fire engine and ran into the building. The smoke was blinding and the fire was hot, as Dotty crawled on her stomach towards what she thought was the sounds of a crying baby.



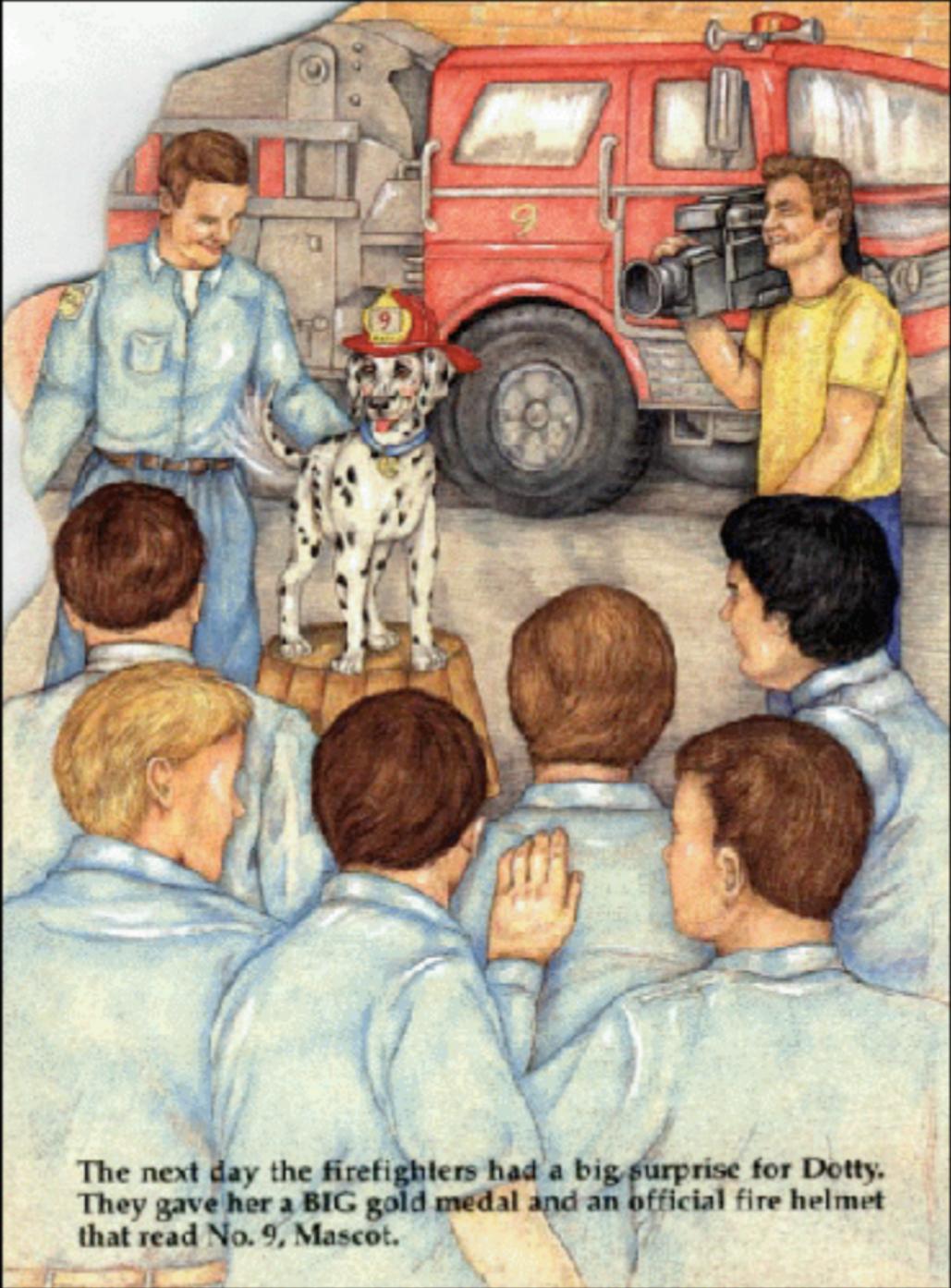
The walls were starting to crack from the heat as Dotty reached the top floor. She pushed open the door with her nose and found the baby curled up and crying. She picked him up and began carrying him down the stairs.



The heat and smoke made Dotty very tired. She was about to collapse when suddenly, firefighter Bob appeared. Bob picked up the baby and carried him out of the building with Dotty following behind.



When the mother saw them she yelled, "You saved my baby! You saved my baby!" Firefighter Bob replied, "I could not have saved your child without Dotty's help."

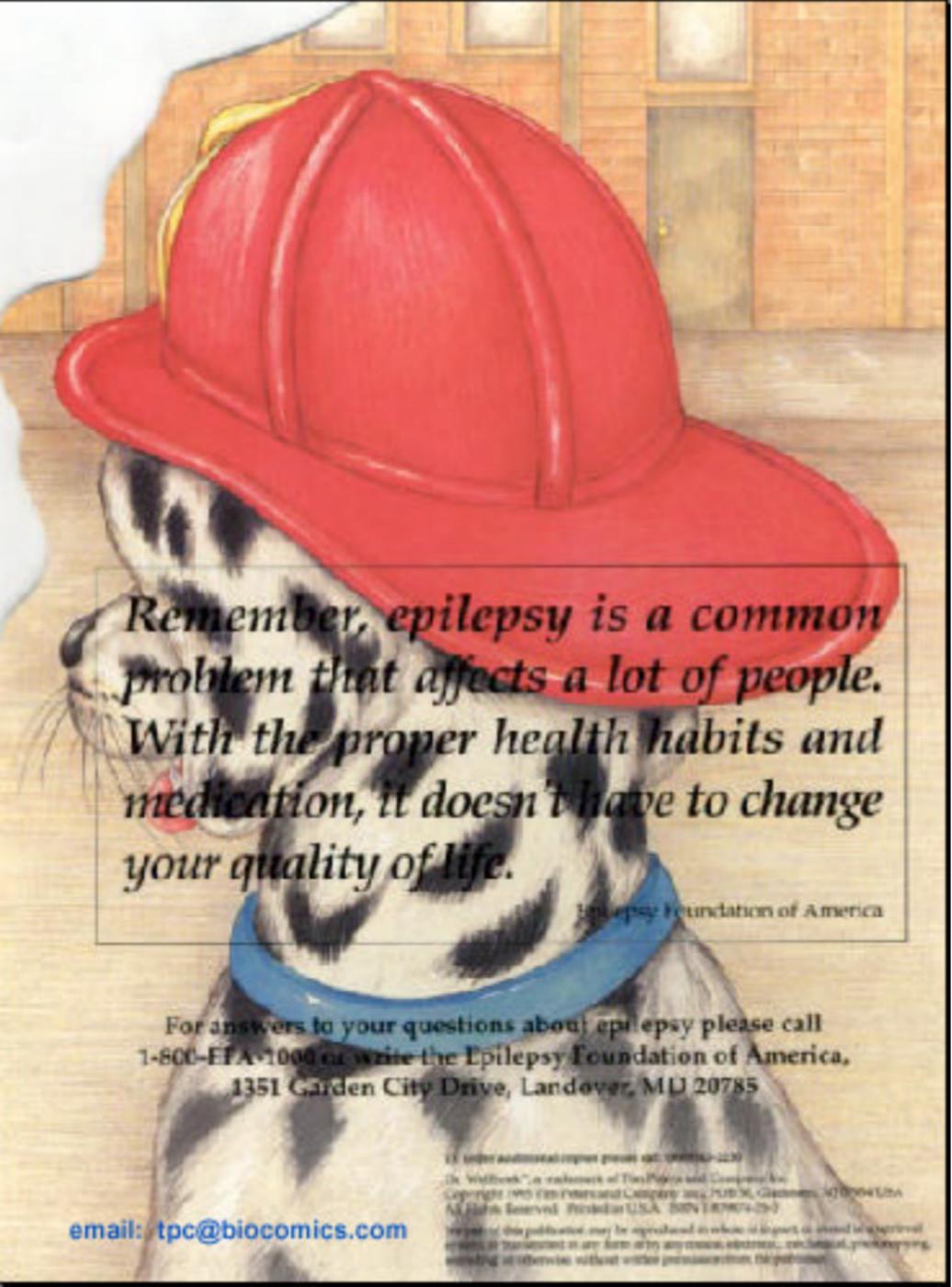


The next day the firefighters had a big surprise for Dotty. They gave her a BIG gold medal and an official fire helmet that read No. 9, Mascot.



Children and people of all ages can experience many different kinds of disorders. Some can even be life threatening. But like Dotty, these problems do not have to keep you from realizing your dreams.

Dr. Wellbook™



Remember, epilepsy is a common problem that affects a lot of people. With the proper health habits and medication, it doesn't have to change your quality of life.

Epilepsy Foundation of America

For answers to your questions about epilepsy please call
1-800-EFA-1000 or write the Epilepsy Foundation of America,
1351 Garden City Drive, Landover, MD 20785

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