

SIMON BARTRAM

BOB'S BEST
Ever FRIEND





It was a Tuesday morning in space
and nothing much was happening.

By ten o'clock, Bob, the **Man on the Moon**,
had finished all of his jobs for the day.

There were no space tourists to entertain and
his friends, Billy and Sam, were away on a day trip
to Pluto, visiting a most exciting pet show.
They hoped to see some alien animals there,
but Bob thought they'd be disappointed. After all,
everyone knows there's no such thing as aliens,
and especially not alien **animals**.

With nobody to talk to, Bob felt a little glum.
Then, at lunchtime, he even had to bounce on
his bouncy castle alone. And that had never,
but **never** happened before!

Quite frankly, Bob was a bit **lonely**.



The next day Bob didn't have to start work until the evening. So after some early star-jumps in the garden he cycled into town to do a spot of shopping.

Firstly, he had a quick peek around the modern art gallery. Then he bought two smallish batteries (to power his rocket), a smart pair of moon-patterned underpants (half price in the sale) and a newspaper (hot off the press).

The streets were busier than ever. Bob wondered how on earth anyone could hope to spot a best-ever friend in a place like **this!**



Bob had a good look around inside, but he couldn't see anything that looked like a best-ever friend.

To tell you the truth, some of the animals looked a little **odd** to him.

"oh well," sighed Bob to himself. "You can't rush these things."

His thoughts were interrupted by the chimes of the town clock. It was half past four – time for **tea!**



Bob welcomed the tourists with a free mini pork pie and a speech. Then he performed his thrilling moon-themed variety show and everyone went home happy.

Everyone, that is, except Bob, who was alone once more. Quietly, he packed away his props and began his weekly crater-count.

And that's when it happened!

There, popping out of crater 204, was a little furry tail. What could it be? The closer Bob got to it, the faster the tail wagged and then...

as if by magic...

something amazing shot out of the crater.

No one in the **whole** universe would have expected to see what Bob saw at that moment...

