

Jaromir Konecny_



#D@taDetectives

Robot in danger



TESSLOFF

#D@taDetectives

Cybercrime in the classroom!

We data detectives fight against bad guys and hackers who keep on trying to misuse our data, computers, smartphones and all our other technology. Join us on a cyber-adventure and you'll find out all about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics. Have fun reading this extract from the book!



· Babblebot ·

Babblebot is the cleverest and funniest talking robot in the world. Bad guys and criminals are no match for his superior artificial intelligence.



· Laurin ·

Laurin has all kinds of brilliant ideas – and he notices absolutely everything too. He's also very fond of Vicki – and Vicki's fond of him as well. But the two of them haven't discovered that just yet.



· Theo und Leo ·

Theo has a brilliant sense of direction – and he's also a big fan of computer games. He doesn't usually say much, but when he does, it's always really important. His dog, Leo, is at his side the whole time.



· Vicki ·

At school they call Vicki “the walking encyclopedia”. She knows nearly everything! In Vicki's Media she explains the digital world to us, telling us all about artificial intelligence and robots.



· Lina ·

Lina is a Kung Fu expert, and she not only defends herself but the data detectives as well. She and her robot, Brabbelbot, make a really powerful team.

#D@tadetectives

Robot in Danger

Contents

New classmates	8
Babblebot in distress	23
Babblebot's friends' club	35
Theo and Leo	41
Babblebot's enemies attack	45
Nothing but cursing in class	49
Blackhack	64
The kidnapping	76
The break-in	83
Suspicion	88
The plan	97
The raid	99
Back again	104
The discovery	108
The end is a new beginning	114



· Vicki's Media · Data



Data is information. Everything we see, hear, read, measure or otherwise experience. Most data is now stored and gathered in computers. With the help of artificial intelligence programs, we humans could evaluate this huge amount of data brilliantly – it could help us to cure diseases, stop climate change, save whales, and learn how to make the best ice cream in the world. If we're not too stupid about how we treat it, that is. These programs translate books, paint pictures, play chess and computer games, steer cars, control our robot Babblebot, and do lots more stuff. We just have to make sure that baddies don't use these programs against us. Unfortunately, thieves and hackers keep on trying to misuse our data, computers, smartphones and all our other technology, and to harm us in the process. And we're the ones who fight them. We're the Data Detectives. Lina, Laurin, Theo, Leo the lion-dog, Babblebot the robot, and me, Vicki. At school they call me the walking encyclopedia because I know everything. And that's why I'm writing one of my own – called "Vicki's Media".



New classmates

The classroom window was open and Laurin looked outside. He suddenly realized there was a big, black attack dog standing there on the pavement, its mouth hanging open, staring right back at him. Luckily, the animal had a lead attached to its collar. That reassured Laurin – until he noticed that the other end of it was lying loose on the pavement. Suddenly he heard a noise. What was it? Was there someone yelling at the end of the street?

“What if that dog jumps into our classroom?” thought Laurin. “We’re on the ground floor. Wow!” Should he close the window quickly? WHAM! Someone had just opened and slammed the door behind him. Laurin didn’t turn around though – he carried on staring at the terrible black dog. Suddenly something pinched his bum. Laurin turned around, startled. Oh... right! It was Theo, the boy who shared the desk with him. Theo never said much at all – if he wanted to show you anything, he’d always pinch you.



Or he’d nod at you. Sometimes he’d manage a whole week without producing a single complete sentence. Just a few words, if gestures weren’t enough. For example, Theo would say “choccies!” when he wanted to say “I’d like some chocolate ice cream, please.” Then again, Theo knew the exact number of steps of each staircase in his part of town, and he could recite the names of all the bus routes in town plus the names of the stops as well. Theo was also a Rubik’s cube world champion – it took him just eight seconds to solve. In Minecraft he’d already managed to create a computer and an elevator. But best of all - Theo had the whole of Google Maps in his head. Theo was basically Google Maps Live. That's why Theo's parents never needed a satnav.

Google Maps are the maps provided by the Internet search engine Google. When adults go on holiday by car, they type their destination into Google Maps and the program guides them there. That way, nobody can get lost. Apart from my dad, that is – he always does. With Google Maps as well as with all kinds of other navigation apps and devices.

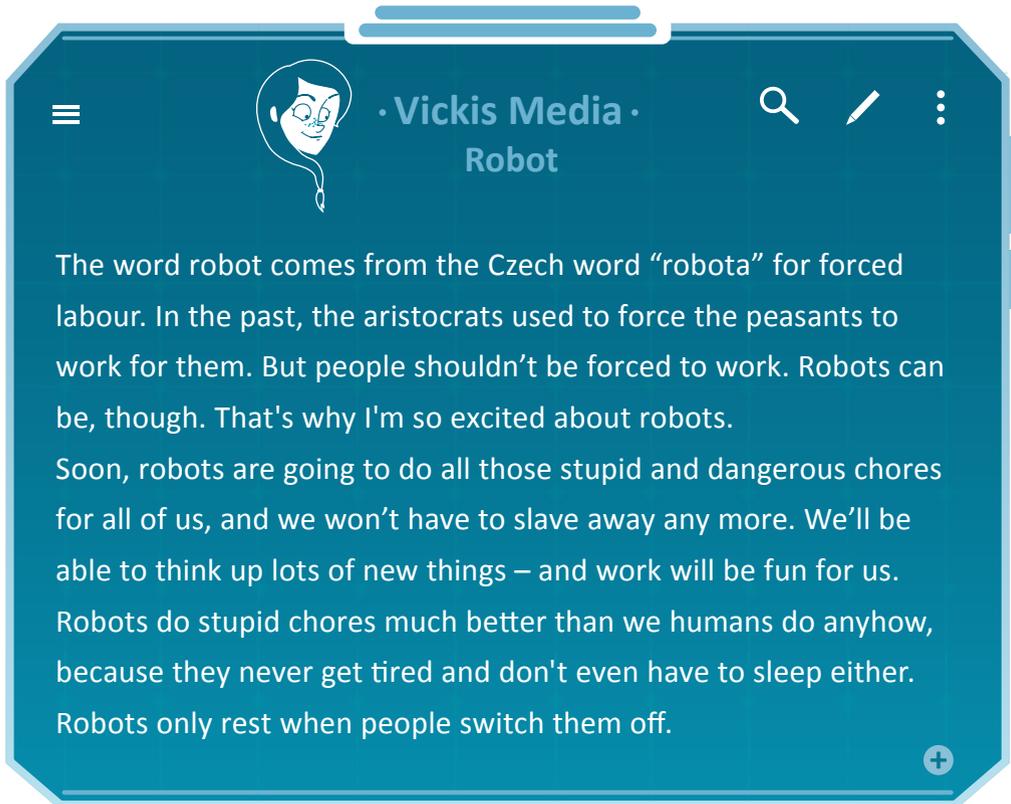
On a school trip to Berlin the previous year, just before the summer holidays, they lost Theo. Mrs Schnacklburger, the teacher, was really worried about Theo – she pulled so hard at her hair that she very nearly went bald. When the bus carrying the school class pulled up in front of the hotel in Berlin, Theo was there – already waiting for it. He'd got to the hotel faster on foot. Theo could always calculate the shortest route through a city in his head. Then again, he wasn't exactly brilliant when it came to tying shoelaces or eating with a knife and fork. Now Laurin looked at Theo – and Theo nodded across at the classroom door. Laurin looked as well – and froze: There was a robot standing in the doorway! He had a big head, and clunky-looking hands and feet. A man and a girl were standing beside him – they looked Asian. "Are you from Japan?" Vicki asked the three of them loudly.



Vicki was sitting in the first row, by the entrance. Today she was dressed in blue shorts and a white T-shirt with a blue whale on it. Vicki organized demonstrations against climate change. There were always pictures of animals on her T-shirts. Her long, blonde hair was bound into a braid. She had a pretty face with lots of little freckles, especially on her nose. Whenever you looked at Vicki, you got the feeling that summer had arrived. Vicki was typing a whole encyclopedia into her note-taking app. Vicki's Media, she called it. Whenever Mrs. Schnacklburger ran out of material in class, Vicki had to read something from Vicki's Media - she was the cleverest girl in the universe.

"I'm from China," said the man.

The little robot beside him looked big because the man from China was very small. The girl had two braids and a satchel on her back. So did the robot. No braids, that is, just a satchel. Laurin thought that was totally cool: a robot with a satchel!

A blue-themed interface for 'Vickis Media Robot'. At the top left is a hamburger menu icon. Next to it is a circular icon of a girl's face with a speech bubble. To the right of the icon is the text 'Vickis Media' and 'Robot' below it. Further right are icons for search, edit, and a vertical ellipsis. The main content area contains text about the word 'robot' and its origin. At the bottom right of the content area is a small plus sign icon.

· Vickis Media ·
Robot

The word robot comes from the Czech word “robota” for forced labour. In the past, the aristocrats used to force the peasants to work for them. But people shouldn’t be forced to work. Robots can be, though. That’s why I’m so excited about robots.

Soon, robots are going to do all those stupid and dangerous chores for all of us, and we won’t have to slave away any more. We’ll be able to think up lots of new things – and work will be fun for us.

Robots do stupid chores much better than we humans do anyhow, because they never get tired and don’t even have to sleep either. Robots only rest when people switch them off.

Laurin blinked and gave his leg a pinch – was he dreaming?
"It’s lucky that Mr. Moosburger, the headmaster, is teaching us today," he remembered. But Mr. Moosburger was staring at the unexpected visitors as well. Maybe he’d never seen a robot before – at least, not with a satchel on its back.

"Are you the headmaster?" the man from China asked him.

Mr. Moosburger continued to stare.

“You have to nod, Headmaster!” Vicki called out to him, and Mr. Moosburger nodded. Vicki helped the teachers whenever their thinking got a bit slow. The man from China beamed at him, and smiled.

“I want to enrol my daughter Lina and Babbblebot at your school,” he said.

"Babbblebrot?" asked Mr. Moosburger, puzzled.

"Bot!" Said Vicki. "Not brot, Headmaster."

“That’s right,” said the man from China.

Finally, Mr. Moosburger awoke from his stupor: "Who is Babbblebot?"

Vicki sighed: "Bab - ble - bot!"

“It doesn’t matter!” shouted the headmaster. "Who on earth is that supposed to be?"

"Just think about it, Headmaster," said Vicki. “Babble certainly derives from to babble, which means to talk too much, and bot is an abbreviation of the English word 'robot'. So Babbblebot is probably a robot that babbles.” Vicki shook her head. “It’s quite clear who Babbblebot is. There are no other robots here."

The man from China patted his robot’s arm: "Yes, that’s true, what the clever girl says."

"My name is Babbblebot," added the robot. “Learning to speak

is very quick when you speak a lot. That is why babies babble. When my artificial neural network learned to speak, I babbled a lot too. That's how I got my beautiful name Babblebot. "

"How cool is that?" said Theo, loudly.

Everyone turned to face him. Theo hadn't spoken as much as that for the past three days.

Babblebot continued to babble: "But I am also good at listening. I also take care of everything and know everything and my friends don't need to do a thing. I do everything for my friends. I can write homework for you..."

"The robot can sit next to me!" shouted Gangsta Gigi.

Gigi's real name was George. Anyone who called him George was immediately head-butted. Gigi and his mates Guido and Golo were notorious at the school – they were the notorious "Three Gs" gang. Gigi was the boss because he weighed 100 kilos – that made him the fattest and the strongest. The other pupils started shouting too:

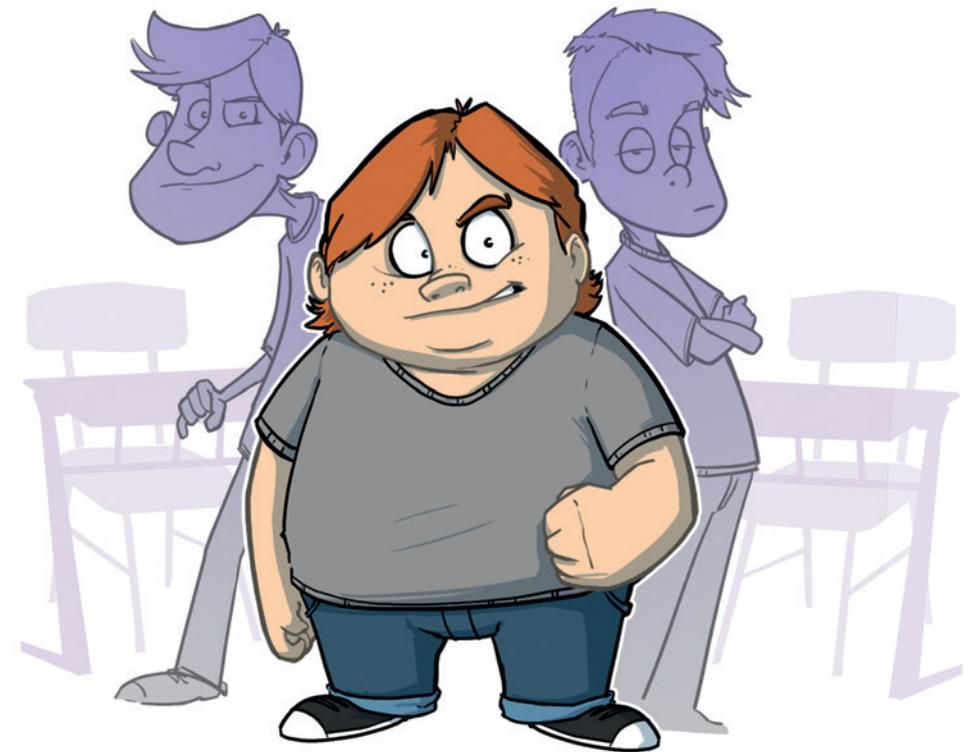
"I want Babblebot to sit next to me!"

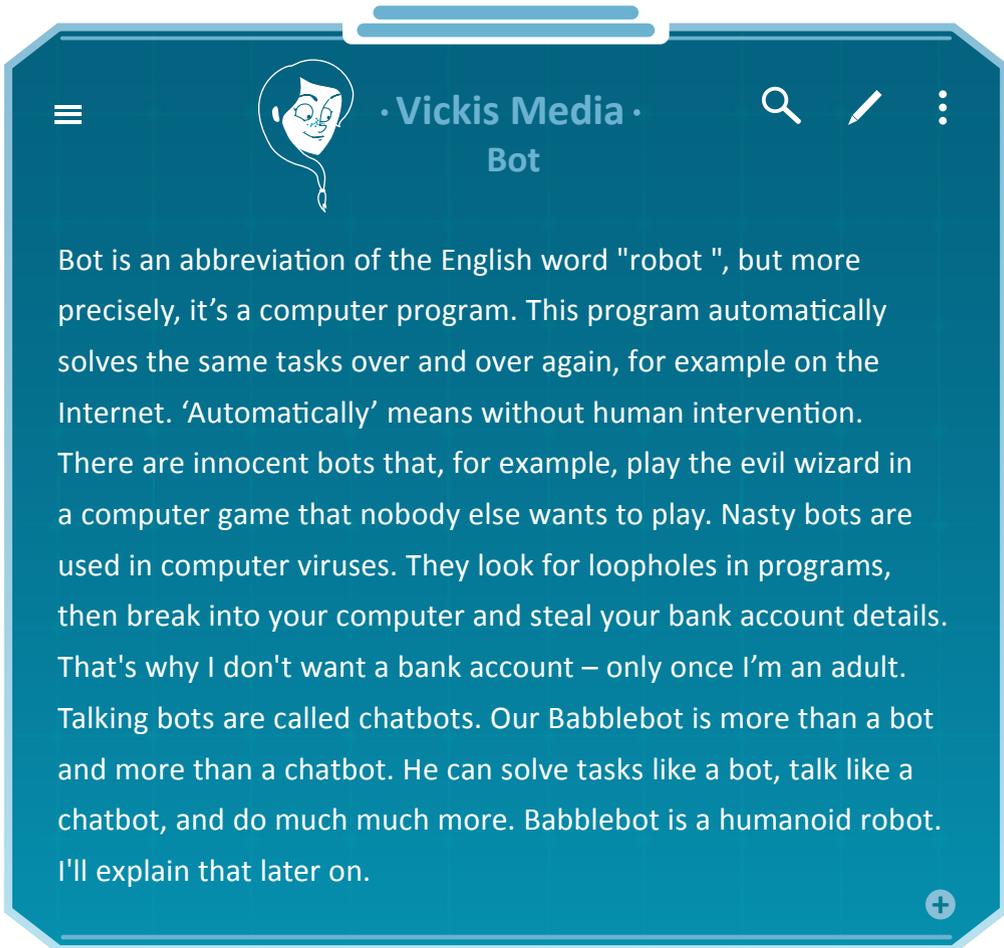
Gigi immediately showed them his fist: "Not next to you lot! No way! Next to me!"

"Shut-...", said Babblebot suddenly, but then his speech broke off. Laurin had seen the Chinese girl take her smartphone out

of her jeans pocket and tap on it. Had she stopped the robot from speaking? Had the robot been about to say something bad?

"Silence!" roared Mr. Moosburger the headmaster, banging his fist down hard on the teacher's desk. "Sit down, George!"





Bot is an abbreviation of the English word "robot ", but more precisely, it's a computer program. This program automatically solves the same tasks over and over again, for example on the Internet. 'Automatically' means without human intervention. There are innocent bots that, for example, play the evil wizard in a computer game that nobody else wants to play. Nasty bots are used in computer viruses. They look for loopholes in programs, then break into your computer and steal your bank account details. That's why I don't want a bank account – only once I'm an adult. Talking bots are called chatbots. Our Babblebot is more than a bot and more than a chatbot. He can solve tasks like a bot, talk like a chatbot, and do much much more. Babblebot is a humanoid robot. I'll explain that later on.

Gigi fell back onto his chair – and farted so loudly in the process that it drowned out the sound of the church bell ringing outside. The class exploded with laughter. George laughed the loudest.

“Silence!” yelled Mr. Moosburger once again. “Your daughter Lina can attend our school, of course. However, a robot has no place in a school. ”

"Babblebot is a very good pupil," said the man from China. “He is like a son to me. Why do you not want to teach him? ”

Mr. Moosburger stared at him in disbelief once again. Then he threw his hands up in the air: “Your Brabblebrot... er... Babblebot... er...”

“Babblebot”, Vicki helped him again. “It’s easy to remember if you just think of babbling and robot and...”

But the headmaster suddenly interrupted her: “Babbledash!” “You mean balderdash,” said Vicki.

Laurin got the feeling that the headmaster was about to howl like a wolf.

But Mr. Moosburger controlled himself. “Oh, rubbish!” he said. “A robot could be dangerous for the children.”

“Babblebot would never hurt any human,” said the man from China. “If he ever does anything different from what a human orders him to, all you have to do is press this button on the back his neck. That switches him off. “

But the headmaster kept on shaking his head.

“Come on, Papa!” said the little Chinese girl. “Let’s look for another school.”

She was as small as her father, and wore sneakers, red sweatpants, and a Kung-Fu Panda T-shirt with short sleeves.

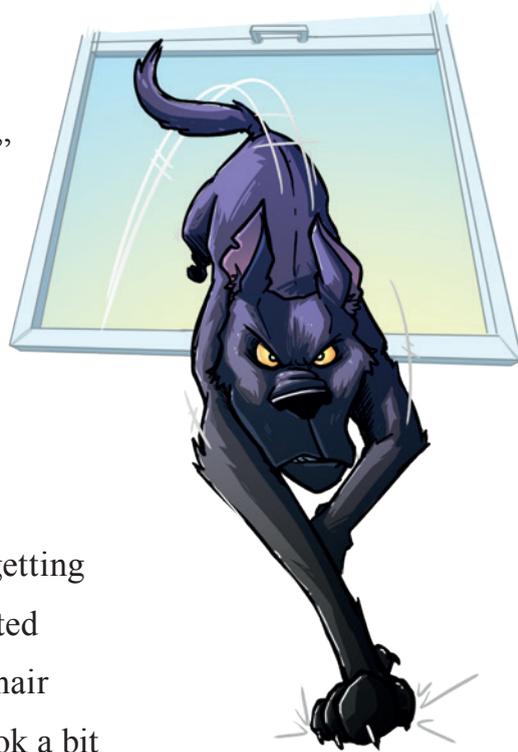
This was no normal school day, thought Laurin.

Suddenly there was a terrible barking sound – and unfortunately, it wasn’t being produced by the headmaster. It was coming from the open window.

Like everyone else, Laurin suddenly spun round.

“That attack dog from before?” thought Laurin.

AAAAGH! Something big and black flew into the classroom through the window. The black dog landed right next to Laurin and Theo's desk, pawing and getting ready to jump. The pupils started screaming. Mr. Moosburger's hair stood on end – making him look a bit like a giant upside-down toilet brush.



“Watch out!” There were men shouting outside. “The dog is dangerous! It escaped!”

“Don't run away from it!”

“Just stay completely still!”

“Babblebot!” cried the man from China. “You must render the dog harmless. He wants to hurt people.”

“Don't worry!” shouted Babblebot. “I can do Kung-Fu!”

With small but very quick steps, he went over to the big black dog. The dog stared at him - he’d certainly never seen a robot before either. Babblebot extended his left forearm. Suddenly the dog snapped out of its trance, gave a terrible bark, and bit the robot’s arm. Babblebot hit the dog’s nose hard with his right fist: THUMP! The dog slumped to the ground. The robot tossed the dog around and onto its back, and then lay down on top of it. By then, two tall men had already climbed over the windowsill into the classroom. One of them pointed a weird-looking gun at the dog and fired.

“All okay!” shouted the other man.

“Is the dog dead now?” asked Vicki. She liked animals.

“It’s only stunned,” said the other man.

The two men then dragged the dog out of the classroom.

Lina, the Chinese girl, ran over to Babblebot and checked his

arm for scratches. The children looked from the robot and Lina to Mr. Moosburger, then back to the robot and Lina, and then back to Mr. Moosburger again. The robot stood there - and smiled.

“Babblebot smiles a lot,” said Vicki.

“I’m usually in a good mood,” said the robot. “They built me with a smiling mouth. Ha, ha, ha...” Everyone in the class laughed.

“The robot can stay,” said Mr. Moosburger. “But for the time being, just for two weeks of trial lessons.”

He led the little man from China out of the door. “You’ll have to fill in a few forms.”

Then Mr. Moosburger turned back to the class: “Break time!” he called out, and then followed Lina’s father.

The children rushed over to Lina and Babblebot. Now they had someone in class who could protect them all. Little did they know that the robot was in much more danger than they were...

Gangsta Gigi shoved the children apart roughly: “Get outta my way, you pathetic losers!”

Lina looked at him with wide eyes. “What are you doing, potato head? Leave them alone!”

Gigi looked down at her angrily – but then left them alone.

He planted himself in front of Babblebot and wanted to do the universe’s most complicated handshake with him - the famous Three Gs handshake. The Three Gs had been using YouTube videos to develop it for weeks now. But Babblebot just stared at him.

“A robot takes a long time to learn every single new movement, noodle head,” said Lina.

Gigi ground his teeth, but then decided to let the little girl get away with this insult too. Gigi was after Babblebot, so he had to get along with Lina, thought Laurin to himself, but he still felt concerned about Lina.

After school, Laurin was the first to leave the building. In the schoolyard, he took his juggling balls out of his rucksack. When he looked through the glass doors and saw that the girls from his class were approaching the exit, he casually started doing his special program of juggling tricks. He’d spent several weeks practicing just to impress Vicki, and now knew five different routines. Today he wanted Vicki to be really amazed.

Vicki and Marie came out of the school, chatting away.

Probably about Babblebot. Laurin started juggling like a world

champion. He glanced at the girls out of the corner of his eye: were they starting to admire him yet? But they passed him by without giving him a single glance! Well, great!! He'd been practicing for weeks and now nobody had even noticed. Frustrated, Laurin put the juggling balls back into his backpack, and walked over to his bike. When he got there, he received a chat message from Vicki: "That was really cool. Could you teach me to juggle too? How about picking me up at my place at 4pm?" Laurin swore to himself that he'd learn at least one hundred more juggling tricks by then.



· Vicki Media ·
Jaromir Konecny



Jaromir Konecny, born in Prague, is an author, stage performer, artificial intelligence speaker and natural scientist, and currently a lecturer in artificial intelligence at the SRH Fernhochschule and the Spiegel Akademie. He was vice-champion twice in the German-speaking Poetry Slam Championships, and has won over 150 poetry slams in Central Europe. His children's book "Doctor Games" was filmed by 20th Century Fox and ran successfully in cinemas. Jaromir Konecny has written around 20 books for young people and children as well as books for adults.

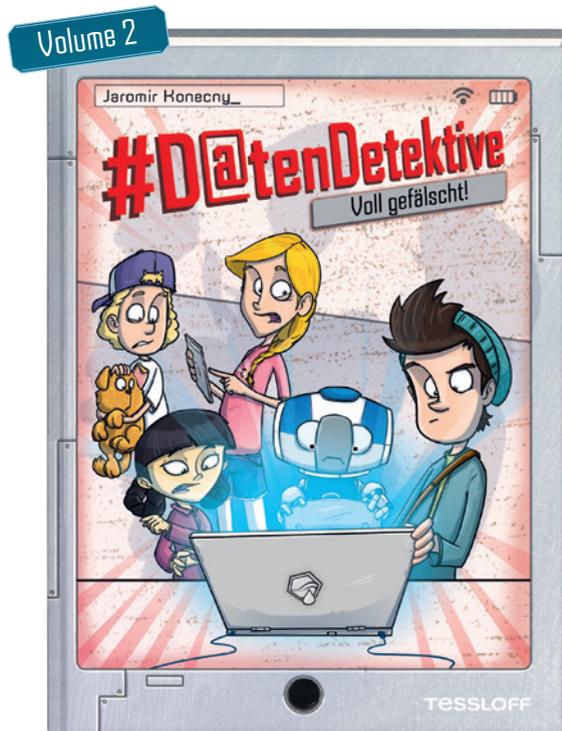


Marek Bláha

Marek Bláha, born in the Czech town of Sokolov in 1982, graduated in media design in 2009 and has worked as a freelance illustrator for games, books and cartoons ever since. Marek Bláha lives with his family in Offenbach am Main, Germany.



Also published:



Vol. 2 Totally fake!

Don't believe everything you see!

Laurin and his classmates are eagerly awaiting an English film that is about to begin. But then something unexpected happens: Golo, one of the three school gangstas, appears on the screen - as a singing and dancing ballerina! Now he's the laughing-stock of the entire school. What's this all about? Then to cap it all, Blackhack, the mysterious hacker, gets in touch.

For the Data Detectives and Babblebot the robot, one thing is certain:
They have to help Golo.

A new case for Vicki, Laurin, Lina, Theo and of course Babblebot –
the **#D@tadetective!**