

Tekst 8

Take My Kidney, Please

based on an article by Sally Satel

- 1 She stole his heart so he gave her his kidney. And now he wants it back. So goes the story of 49-year-old Long Island physician Richard Batista and his estranged wife. Batista gave one of his kidneys to Dawnell, 44, who had suffered from kidney disease for many years. According to the *NY Daily News*, he said that Dawnell initiated an affair with her physical therapist two years later. She then filed for divorce to end their 15-year marriage. "I saved her life," Batista told the *Daily News*. "But the pain is unbearable." At a news conference, Dr. Batista's lawyer said his client was demanding return of the kidney or \$1.5 million (its estimated worth).
- 2 It is not difficult to sympathize with Dr. Batista, who is having an extreme form of donor remorse. While the vast majority of donors report a lasting feeling of self-worth and experience a deep sense of gratification from the act — according to surveys, about 95 percent of donors say they would do it again — some regret having donated. It may be that a hoped-for closeness with the recipient failed to materialize, an anticipated demonstration of gratitude was not forthcoming, or the donor felt he did not get the social recognition he deserved. For Dr. Batista, the betrayal he felt led to outrage and a demand for restitution. But it is easy to get carried away with the 'comic potential' connected to the Batista drama. Should pre-nuptial agreements now specify the fate of a kidney given during the marriage? Should human organs be counted as marital assets like bank accounts and property?
- 3 The dark side of organ donation was laid bare with the Dutch television program *The Big Donor Show* (2007). In the show a terminally ill woman, Lisa, was to select which of three needy contestant-patients would receive one of her kidneys after she died. To international relief, the show was a hoax. As Lisa was about to announce her choice, viewers learned that she was really an actress, not a cancer patient looking for a worthy recipient. Lisa and the potential recipients, all of whom were real people in need of kidney transplants and aware of the show's deception, were part of an enactment to dramatize the shortage of transplantable organs.
- 4 The Batista tale touches the same issues highlighted on *The Big Donor Show*. There are now over 100,000 Americans waiting for a new kidney, liver, heart or lungs. Kidney patients represent more than three-fourths of the national waiting list, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing. Only one in four people on the list will get a kidney transplant this year. The rest will have to make do with dialysis while their names crawl to the top of the list, an ordeal that can take five to eight years in big cities, which often proves to be too long.



- 5 Last year 6,000 people gave a kidney to a loved one — the lowest number since 2000. Policy makers must face the fact that altruism¹⁾ alone isn't enough. The government should devise a safe, regulated system in which would-be donors are offered incentives to donate a kidney. The sick person would not personally reward the donor; rather the government would provide the benefit, perhaps a tax credit or lifelong health insurance. It has never been strictly forbidden for the government to use incentives to encourage organ donation, even though organ brokering and direct patient-donor payments are illegal.
- 6 Which brings us back to the Batistas. Within hours of Dr. Batista's news conference, his story was making international tabloid headlines. But if this episode is to serve any purpose greater than satisfying our inevitable thirst for the scandalous, we need policy makers willing to press for reforms in transplant policy that can bring hope and life to thousands in need.

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noot 1 altruism: unselfish concern for other people's happiness and welfare

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- 1p **25** How does the writer introduce the subject of the article in paragraph 1?
A By making fun of an extraordinary situation loosely related to the subject.
B By outlining a true and somewhat grim tale related to the subject.
C By revealing her personal experience in matters related to the subject.
D By warning the reader against the unpleasant details related to the subject.
- 2p **26** “an extreme form of donor remorse” (alinea 2)
Geef van elk van de onderstaande citaten uit alinea 2 aan of deze wel of niet het gevolg van deze zware vorm van spijt beschrijft.
1 “a lasting feeling of self-worth”
2 “a hoped-for closeness with the recipient failed to materialize”
3 “the donor felt he did not get the social recognition he deserved”
4 “outrage and a demand for restitution”
Noteer het nummer van elk citaat, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.

- 1p **27** What do the two questions at the end of paragraph 2 suggest?
- A** Donating an organ to your marriage partner can ruin your relationship.
 - B** Married couples should avoid problems with organ donation at all costs.
 - C** Most married people fail to draw up a contract on donation in time.
 - D** Viewing organ donation as a marital business arrangement is ridiculous.
- “The dark side of organ donation” (paragraph 3)
- 1p **28** Which of the following does this refer to, judging from paragraphs 3 and 4?
- A** Many people who need a new organ ultimately do not receive one.
 - B** Only one of the potential recipients in the show was eventually given help.
 - C** Sick people are often taken advantage of just to attract a big audience.
 - D** The show’s viewers were tricked into believing the contest was for real.
- 1p **29** Which of the following reflects the main point of paragraph 5?
- A** The government might increase the number of organ donations by offering higher salaries to medical experts.
 - B** The government must guarantee that it will remain impossible to get huge financial gains from organ donation.
 - C** The government ought to introduce measures to make organ donation a more attractive option.
 - D** The government should lawfully try to make some profit from international organ donations.

Een auteur kan verschillende manieren gebruiken om de lezers te overtuigen, zoals:

- 1 de eigen mening naar voren brengen
 - 2 de meningen van deskundigen in twijfel trekken
 - 3 de positieve effecten van bepaalde keuzes benadrukken
 - 4 met voorbeelden de feitelijke situatie verduidelijken.
- 2p **30** Geef van elk van deze manieren aan of de auteur deze wel of niet gebruikt in het artikel.
Noteer het nummer van elke manier, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.