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opening extract from

Avocado Baby

written by

John Burningham

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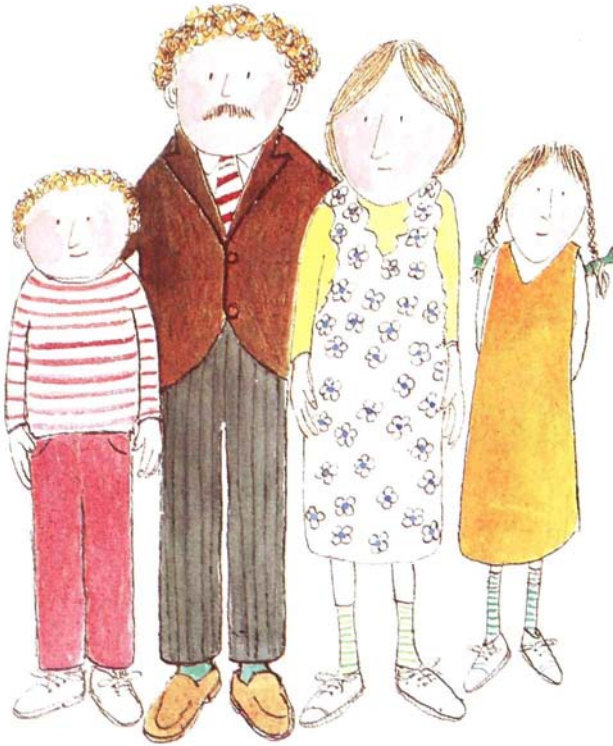
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Mr and Mrs Hargraves and their two children were not very strong. Mrs Hargraves was expecting another baby, and they all hoped it would not be as weak as they were.

The new baby was born and all the family were very pleased. Mr and Mrs Hargraves brought the baby home and it grew but, as they feared, it did not grow strong. Mrs Hargraves found feeding the baby difficult. It did not like food or want to eat much.




TELEGRAM









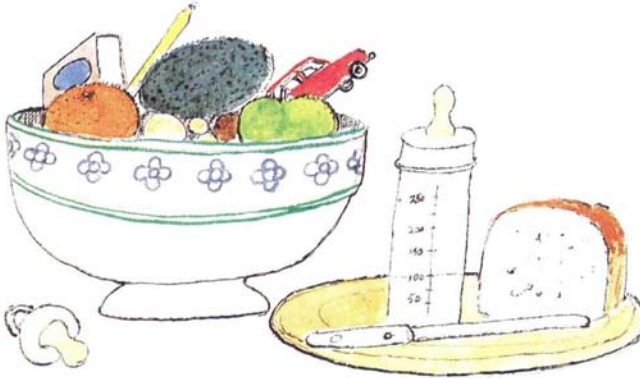




"Whatever can I do," wailed Mrs Hargraves.
"The baby doesn't like eating anything I make and it looks so weak."
"Why don't you give it that avocado pear?" said the children.



In the fruit bowl on the table there was an avocado pear. Nobody knew how it had got there because the Hargraves never bought avocados. Mrs Hargraves cut the pear in half, mashed it and gave it to the baby, who ate it all up.
From that day on an amazing thing happened. The baby became very strong.





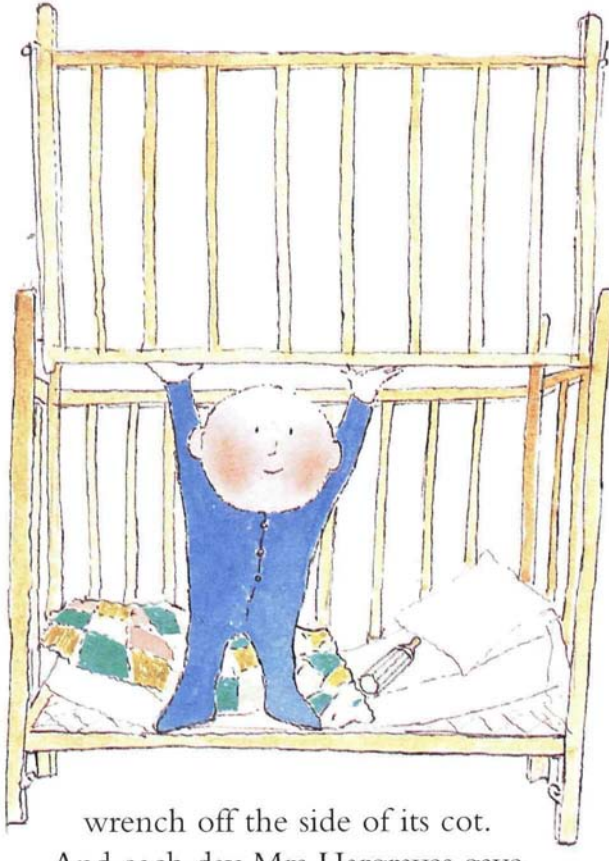
It was getting so strong it could

break out from
the straps on its
high chair,





pull other children uphill in a cart,



wrench off the side of its cot.
And each day Mrs Hargraves gave
the baby avocado pear.