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## Opening extract from Charley's First Night

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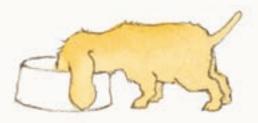
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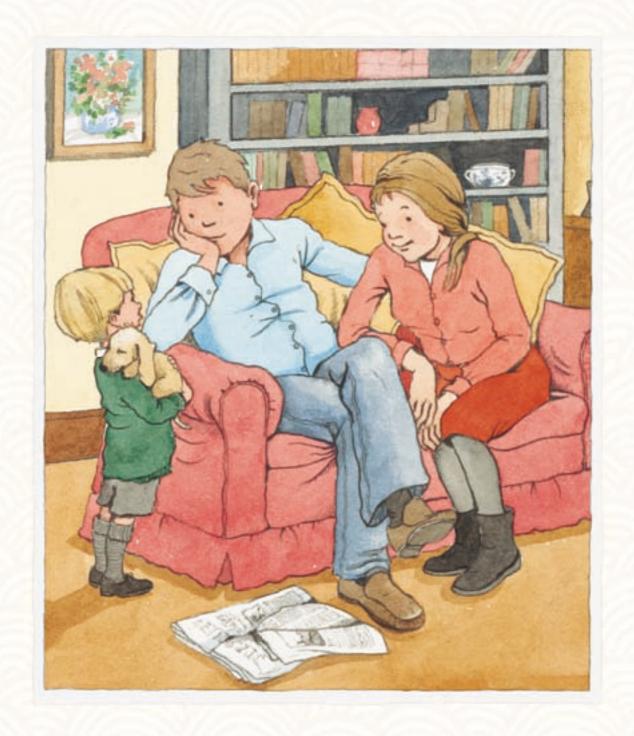


My mother (Mrs Korn) and my father (Mr Korn) were pretty clear about who would be in charge of walking Charley. (I would be in charge of walking Charley, they said, and I couldn't wait to walk Charley every day for ever.) They were pretty clear about who would be in charge of feeding Charley.

(I would be in charge of feeding Charley, they said, and I couldn't wait to feed



Charley every day for ever.)



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They were also pretty clear about where Charley would be sleeping. (Charley would be sleeping in the kitchen, they said, and I thought about Charley in the kitchen, alone every night for ever.)

"Charley wants to sleep in my room," I said.

"Charley will be sleeping in the kitchen," they said.



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We fixed up a pillow-bed for Charley in the kitchen, under the table where the heat comes up, and I put my old bear, Bobo, in the pillow-bed for Charley and I thought about how I used to sleep with Bobo every night. I put my small red clock between Charley and Bobo - tick-tock-tick-tock -



like another little heartbeat in the night.