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Opening extract from

Charley's First Night

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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.



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