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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.





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.

