







Janet & Allan Ahlberg

Mrs 
Wobble 
the  Waitress 



A favourite **HAPPY FAMILIES** story

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Mrs Wobble was a waitress.
She liked her work.
The customers liked her.
The only trouble was – she wobbled.

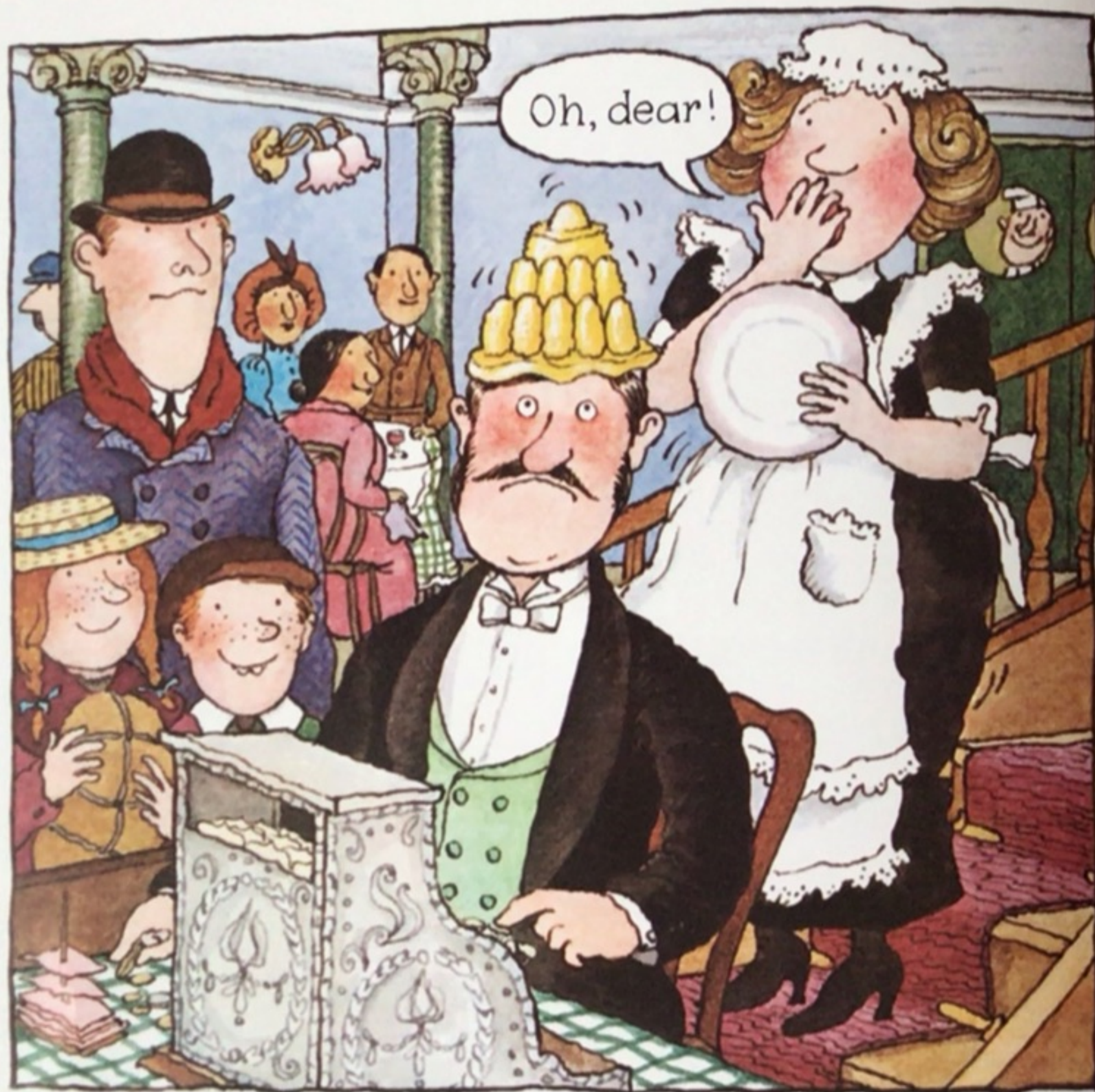


One day Mrs Wobble wobbled
with a bowl of soup.
The soup landed on a
customer's dog.
Mrs Wobble got told off.



The next day Mrs Wobble wobbled
with a roast chicken.
The roast chicken landed
on a customer's head.
Mrs Wobble got told off again.





The next day Mrs Wobble wobbled
with a plate of jelly.
The jelly landed on the
manager's head.
Mrs Wobble got the sack.

Mrs Wobble went home to her family.
Mr Wobble cooked her tea.
The children tried to cheer her up.
"Cheer up, Ma!" they said.
"You will find another job –
in another café!"



But there were no other cafés.
That was the only one in the town.
Mrs Wobble knew this.
“There are no other cafés,”
she said.
And she began to cry.



The children did not like
to see their mother cry.
It made them cry.
It made their father cry too.

Then Mr Wobble had an idea.
“I know what we can do,” he said.
“We can open a café of our own.”



“Where?” said Mrs Wobble.
“Where?” said Miss Wobble.
“Where?” said Master Wobble.
“Here!” said Mr Wobble.
“We can turn the house into a café!”



The next day the Wobble family
turned their house into a café.
They cleaned and painted.



They moved the chairs
and tables around.
They changed the curtains.



Mr Wobble went shopping.
He bought meat and vegetables,
fruit and fish,
cheese and chicken,
flour and a few other things.

The children went shopping too.
They bought two pairs of roller-skates
and a fishing net.
“What are those for?” said Mr Wobble.
“It’s a surprise, Pa,”
the children said.
“You wait and see!”



In the evening Mrs Wobble made waiter's clothes for her children, and a cook's hat for her husband.

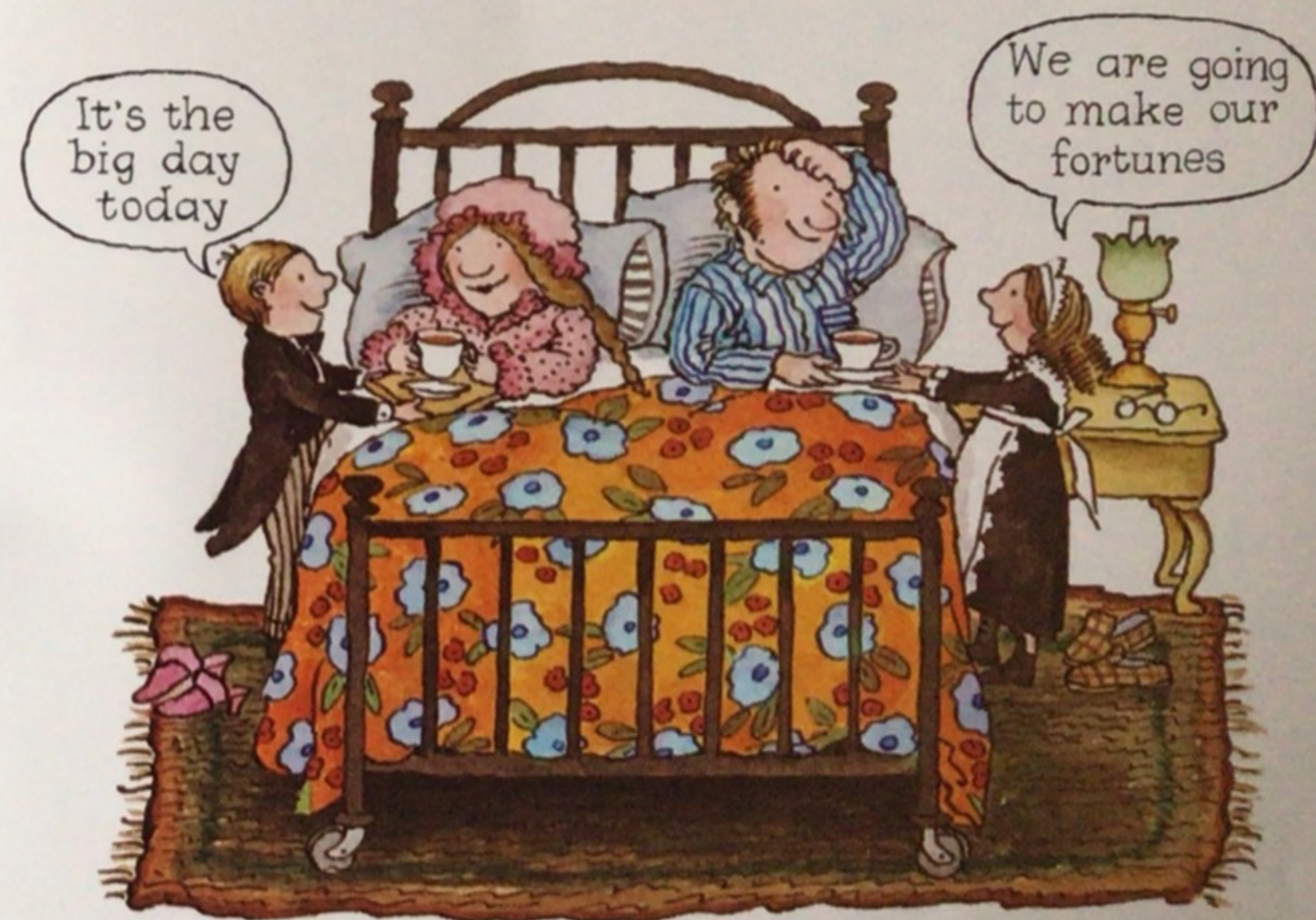


Mr Wobble and the children made the menus.

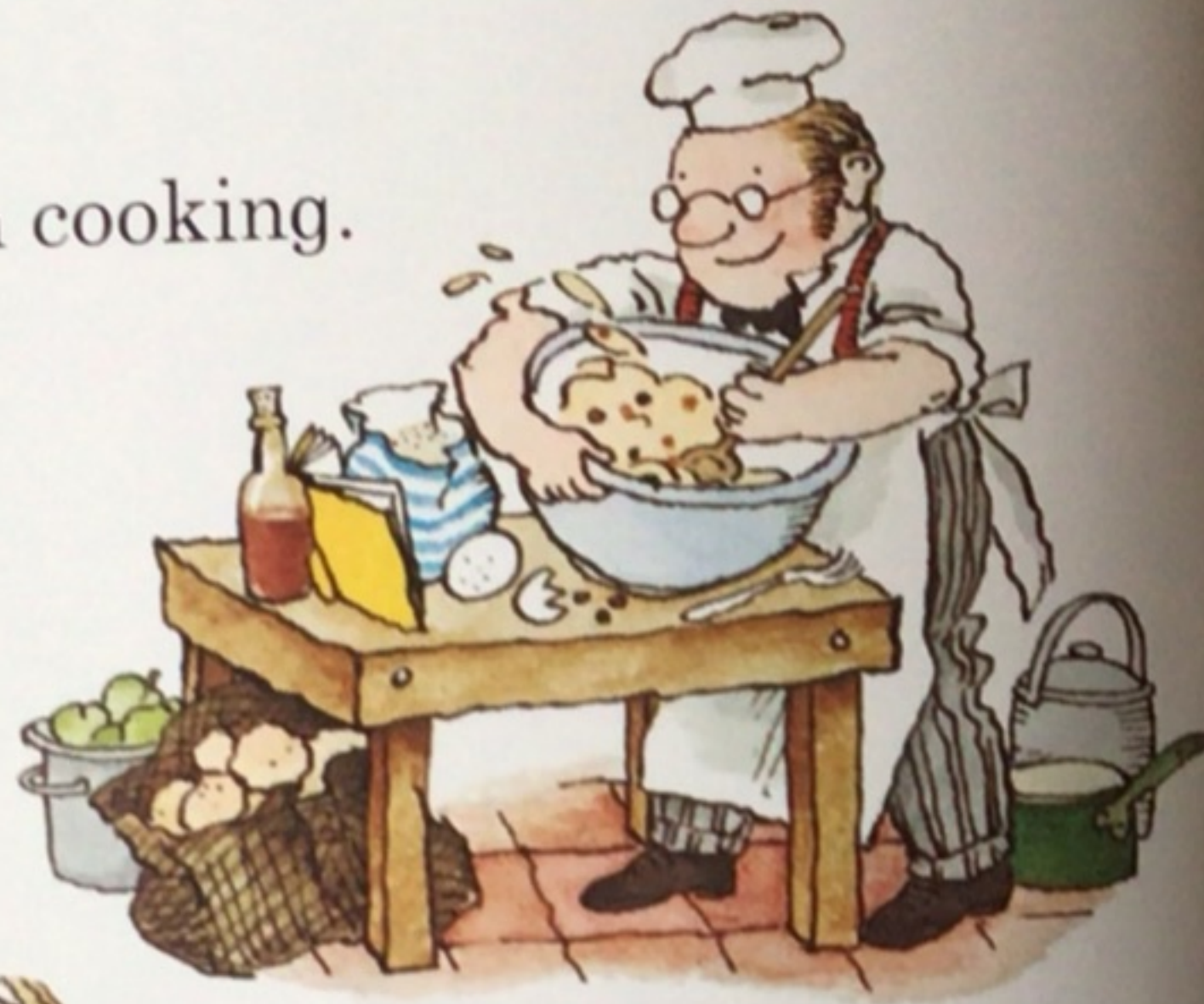


The children went to bed.
Mr and Mrs Wobble stepped outside.
They looked at their new café.
“It’s the big day, tomorrow,”
Mr Wobble said.
“We are going to make our fortunes.”
“Yes,” said Mrs Wobble.
“The only trouble is –
what if I wobble?”

The next day the children woke up early.
“It’s the big day, today, Ma,”
Master Wobble said.
He gave his mother
a cup of tea in bed.
Miss Wobble gave her father
a cup of tea in bed.
“We are going to make our fortunes
today, Pa,” she said.



After breakfast
Mr Wobble began cooking.



Mrs Wobble
and Miss Wobble
laid the tables.

Master Wobble
went round the town
with a sandwich-board.



The first customers arrived.
"Oh dear," said Mrs Wobble.
"What if I . . . ?"



Mrs Wobble wobbled
with a bowl of soup.
"Help!" said the customer.
Miss Wobble skated to the rescue.
She caught the soup in another bowl.
"That's clever!" the customer said.

Mrs Wobble wobbled
with a roast chicken.
“Wow!” said the customer.
Master Wobble skated to the rescue.
He caught the roast chicken
in a net.

“Hooray!” the customer said.



Then all the other customers cheered.
“Hooray, hooray!”
“This is more fun than a circus!”
they said.





That night Mrs Wobble counted the money.
“It looks like a fortune to us, Ma,”
the children said.
Mr Wobble gave them a hug.
“And we owe it all to the
famous juggling waiters!” he said.

The next day there was a big crowd
in the street.
The people had come from miles around
to see the famous juggling waiters.





The children peeped out.
“There’s a big crowd in the
street, Ma,” they said.
“Yes,” said Mrs Wobble.
And she began to laugh.
“Now the only trouble is –
what if I *don’t* wobble?”

The End

Mrs Wobble LOVES her job as a waitress but,
oh dear, there's one BIG problem – she wobbles!!



And when she wobbles and drops jelly *everywhere*
it's time for a new job! Luckily Mr Wobble
and the Wobble children have a clever plan . . .

A hilarious **HAPPY FAMILIES** picture book
from Janet and Allan Ahlberg



*'The Ahlbergs belong, with A. A. Milne and Lewis Carroll,
to the greatest tradition of children's books' – SUNDAY TIMES*

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