

# A Mushroom Walk

by Jenny Phillips



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



“Martha! Otto!” Mom called me and my twin brother, Otto. “Let’s go on a mushroom walk.”  
We left our farmhouse in the Black Forest, Germany.

The morning sun slanted across the hills and valleys as we walked on a little dirt path. Mom took our hands. “I’ve told you before that some mushrooms are delicious and healthy, but some are very dangerous.”





“Today I am going to start teaching you how to know which mushrooms are safe.”



We entered the cool, quiet forest. A little brook gurgled over mossy rocks. Mom continued talking to us.

“Today, I also want to teach you about another kind of safety—sexual abuse safety.”



“What is sexual abuse?” Otto asked.

“That is when someone touches the private parts of your body or takes pictures of you naked. Things like that,” Mom explained.



“Does that really happen?” I asked.  
We paused by a tree to watch a squirrel scamper around the branches.  
“Yes,” said Mom, “unfortunately.  
The Bible teaches us how wrong it is to harm a child in any way, but sometimes people make really wrong decisions.”



“Often it can even be people you know. So, I want to teach you some important things.”

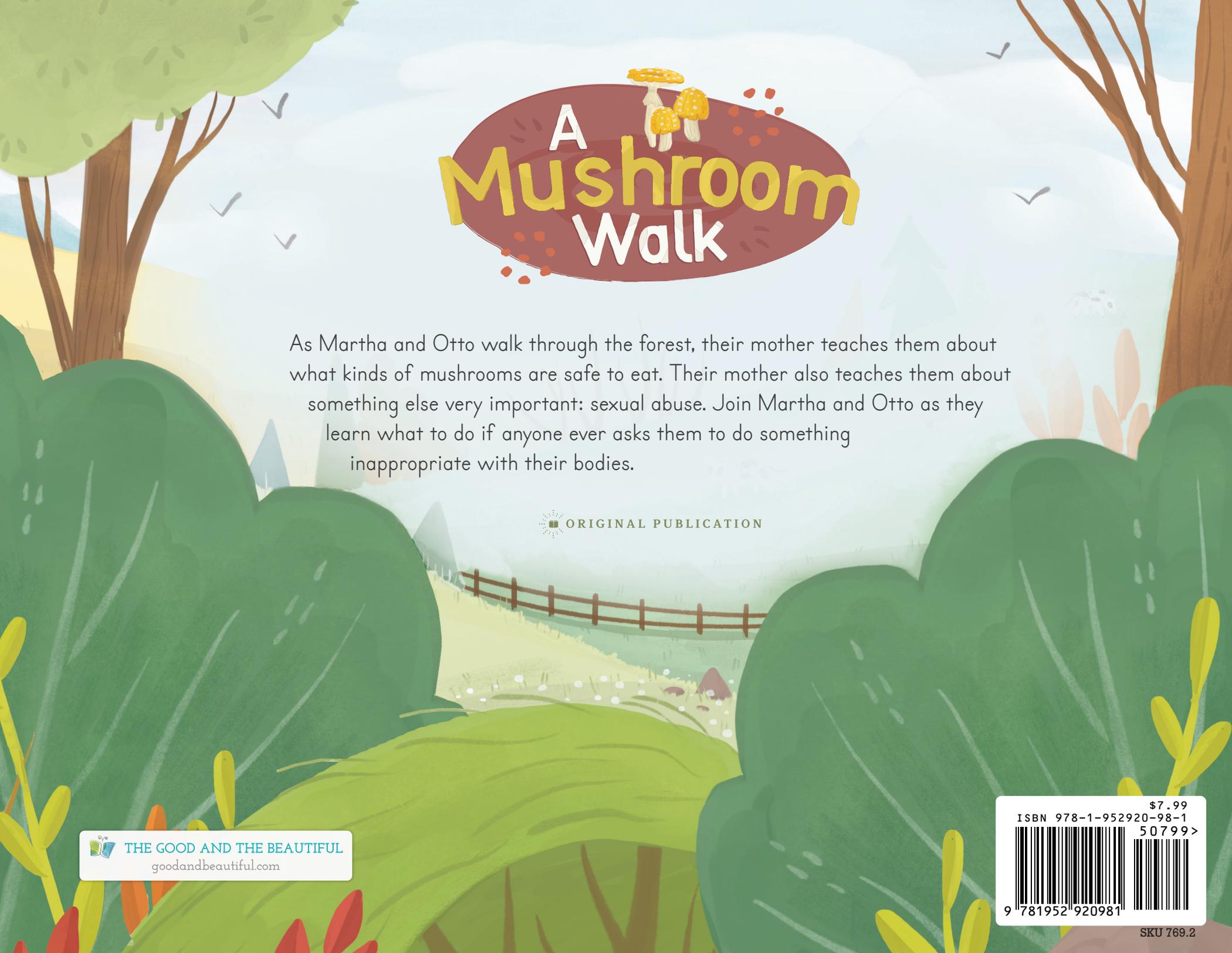
I reached up for Mom's hand again.

"Thank you so much for teaching us and wanting us to be safe, Mom!"

Mom squeezed my hand. "Oh, look," she said, kneeling down. "These mushrooms are delicious and totally safe."

We helped her pick them and put them in her basket.





# A Mushroom Walk

As Martha and Otto walk through the forest, their mother teaches them about what kinds of mushrooms are safe to eat. Their mother also teaches them about something else very important: sexual abuse. Join Martha and Otto as they learn what to do if anyone ever asks them to do something inappropriate with their bodies.

 ORIGINAL PUBLICATION

 THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL  
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\$7.99  
ISBN 978-1-952920-98-1  
50799 >



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SKU 769.2



# THE TURN AWAY GAME

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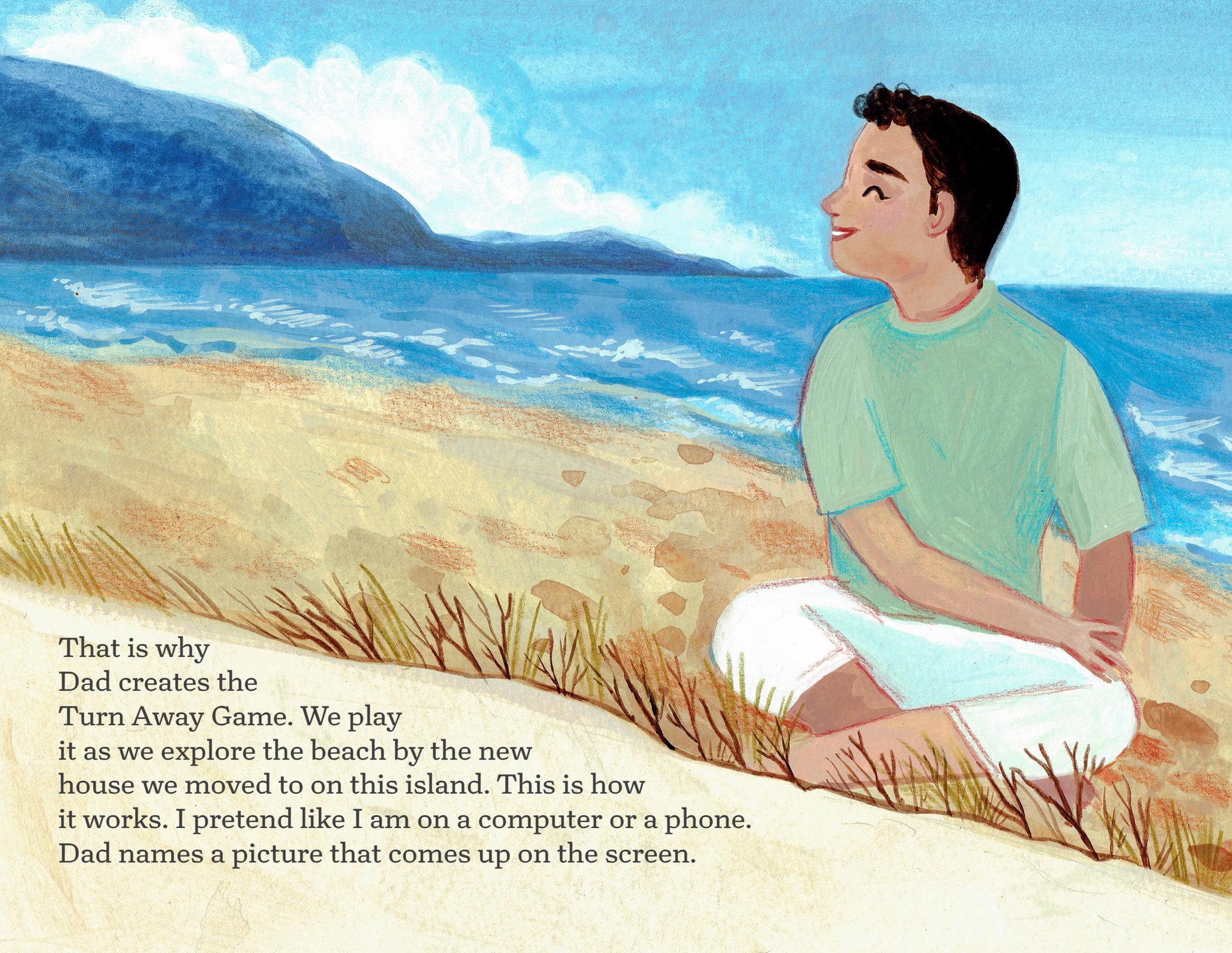
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“Every person is sacred and special,” Dad says.  
“We show respect by covering the private parts of  
our body when we are around people we are not  
married to.”



I did not know that it was okay for married people to see each other naked, but Dad says that it is a holy, beautiful, and good thing.





That is why  
Dad creates the  
Turn Away Game. We play  
it as we explore the beach by the new  
house we moved to on this island. This is how  
it works. I pretend like I am on a computer or a phone.  
Dad names a picture that comes up on the screen.



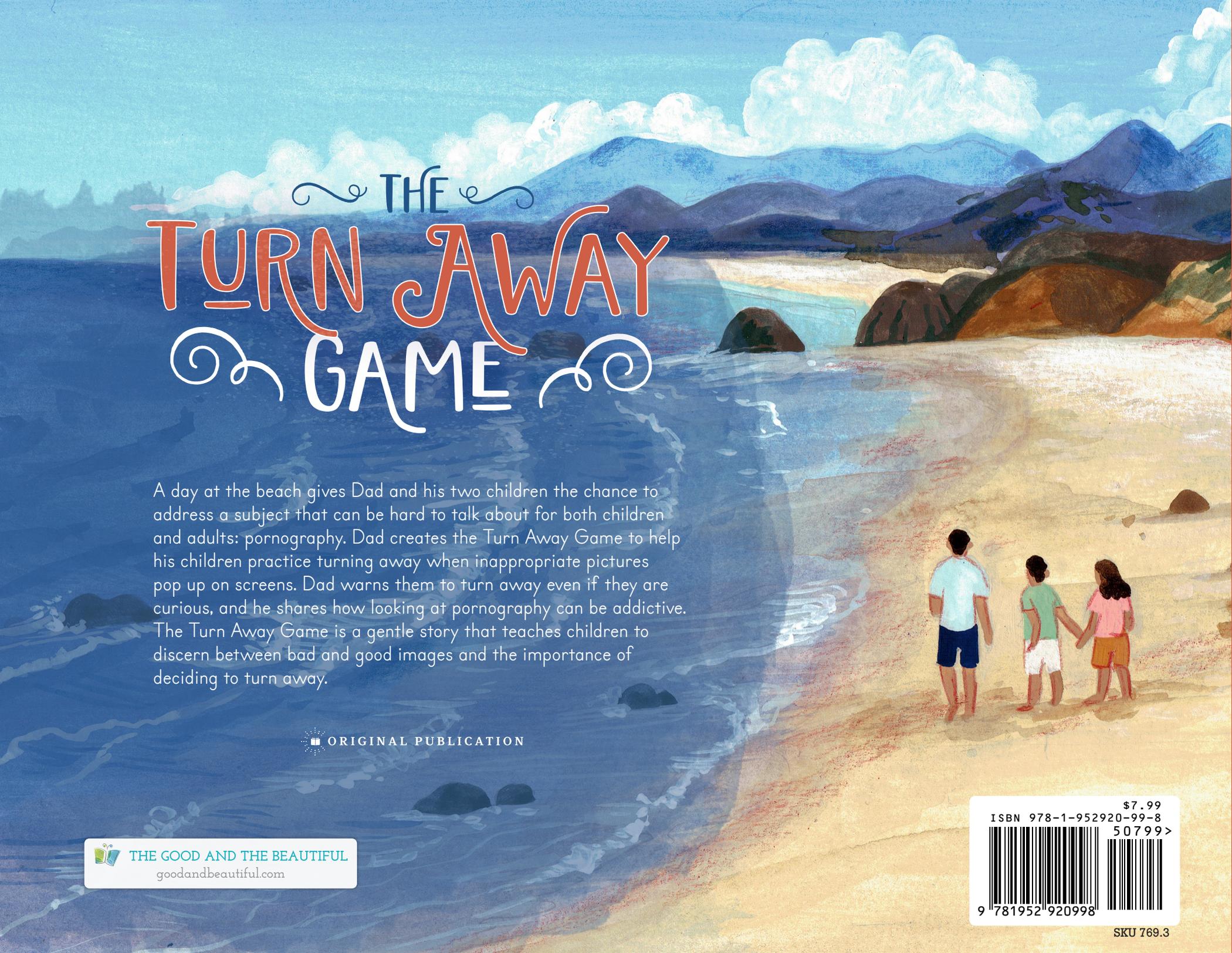
If the picture is good, I don't turn away. If it's bad, I don't hesitate—I turn away.

Dad says, "A picture of a sunset."

I don't turn away.







# THE TURN AWAY GAME

A day at the beach gives Dad and his two children the chance to address a subject that can be hard to talk about for both children and adults: pornography. Dad creates the Turn Away Game to help his children practice turning away when inappropriate pictures pop up on screens. Dad warns them to turn away even if they are curious, and he shares how looking at pornography can be addictive. The Turn Away Game is a gentle story that teaches children to discern between bad and good images and the importance of deciding to turn away.

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ISBN 978-1-952920-99-8  
\$7.99  
50799 >



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SKU 769.3