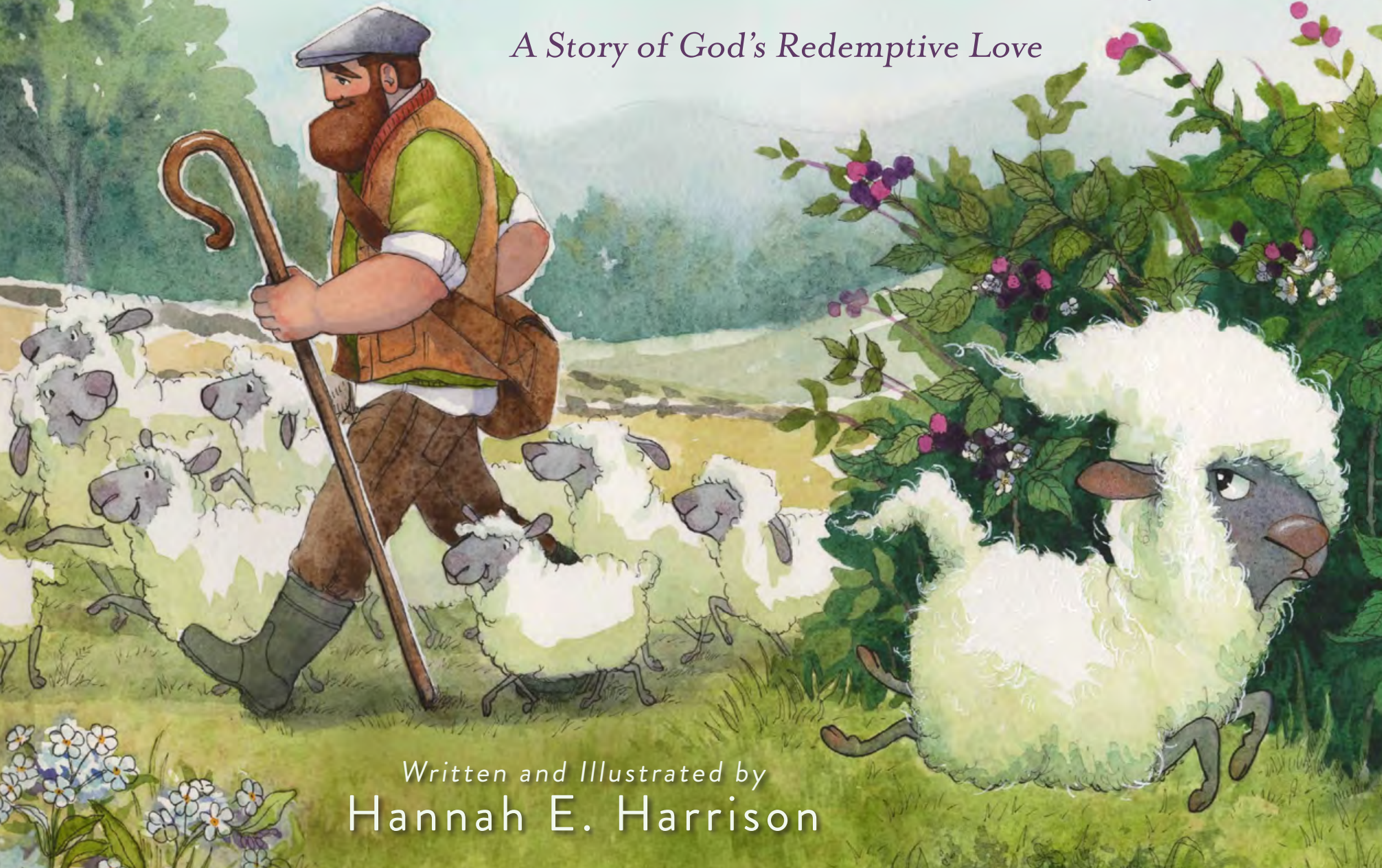


The Good Shepherd and the STUBBORN SHEEP

A Story of God's Redemptive Love



Written and Illustrated by
Hannah E. Harrison

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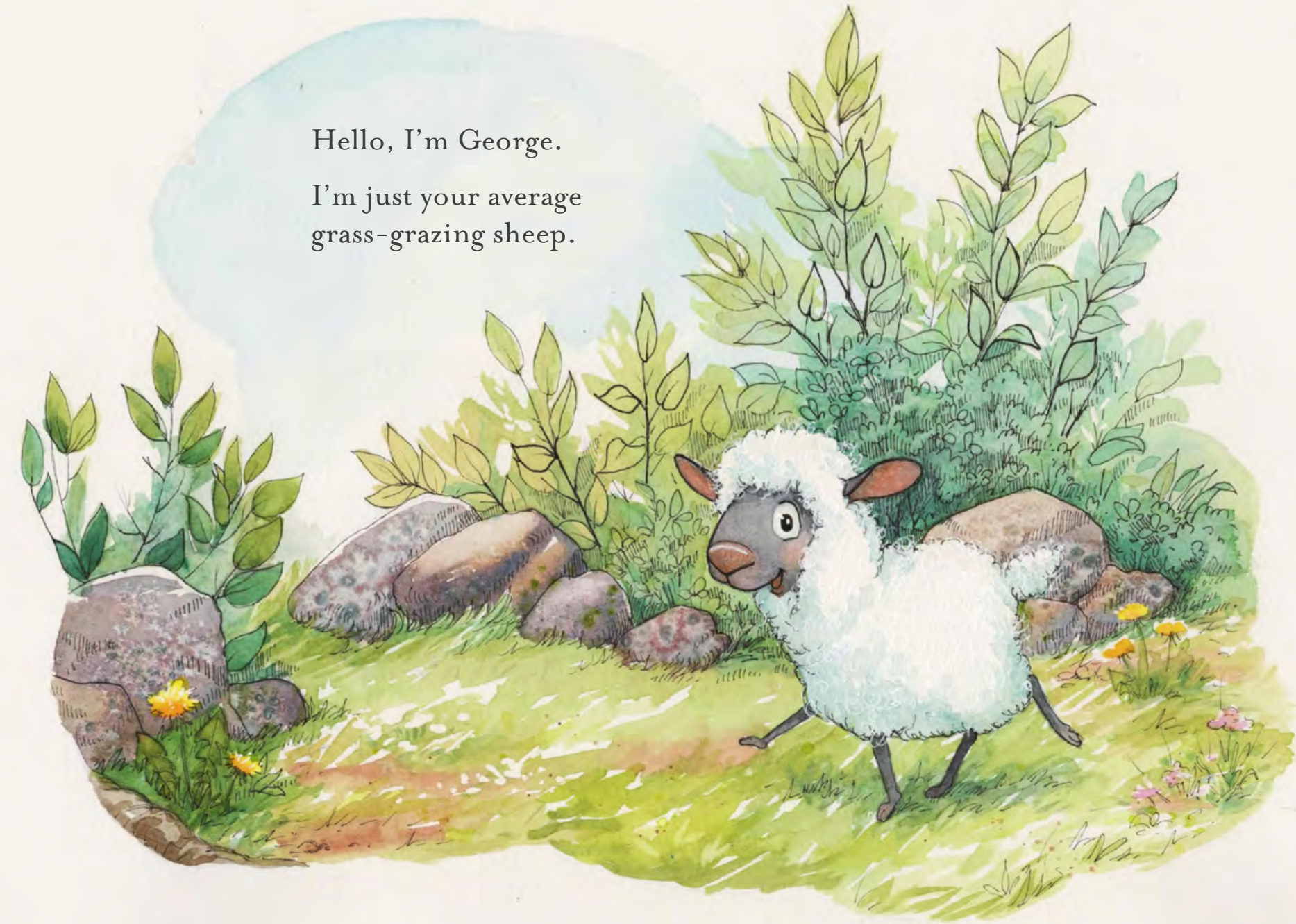
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We all, like sheep, have gone astray . . .

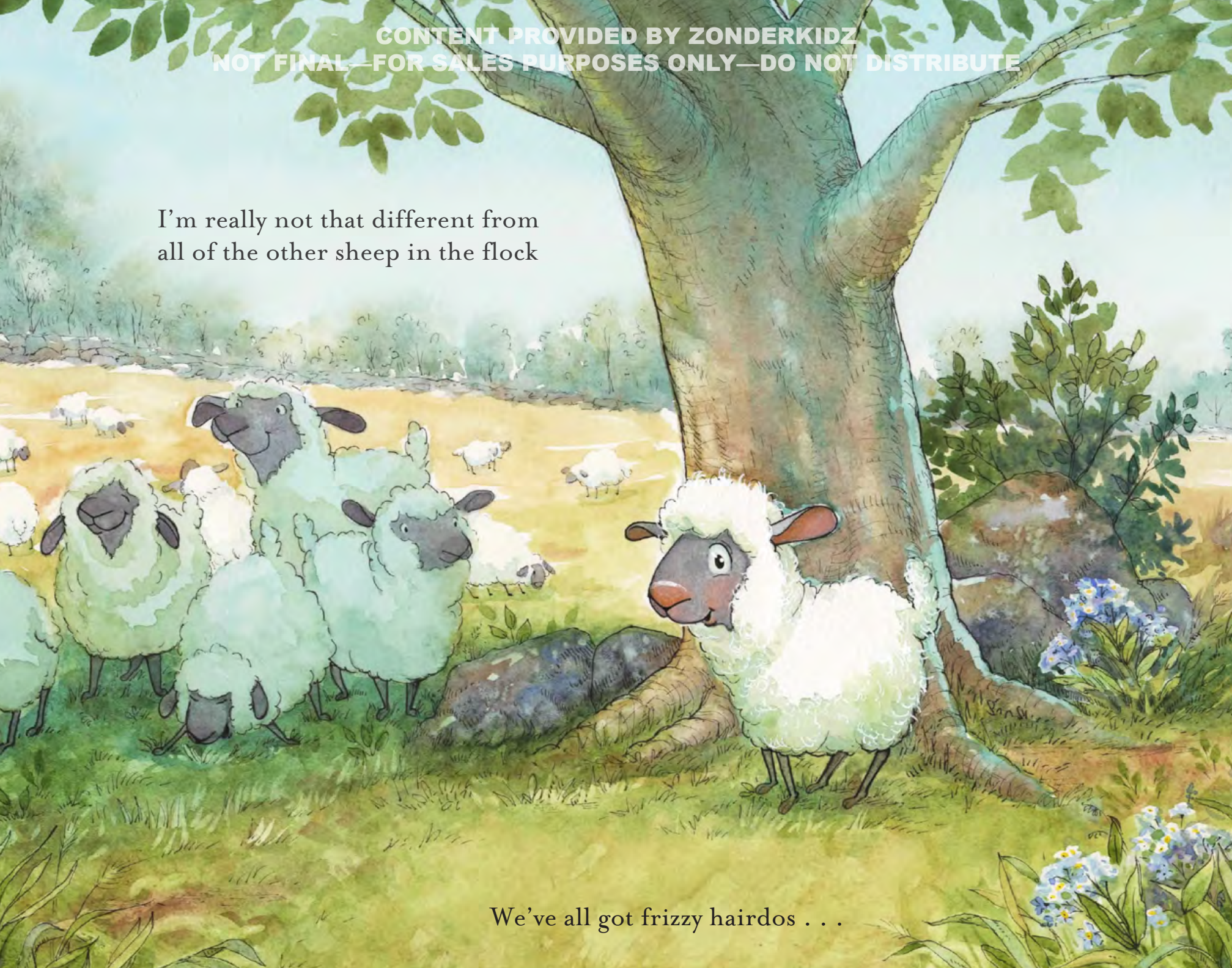
—Isaiah 53:6

Hello, I'm George.

I'm just your average
grass-grazing sheep.



I'm really not that different from
all of the other sheep in the flock



We've all got frizzy hairdos . . .



We all have a terrible sense of direction.



Especially Mabel.



And we're all completely defenseless.



And get this—if we fall onto our backs, we can't even get ourselves up again. We just have to lie there, stuck, with our skinny legs flailing about



It's embarrassing,
to say the least.



That's why we need a Shepherd.

He cares for us and watches over us.



But there was this one time when the Shepherd wanted to give me a haircut. Only I liked my wool the way it was. In fact, I thought I looked pretty good!

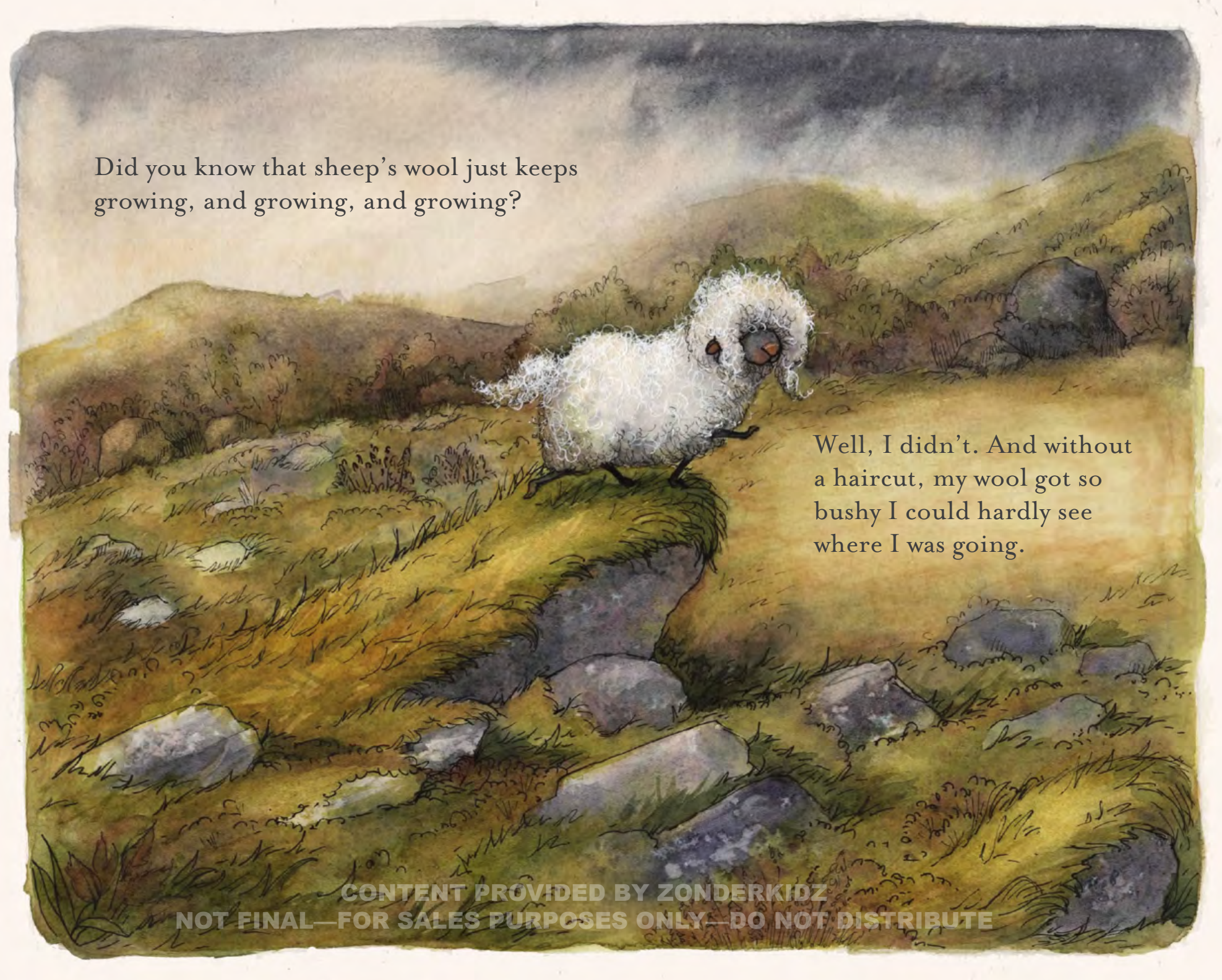


So I ran away.



And I hid.

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Did you know that sheep's wool just keeps growing, and growing, and growing?

Well, I didn't. And without a haircut, my wool got so bushy I could hardly see where I was going.

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It was heavy too. It'd become a real problem.
There were twigs all in it, and mud, and other
things I don't care to mention.

I smelled and looked
like moldy cheese.



Not really the look
I was going for.

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I thought I should go back to the Shepherd . . .



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only I didn't know the way. I was lost.

And then the inevitable happened.
I, with my ridiculous hair, got
stuck in a thornbush.

That's when I heard a low,
menacing growl.

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IT WAS A WOLF!!!

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I tried to bare my teeth, but I didn't have any!
I tried to roar, but all that came out was a little BAA!
I closed my eyes and frantically kicked my tiny hooves
until I broke free from the brambles . . .



but I fell onto my back!

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The wolf snarled, so I flailed my legs with all my
might, which started me rolling and bouncing
down the hill . . . and into a pond!

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An illustration of a sheep in a pond at night. The sheep is in the water, with its head and front legs visible above the surface. The water is dark, and there are lily pads. The background shows a dark, wooded area with some light filtering through the trees.

Did I mention that sheep can't swim?

An illustration of a sheep in a pond at night. The sheep is in the water, with its head and front legs visible above the surface. The water is dark, and there are lily pads. The background shows a dark, wooded area with some light filtering through the trees.

I bleated and bobbed and gasped for air.
It was no use—I was a goner!

An illustration of a dog rescuing a sheep from a pond at night. The dog is on the grassy bank, looking towards the sheep who is in the water. The dog's shadow is cast on the grass. The background shows a dark, wooded area with a bright light source in the upper right corner, possibly the moon or a fire, casting a glow over the scene.

But then, out of the darkness,
I saw a wonderful light.

It was the Shepherd!
He'd come for me!



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The Shepherd threw his rod—one shot—and
struck the wolf!

The wolf yelped, tucked tail, and ran!



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The Shepherd used his staff to fish me out of the muddy water.

“Come here, George,” he said. “I’ve got you.”
He put me under his warm vest and said,
“All is well now.”



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I couldn't believe it!

I hadn't listened.

I'd run away.

And still, he rescued me!

ME—a helpless, lost sheep
covered in muck!

I'd never been so happy,
or so *grateful*!



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He put me on his shoulders
and he carried me home.

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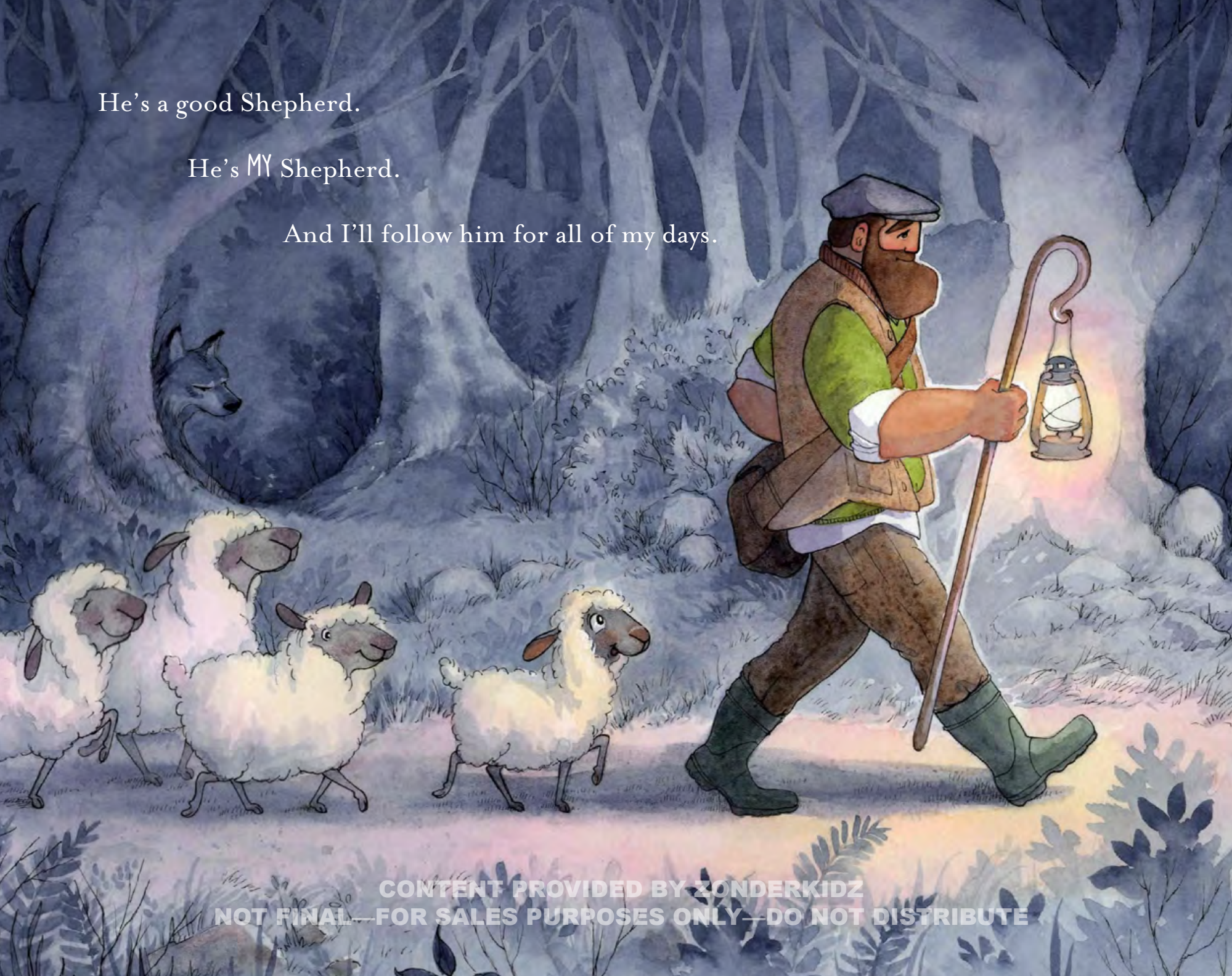
Now when the Shepherd wants
to give me a haircut, I'm glad
about it. He knows what
needs trimming and when.
He feeds me and guides me.
He gives me rest and
restores me. With him,
I have nothing
to fear.

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He's a good Shepherd.

He's MY Shepherd.

And I'll follow him for all of my days.



Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

More about Shepherds and Sheep

Psalm 95:7 and Psalm 119:176

Ezekiel 20:37 and Ezekiel 34:11-16

Matthew 9:36 and Matthew 18:12-14

Isaiah 40:11

Luke 15:3-7 and Luke 19:10

1 Peter 2:25

John 10:1-16 and John 10:27-30

