

# Matty's Train Ride



Written by Tracy Sinclair

Illustrated by Avery Bullwinkel

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## Dedication

This book is dedicated to Matthew Sinclair  
for whom this story was written.



A lively pink and orange sunset streaked the clear blue sky the evening Matty was born.



As soon as the sun went down, Matty made his appearance. He came screaming into the hospital room with a radiant smile, a loud voice, and a giant heart.

Mommy kissed his blushed cheeks. Daddy and his brother, Joey, looked on with curiosity and smiles. What would Matty be like?

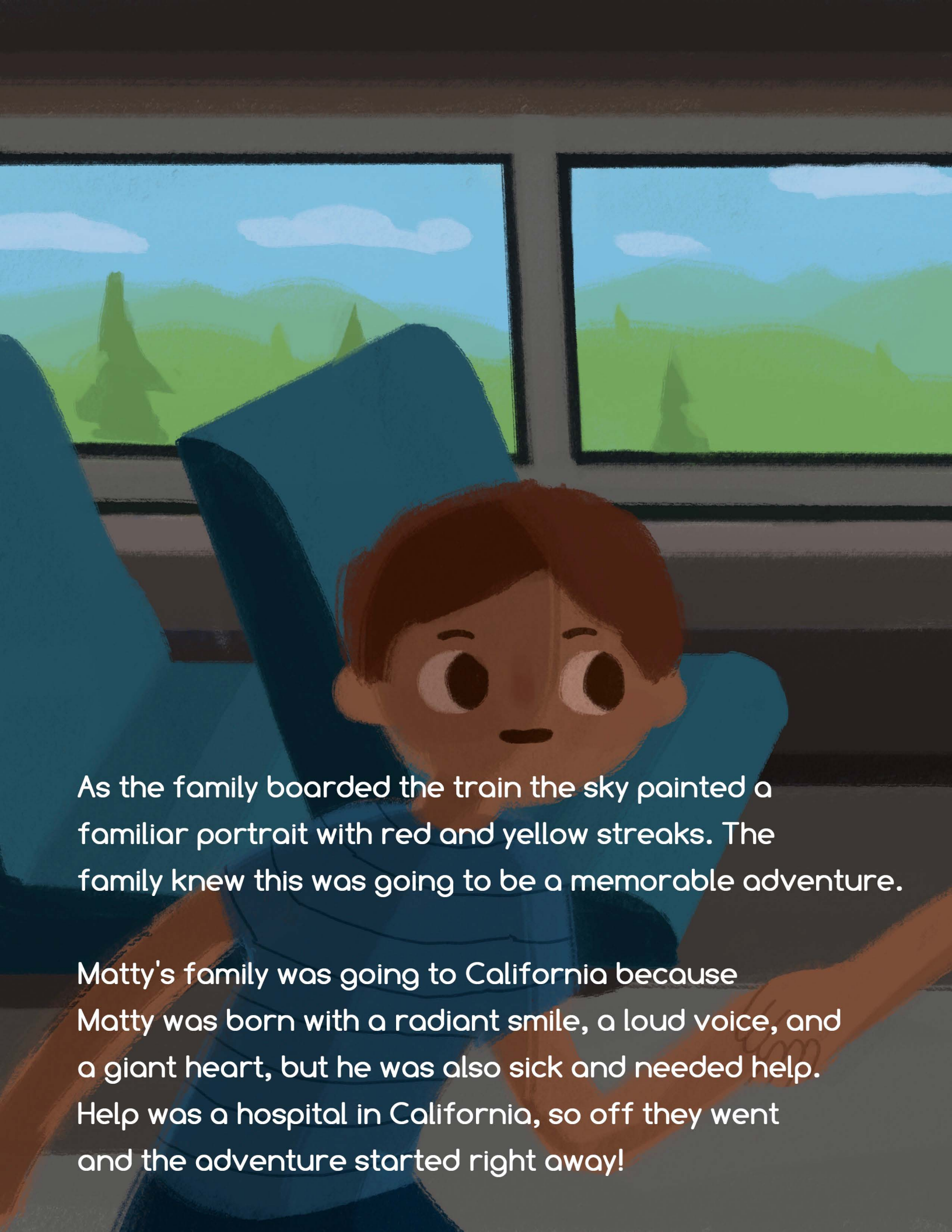
As Matty continued to grow, his smile, loud voice, and giant heart grew too.

"Toot-Toot!" Matty screeched as he tugged his toy train along the kitchen table.

"Toot- Toot!" Mommy echoed from behind the stove as she made dinner for Matty' s birthday. Matty had fallen in love with trains. He knew everything about them. He was soon going to depart on an adventure and refused to travel on anything other than a train. So, train travel it was!

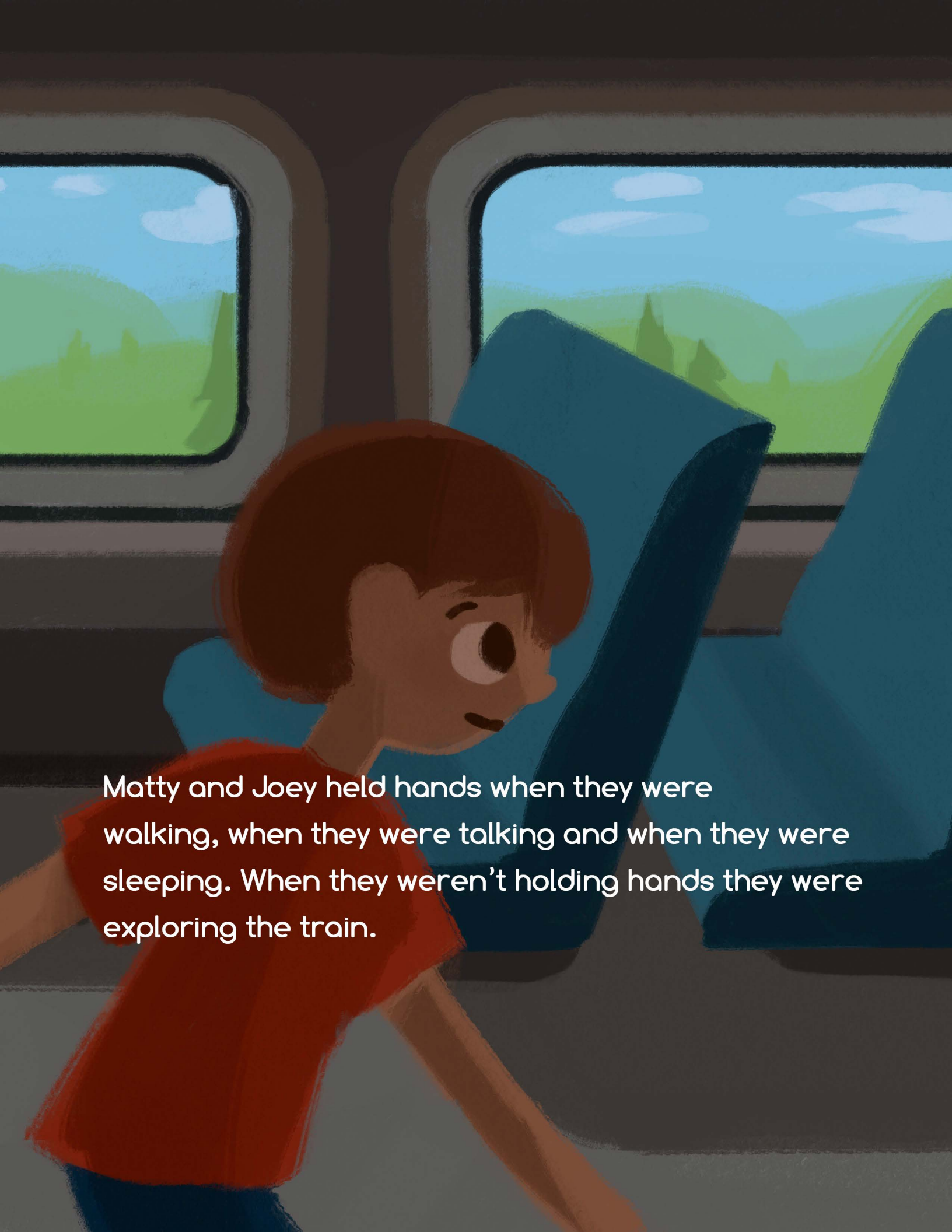






As the family boarded the train the sky painted a familiar portrait with red and yellow streaks. The family knew this was going to be a memorable adventure.

Matty's family was going to California because Matty was born with a radiant smile, a loud voice, and a giant heart, but he was also sick and needed help. Help was a hospital in California, so off they went and the adventure started right away!



Matty and Joey held hands when they were walking, when they were talking and when they were sleeping. When they weren't holding hands they were exploring the train.

They stopped in Virginia and explored Thomas Jefferson's house. The two boys were excited to learn about the former president and how he helped create the United States, as we know it today.

Next they stopped in Washington D.C. Matty and Joey decided they would be great presidents like Abraham Lincoln while standing in front of his huge statue.

Sometimes, Matty felt so sick they could not get off the train. Those were long train days.





They next stopped in Chicago, Illinois. Chicago was full of hotdogs, popcorn, and baseball. No one sang the song 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame' as loud and hard as Matty. At Wrigley Field the boys decided they would be baseball players.



As the family traveled across the country, Matty looked out of the window and was sure he had never seen so much land.

Matty saw the greenest land with countless trees along the mountain ranges. Mostly, Matty saw flat land with lots of animals, farms, and crops.



Finally, the family arrived in California. When they got off the train, Matty decided that he didn't like trains as much as he thought he did.

Matty needed to go to the hospital right away. It was scary at the hospital with hushed voices and new faces. But everyone was very nice. Here, the boys finally decided they were going to be doctors.





Beep...beep...beep. The noises were never ending and...well...annoying. Mommy tried to comfort Matty from the pinches and pokes by nurses and doctors. But it was Joey who held Matty's hand.

Matty needed surgery. That day was a long day, like on the train.

Both boys were scared and continued to hold hands until it was time for Matty to go.



It was early in the morning when Matty awoke from surgery. The sky was light blue and crystal clear. Matty looked out of the hospital window and saw many things. He saw busy streets, trees, sunshine and lots of smiling faces.

When Matty looked out of the hospital window that day he didn't know what he wanted to be when he was older. Right now he wanted to be the kid he was born to be ... with a radiant smile, a loud voice and a big heart. Matty used his loud voice and SCREAMED for Joey's hand. They smiled and laughed.

Matty knew that his real adventure was just starting. His life was going to be full of excitement, he was sure of it!



### About the Author:

Tracy Sinclair is a second grade school teacher in Irvine, California. She and her husband Joe (Matty's brother) are excited to welcome their first child this spring.



### About the Illustrator:

Avery Bullwinkel is an illustration major at the Rhode Island School of Design. "I am grateful to play a part in sharing Matty's story."



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