

## Grapette, The Runaway Who Rolled Away

In the *Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy learns the hard way that “There’s no place like home.” Now younger children can hear this message as they enjoy a charming story based on an ancient French folktale now set in a California vineyard. Retold by Svetlana Konnikova and brightly illustrated by Anatoli Smishliaev, **Grapette, the Runaway Who Rolled Away** (\$15.95 hardcover, [www.babygrapette.com](http://www.babygrapette.com)) is a fanciful children’s picture book about an inquisitive baby grape who learns the value of home and family after she runs away from her vine.



Children ages 4 - 8 — and their parents — will be mesmerized by this timeless tale of love and family. Baby Grapette, a tiny green grape in a little green dress, grows bored spending all her time in her mother’s grapevine lap. Grapette’s mother, a French grapevine, tells her children thrilling stories about the world. But she keeps her children close to home, giving them fragrant herb baths and fresh juice to drink. Grapette yearns to see and experience more.



Baby Grapette hatches a plan to get out and see the world. She manages to work free of her vine and roll merrily away across the fields, but—like *Curious George*—she is too curious. When Mama-Grapevine, who has seen Grapette roll away, calls for help, all of nature — a butterfly, a bird, a hawk, a lightning bolt, a stream complete with a tadpole and several fish, and finally a wood nymph — all try to find Grapette and get her back home safely. Natural enemies forget their quarrels to help in the search.

The captivating story and the engaging colorful illustrations are infused with the charm of the California wine country. Children will be attracted to the delightfully detailed drawings, whose lines echo the whimsical curves of a grape vine.

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Tatiana Fabergé, author of *The Fabergé Imperial Easter Eggs*, and great-granddaughter of Carl Gustavovich Fabergé, legendary jeweler and designer to the Russian Imperial Court, comments, “*I am sure this book, with its inspirational story and whimsical fine art illustrations, will warm the hearts of all the little children who read it or have it read to them.*”

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The illustrations are by Anatoli Smishliaev © from **Grapette, The Runaway Who Rolled Away**