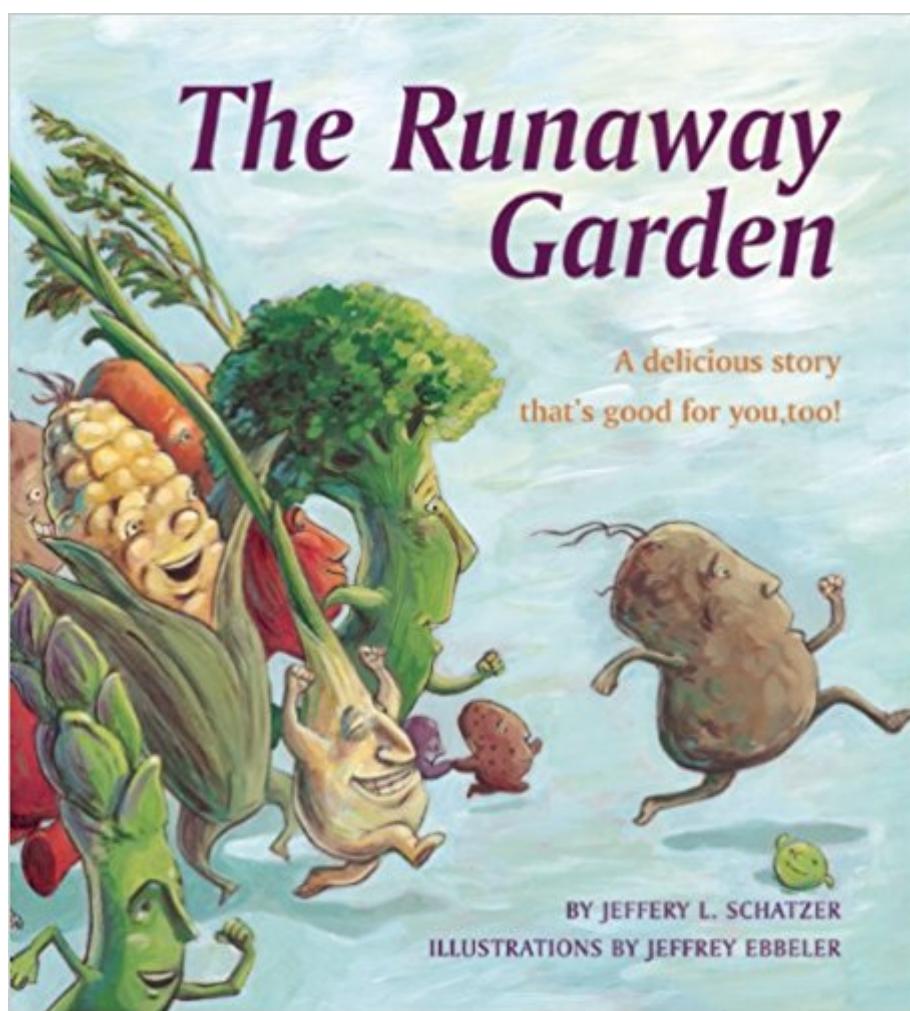


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# The Runaway Garden: A Delicious Story That's Good For You, Too!



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## Synopsis

The idea for The Runaway Garden came to Schatzer when he heard the staggering statistics of runaways in the United States today. With one in seven children running away at some time in their young lives, Schatzer wanted to tell a story that could open discussion in a positive light about what could happen if a child left home. When he sat down to think of who could do the running away and what situations could develop, vegetables came to mind, using their names with homonyms and puns. All the green peas split for town; the tomatoes stewed and stirred. Celery and her friend sweet corn stalked off without a word. What made the snap beans snap? How did the berries get into a jam? What happened to the cauliflower's head? Read along as Grandpa spins a tale about the night that all the plants in the garden get up and run away. At first they think running away is fun, but it isn't long before things go terribly wrong.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

Jeffery L. Schatzer is a noted writer and author who has received numerous awards for creativity, including a Silver Medal from the International Film and Television Festival of New York. As a children's author, his stories offer positive messages and themes. His works feature enchanting storylines that creatively apply grammatical tools and offer a rewarding exploration of word use. For The Bird in Santa's Beard and The Bump on Santa's Noggin, Jeff

directed the creative work that brought his Santa Claus to life. He lives in Michigan with his wife Deborah and loves to tend his garden with his grandchildren. Jeffrey Ebbeler has been creating art for children for almost a decade. He has done a variety of projects, including illustrations for magazines, CD covers, and book covers, as well as paper engineering for pop-up books. He has illustrated two children's book, *Bake You a Pie* (Tricycle Press) and *Punxsutawney Phyllis* (Holiday House). He and his wife both attended the Art Academy of Cincinnati. They currently live in Chicago with their three cats, Annie, Punch, and Judy.

Love this book! I bought It for my 5 year old niece as her father is a big gardener. We all loved the book! It is written for both children and adults!

Fantastic book!!! I teach third grade, my students love it. I have read it over and over to them. Pictures are unbelievable!!! So much fun!!!!

Great! Just as advertised.

The illustrations are capturing, love that the conclusion is drawn by the child and associated with love for for her family member.

This story begins with a little girl who is angry with her grandfather for making her work in the garden. Grandpa tells her a story about the night the garden ran away. Her quiet time with Grandpa on the squeaky porch swing changes her perspective about the garden and Grandpa. "The Runaway Garden" is an adventurous, entertaining, and amusing story that teaches children that the grass is not always greener on the other side. It also presents a simple message about responsibility. I enjoy Jeffery Schatzer's subtle and humorous references to each vegetable's individuality. For example: "The potatoes all just closed their eyes and took off out the gate. All the green peas split for town; the tomatoes stewed and stirred. Celery and her friend sweet corn stalked off without a word." . . . "Some pumpkins got themselves squashed flat, and radishes all turned red. Pepper popped, snap beans snapped, and a cauliflower lost its head." The illustrations in this book are top notch. Jeffrey Ebbeler whimsically brings the vegetables to life with a gentle touch of humor thrown in here and there. Each illustration offers a healthy feast for both children's and adult's eyes. The wise old squash is one of my favorite characters. I especially like that Mr. Ebbeler cleverly created a vegetable twin (the squash character) for Grandpa. This book is entertaining for all ages

and has the added bonus of piquing children's interests in vegetables. *Butterfly Kisses for Grandma and Grandpa*

This is a sweet story about a young girl tired of gardening and contemplating running away. After a chat with her grandfather, she sees things much differently. The best part about this story is the warm relationship between grandparents/grandchildren that invokes imagination and wisdom and always makes everything better. The last page is what earned this book a place on my favorites--'we snuggled late into the night on that creaky wooden swing. The time passed quickly as we swung, though we didn't say a thing. Just before I fell asleep in the moon's soft golden wash I kissed my Grandpa's baldy head. From then on, I called him "Squash."

This story begins with a little girl pulling weeds in her grandpa's garden. She is not happy about it, and says that she will run away if she has to pull anymore. Her grandpa tells her a magical (and funny) story about how vegetables runaway. The lesson in this story is that we all have a place to be and special jobs to do. I enjoy reading books that teach some type of lesson to my children. I would recommend any of Mr. Schatzer's books.

Great! Just as advertised.

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