

The Wind in The Willows

Adapted by

Benjamin Mark Adams

Based On The Novel by Kenneth Grahame

EXT. TOAD HALL - DAY

A NARRATOR appears on stage.

NARRATOR

Welcome one and all! Today, we're going to tell you a story, but in order to do so, I must first pose a very difficult question: Who would you say is the best character in English literature? Sherlock Holmes? Jane Eyre? Tony Stark? Any one of them would be a fine choice. However, I love an entirely different character altogether. So today, I shall weave for you the tale of my personal favorite character. The one, the only, J. Thaddeus Toad Esq. Or to his friends, simply Toad.

TOAD prances around the outside of his lavish mansion TOAD HALL.

TOAD

Tra la la! I love being rich! I can do anything I want, whenever I want, and it doesn't matter! Because I can make all my problems go away with money!

Toad takes center stage and does a little tap dance number.

TOAD

(singing)

*The world has held great Heroes,
As history books have shown;
But never a name to go down to fame
Compared with that of Toad!*

NARRATOR

Oh no, he's singing again. Toad's songs are so conceited.

TOAD

*The clever men at Oxford
Know all that there is to be knowed.
But they none of them know one half as much
As intelligent Mr. Toad!*

Toad gives a bow to the audience.

NARRATOR

Nobody clap at that. At least he went with some of the milder verses this time.

Toad bounces around the stage.

NARRATOR

Toad, as you can see, is a creature of inexhaustible energy. Mainly because he has a pension for being taken by something called: deliriums. These fits of intoxication happens when Toad finds something so interesting, he must pursue that thing to the ends of the earth. But in Toad's case, he hops from interest to interest almost instantaneously.

MOLE, a sensitive and caring animal, enters.

MOLE

Mr. Toad. I say Mr. Toad!

TOAD

Mole! My dear friend Mole! Mole'y! Guacamole! So great to see you dear fellow. What brings you to Toad Hall?

MOLE

I received your letter. Your invitation for fun! Just in time too, I've had it with Spring Cleaning. It's too much work and not enough excitement.

TOAD

Well Mole'y, what'd you expect? Spring Cleaning is boring. It's in the name. I have the most exciting thing to show you. Adventure! Action! Hullaballoo!

MOLE

Toad. I love you my friend, but this isn't one of your delirium's is it?

TOAD

Delirium? What a terrific word I don't know the definition to. Let me show you, dear guacamole.

Toad leads Mole to a carriage.

MOLE

Interesting... what is it?

TOAD

I have a brand new carriage for traversing the great outdoors! I still need a horse of course, but that will come in time. Go ahead, bow down to it. Revel in all its glory.

MOLE

It certainly is something to look at, that's for sure.

TOAD

Something to look at? Mole, it's way more than that. It's a call to the wild and only the most brave will be able to pull up their boot straps, saddle up, and take on the open road. Are you ready to do that dear Moley?

MOLE

Well... no.

TOAD

Now why would you say something funny like that? Of course you are.

MOLE

It's the truth. That's too fast for someone like me. I prefer a slow ride down the river with Rat on the rowboat. That's an idea. Perhaps Rat would be more keen.

TOAD

Rat? No no no, he's too uptight.

MOLE

What about Badger?

TOAD

Badger? That lout is even worse. He always makes me do things I don't want to do.

MOLE

Are you referring to the time you bought thirty seven boats and tried to row them all at the same time causing immeasurable damage to the neighborhood and forcing you to reimburse several million in damages so he made you go through the bills one by one until you paid your debt to society?

TOAD

Precisely. Badger's so goodie goodie. So what if I did all that. Money makes everything better.

MOLE

I don't know how you got away with all that. With the law.

TOAD

The law, what a funny thing to say. I was a lawyer once and I know how to manipulate, er, that is understand the law. But now, my job is to have fun my dear fellow. Only to have fun.

Before long a low MOTOR SOUND grows louder and louder.

MOLE

I say Toad. Do you hear that?

TOAD

Now Mole, I can't be bothered with unimportant details...

Just as he finishes his sentence, a car (just a cutout strapped to an actor) zooms by Mole and Toad causing them to dive out of the way.

TOAD

Egad! What is that?

MOLE

Can you believe it? No regard for personal safety. I should expect no less being so close to the 405--

TOAD

Mole. Seriously. What was that contraption.

RAT comes screaming onto stage.
He's a well-respected gentleman.

RAT

Did you see that reckless automobile? Mole, Toad, are you okay?

TOAD

Prey tell, what is an automobile?

RAT

It was that thing what nearly killed you two.

TOAD

It went toot toot.

MOLE

What a frightening contraption.

RAT

Well, Mole I'm glad you have all your limbs. And Toad, my dear friend how are you? Finally free of your boat delirium I see.

Toad is in his own world.

TOAD

Toot. Toot?

MOLE

Oh no. Rat, I fear another delirium is gripping Toad.

Toad wanders around stage, dazzled.

TOAD

Toot toot.

RAT

I say Toad, are you alright? Get ahold of yourself man!

TOAD

Oh toot, I should toot so.

Mole and Rat look at one another,
concerned as Toad beatboxes,
sounding like an old-timely
automobile.

MOLE

Perhaps he's still in shock from the near death experience.

RAT

Don't be a fool, Mole. It's the delirium.

RAT

We have to stop this now.

MOLE

But how?

TOAD

Imagine myself behind the wheel of one of those beauties!
Mr. Toad esquire, MD, and automobile driver. Just imagine.

MOLE

What does MD stand for?

RAT

Mostly deranged. Toad I say, please calm yourself.

TOAD

Adventure! Excitement! Tally Ho!

Toad rushes off stage.

MOLE

Where's he going?

RAT

I don't know but we had all better prepare ourselves for the
worst. Let's call Badger. He'll know what to do.

MOLE

We don't have to go all the way to the Wild Woods do we? I
mean, we all have changing interests right?

RAT

Mole, we both know Toad. If we don't intervene, the whole
river bank will be in danger.

Toad rushes back on stage with
money.

TOAD

I shall buy the very best automobile this town has ever
seen!

Toad rushes off into the audience
and runs around the park to
backstage.

MOLE

You're right Rat. He's quite lost his mind!

RAT

Here we go again! Get him!

Mole and Rat grab and tackle Toad.
They carry him off to his room,
which can be a simple door.

TOAD

How dare you! Unhand me right this instant!

They lock him in despite his
protests.

RAT

Now Moley, please send for Badger straight away.

MOLE

Yes, I shall at once!

TOAD

My dear guacamole, surely you won't leave me in here to rot,
will you?

MOLE

I'm sorry Toad. I fear your recklessness will get you in
trouble someday. Please know that me, Ratty, and Badger are
the best friends you will ever have. I'll be back as soon as
I can!

Mole rushes off stage and Rat takes
a seat guarding the door.

Toad sits down calmly. Waits a
second, and then bangs on the door
hard.

TOAD

Ratty! Oh Ratty, please let me out. This is egregious!

RAT

Okay, if you can define 'egregious' I'll let you out.

Toad thinks about this for a second
and then kicks the dirt in front of
him.

TOAD

Oh forget it! You're a foozler anyway.

RAT

What's a foozler?

TOAD

It's an 18th century term for one who bungles or a maker of mistakes.

RAT

You can define that but not egregious?

TOAD

I'm a sophisticated Toad!

A few moments pass and Mole arrives with Badger.

RAT

Badger! Great to see you old chum. But how did you ever arrive so quickly?

Badger, an older and wiser animal, has a walking stick and hat.

BADGER

I have come to town because I have business with one J. Thaddeus Toad. This was even before Mole came to me in a desperate haste.

TOAD

Is that Badger?

BADGER

Mr. Toad. Last time I saw you, you had nearly destroyed the river and now I catch you with not one but two deliriums?

TOAD

Two? I only wanted an automobile.

BADGER

Then what's this carriage I heard about?

TOAD

I hadn't wanted a carriage in minutes now.

BADGER

Oh dear. This is worse than I fear. Mr. Toad, it's my responsibility to help you out of this bind. The only answer is to leave you locked away in your room until this new delirium passes. Rat. Mole. Don't let him out until he calms down.

MOLE

Aye sir!

RAT

Splendid idea!

TOAD

Some friends you are...

BADGER

We are your best friends. Who else would care enough about you to help you through this dark time. Now calm down. When you do, we'd happily share a picnic with you.

TOAD

Okay I'm calm.

BADGER

No you're not. Promise me you won't buy an automobile.

TOAD

Okay I promise I won't purchase an automobile.

BADGER

I know that voice. You'd sooner buy a motorcar the second I open this door.

TOAD

Why must you insert yourself in my life, Badger. Why can't you simply let me live my life the way I want to.

BADGER

Your father, the Great and Original Toad, was my best friend and an outstanding gentlemen who was quite beloved. I promised him before he passed that I would take care of you, no matter the cost financially or to my own mental health. So there you have it.

TOAD

You're worse than a babysitter.

BADGER

I am a baby sitter. Thanks to you, young whippersnapper.

Badger gathers with Mole and Rat.

BADGER

Okay. We'll wait the night. And if you give us the same answer, I'll let you out.

RAT

Good resolve Badger!

TOAD

No! Please let me out. Moley! My dear guacamole, please.

MOLE

Maybe we should let him out. He does seem sorry.

RAT

Mole. We must remain steadfast. Just like old Badger here.

MOLE

Sorry Toad...

TOAD

Mole. Think about what you're doing.

MOLE

Toad, what do I do? You're my friend and I always support my friends. On the other hand, my other friends Rat and Badger tell me not to let you out. So in a funny way, by not letting you out I am, at the same time, supporting and not supporting my friends.

TOAD

There is a way to support all your friends again all at the same time.

MOLE

Oh?

TOAD

By letting me out.

MOLE

Hmm...

Mole walks over to the door and starts to jiggle with the lock.

RAT

Mole! What do you think you're doing?

MOLE

If I help Toad I'm supporting my friend. If I help you I'm supporting my friends. But if I do exactly what you both say then I'm not supporting--

BADGER

Toad! What did I say about creating a maze of circular logic for poor Mole?

TOAD

You said the next time I did that you'd create a real maze in the wild woods and throw me in the middle of it.

BADGER

Too right you. You're lucky I'm an esteemed gentleman and don't have time for such foolishness.

RAT

Come let us get something to eat. Toad, we'll come feed you in a minute.

As the others leave, Toad yells in protest. Until they're gone.

TOAD

(to audience)

Are they gone? Are you sure? Are you sure you're sure? Okay, I believe you.

Toad takes out a key from his sock and unlocks the door.

TOAD

I own Toad Hall, how would they think I wouldn't have a key to my own room? Tisk tisk, now, it's time to find myself an automobile!

Toad rushes off stage.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Outside a restaurant, the red automobile sits with WEASEL, a sly-looking conwoman.

TOAD

My dear lady, are you the owner of this magnificent automobile?

WEASEL

What's it to you?

TOAD

I would like to trade you, as I must have this automobile.

WEASEL

Trade?

TOAD

Yes, trade. I promised my dearest friends in the world I would not purchase an automobile, but they didn't say anything about trading for one.

WEASEL

So what do you want to trade for?

TOAD

Well, how much is this thing worth anyway?

WEASEL

See here?

Weasel takes Toad on tour of the car.

WEASEL

This is fine craftsmanship, hands-sown leather seats, loud horn, and power steering. That's a new feature.

TOAD

Toot toot.

Toad beatboxes again in his excitement.

WEASEL

Are you alright?

TOAD

Yes, yes, I must have this auto. It suits me right down to the skivvies!

Toad tries to take the car but Weasel stops him.

WEASEL

Not so fast there. What can you trade me?

TOAD

Well let me see here...

SOUND EFFECT OF CHAOS! PEOPLE YELLING AND A SIREN!

NEWSPAPER DEALER

Extra extra! Toad arrested for grand theft auto will defend himself in High Court!

The stage shuffles to the:

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

Toad sits on the stand next to the JUDGE and the audience is the jury.

A PROSECUTOR paces in front of Toad. His friends Rat, Mole, and Badger sit as witnesses to the side.

The COURT SCRIBE unfurls a long piece of paper and reads aloud:

COURT SCRIBE

(like a radio host)

Her Majesty the Queen versus J. Thaddeus Toad Esq. of Toad Hall. 29th day of July. Accused is J. Thaddeus Toad Esq., of stealing an automobile, and with it, endangering subjects of Her Majesty, their life and limbs. Counsel for the Crown, proceed with the case.

PROSECUTOR

Thank you. Council calls Mr. Water Rat to the stand.

Rat gets up and crosses to the stand.

PROSECUTOR

Mr. Water Rat, isn't it true you locked the accused, one J. Thaddeus Toad in his own room to prevent him from driving an automobile?

RAT

Mole and I locked him in his room at the behest of Badger to prevent him from purchasing a motorcar.

PROSECUTOR

And you did so because Mr. Toad cannot control himself when he becomes enraptured with a new hobby?

RAT

Yes, we call them deliriums. But--

PROSECUTOR

Thank you!

The Prosecutor shoes Rat away back to his seat.

PROSECUTOR

Council calls a Mr. Douglas Mole to the stand.

Mole takes his sweet time getting to the stand. He waves to Toad who waves back, not a care in the world.

PROSECUTOR

Mr. Mole, you were with Mr. Toad when he was locked up, yes?

MOLE

Yes, I was the prison guard if you will.

A light chuckle.

PROSECUTOR

Then you can also attest that Mr. Toad suffers from these deliriums and is a danger to society at large?

MOLE

I wouldn't--

PROSECUTOR

Thank you!

The Prosecutor shoes Mole away back to his seat.

PROSECUTOR

The crown rests, your honor.

JUDGE

Mr. Toad, since you opted to defend yourself, please call your first witness.

Mr. Toad rises with a flair, truly feeling confident.

TOAD

If it pleases the court, I shall call myself to the stand.

The Prosecutor laughs like a villain.

PROSECUTOR

Like we're going to believe you.

TOAD

I am J. Thaddeus Toad Esquire, I am a pillar of the community.

Toad takes the stand.

TOAD

I shall ask my friends Mole, Rat, and Badger to assist me in telling this story.

Rat, Mole, and Badger get up and stand in front of Toad and the audience.

TOAD

Now, please take careful consideration of what you're about to see. For here is where you'll view matters in my perspective. At the end of this grand tale, you shall understand that I am not only innocent of this dubious crime, but also entitled to the motorcar.

Toad clears his throat melodramatically.

Note: Mole, Badger, and Rat act out the scene as Toad describes.

TOAD

I was walking down the road after I admittedly escaped from my own imprisonment that my dear friends had me in. A bit of horseplay if you ask me, and I went to find where I could trade for a motorcar.

Mole, Badger, and Rat skip merrily
hand in hand.

TOAD

That's when I saw this dazzling red automobile scream past
me.

Badger zooms past Mole who spins
around and falls to the ground.

TOAD

I simply had to have it. I watched as the auto stopped at a
nearby restaurant and walked over to talk to the owner.
Turns out it was someone named Weasel.

Badger, imitating Toad, and Mole
imitating Weasel, bend elbows at
the bar.

TOAD

I told Weasel: whatever the price is I'll pay, any time of
day! Well not exactly you see I promised my dear friends I
would not purchase a car. But that didn't stop me from
trading anything. That's when Weasel scratched his chin and
said: 'well this is a fine motorcar' and he started going
over all the features--

JUDGE

Get on with it!

TOAD

Right you are. You see since I didn't have any money and
couldn't buy the automobile, I traded the only thing I had
on my person. The deed to Toad Hall!

Badger and the others stop what
they're doing and turn to Toad.

Badger fiants in exasperation.

TOAD

But we needed a witness, a person of conviction and
integrity. That's when we saw the barman. I call Mr.
Mcguffin to the stand.

Mr. McGuffin walks in the courtroom
and takes a seat right next to
Toad.

TOAD

Mr. McGuffin, is it true that you're employed as the
bartender at the restaurant on the riverfront?

MCGUFFIN

That is correct sir.

TOAD

Such a noble spirit. It is also true you were witness to what I have so callously been accused of?

MCGUFFIN

That's true, yes.

TOAD

Would you tell the court exactly what transpired that fateful day?

Mcguffin clears his throat and leans over the stand.

MCGUFFIN

I witnessed you trying to sell me a stolen motorcar!

CHAOS! EVERYONE FREAKS OUT!!!

BADGER

That's a bag of lies!

The judge bangs on his gavel over and over again.

JUDGE

I sentence J. Thaddeus Toad to fifty years in prison for Grand theft auto.

The NEWSPAPER DEALER walks in front of the stage as the others clear out.

NEWSPAPER DEALER

Extra, extra! J. Thaddeus Toad of Toad Hall thrown in the slammer!

As the stage crew resets the stage, the Narrator comes center.

NARRATOR

Well, the situation is looking grim for our friend Toad now isn't it? Here we will take a short intermission. Please use this time to contact any lawyers you know or anyone remotely connected to law. We must free our friend toad!

INTERMISSION.

After the intermission, the Narrator gets back on stage.

NARRATOR

Did anyone call their lawyer? No. Thanks for trying. Well Mole and Badger appealed to every court in the land. Even the LA county DMV, but we all know that was rubbish. Poor Toad. Rat on the other hand, had a different opinion about the situation.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

The river bank can simply be the bottom of the stage with some cutouts of tall grass and water.

Rat and Mole are in a simple row boat.

RAT

Take it in, Mole. Isn't this the best life one could ever hope for?

MOLE

Yeah...

Mole hangs off the back of the boat and plays with the water absentmindedly.

RAT

My dear Mole, what's the matter on such a splendid day? Don't tell me you've got Toad on your mind?

MOLE

He's our friend, Ratty. How can you be so cavalier about his imprisonment?

RAT

You know as well as me that Toad had this coming to him.

MOLE

Yes, but don't we all make mistakes from time to time.

RAT

Mole. There's mistakes and there's grand theft auto.

MOLE

Rat, I love you, but sometimes you can be insensitive.

RAT

One day, you'll see things my way. I'm sure of it.

Rat takes in a deep, relaxing breath.

RAT

I say Mole, there is nothing-- absolutely nothing-- half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.

MOLE

I think we should appeal to the courts again.

Rat scoffs.

RAT

If you want to waste your time on that lout, go ahead.

MOLE

Oh come on Ratty, you miss Toad just as much as I do. Admit it!

Rat takes a beat.

RAT

You're right. I know he was like a child. But he was a fierce friend, always ready with a cold chicken for our stomach and story to warm our hearts.

Rat stands up in the row boat.

RAT

Come! Let us get our friend back!

MOLE

Rat! The boat! You're tipping it!

RAT

AHHHH!! Oh NO!!!!

Rat and Mole plunge into the river.

MOLE

I can't swim!

RAT

Steady on! I'll get you out dear friend.

Rat pulls Mole out of the water and they sit under the stage when Weasel and McGuffin walk above them.

WEASEL

Can you believe we pulled it off?

MCGUFFIN

The law is easily manipulated if you know what strings to pull, Weasel. Let's go invade Toad Hall and make it our own!

Weasel and McGuffin walk off stage.
Mole and Toad get up.

MOLE

Did you hear that? Toad was set up! This was not his fault and it was just as he said in court. Toad was telling the truth!

RAT

By jove you're right Moley! We must find Badger at once and form a plan to get Toad back as the rightful heir of his ancestral home of Toad Hall.

They run off the stage in a heroic manner.

INT. CELL - DAY

Toad is in the same box as his room, just flipped so it looks like a stone jail cell now.

NARRATOR

Here he sits until his sentence is up and his debt to society is paid. However, something was happening to Toad in his cell...

TOAD

No more deliriums! No more silly things to bother me so much I go mad. What was I thinking? Never again. I am a reformed Toad, a new Toad, and a Toad of conviction. In fact, I feel a song coming on.

VOICE OF GUARD

Toad! You have a visitor.

In walks Mole.

TOAD

Mole! Moley! Guacamole! You've come to visit me!

MOLE

More than that dear fellow! I've come to bust you out!

Toad crosses his arms.

TOAD

I'm sorry Mole. I need to finally pay my debt to society. I have behaved poorly and need to be punished.

MOLE

Toad, you were framed. You didn't steal the motor car.

TOAD

I know that, but I've been a poor citizen. I've acted recklessly.

MOLE

Yes but I can prove your innocence.

TOAD

Oh?

MOLE

Yes, but first put this dress on.

Mole hands Toad a pink dress and wig.

TOAD

A disguise? I don't know Mole, I don't want to break the law by escaping. I'm reformed.

MOLE

That's great Toad, but if you're innocent I wish to prove it. And the only way is to escape.

TOAD

Can't we just ask for--

MOLE

The Weasels have invaded your home. Macguffin is their leader, stomping around like he owns the place.

Toad's anger flairs, but he calms himself before he has a fit of rage.

TOAD

Yes, but we did trade for Toad Hall...

MOLE

But do you have the motorcar?

Toad does some quick math in his head.

TOAD

No, no I do not.

MOLE

So you see this isn't fair and you're the rightful owner of Toad Hall. We need to get the deed back from Macguffin and prove your innocence!

TOAD

When I do escape and this is all over. I pledge to comport myself as a gentlemen and use my power and status for good.

MOLE

Then put on this dress.

TOAD

Yes! I must say yes to the dress!

Toad dresses quickly as Mole covers some straw with a blanket, making it seem Toad is sleeping in his cell. They look both ways before rushing out the door.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Toad and Mole take a seat in the audience which represents the train.

TOAD

I say Mole, I think we're well on our way now.

MOLE

This makes me nervous. I'm not used to running away from the authorities.

TOAD

You say that as if I am.

MOLE

Well, you are a fugitive.

TOAD

Would you keep your voice down! Anyone can be an undercover officer on this train.

Toad stands up and points to audience members.

TOAD

It could be you, you, or even you! I mean, it really looks like you could be a cop. If you're a cop, you have to tell me. That's a law, I should know. I'm a lawyer... I mean... nope.

Toad goes back to his seat next to Mole.

TOAD

How much longer is this train ride?

MOLE

It's two hours to Toad Hall.

TOAD

Two hours?!

The Police Officer from earlier walks into the train and takes a seat not too far from Toad and Mole.

POLICE OFFICER

Evening.

MOLE

Evening.

TOAD
(resumes falsetto voice)
Oh, good evening officer!

Toad's legs dace, nervous as
nervous could be.

POLICE OFFICER
Are you all right?

TOAD
Oh yes, I simply have a frog in my throat.

POLICE OFFICER
Funny that.

TOAD
What's that officer?

POLICE OFFICER
Mr. Toad escaped tonight. Frog is close to Toad, wouldn't
you say?

TOAD
Oh no! Toad's quite far away from here I can assure you.

POLICE OFFICER
How can you assure me of the whereabouts of Mr. Toad?

TOAD
Uh... well...

POLICE OFFICER
Did you see Mr. Toad this evening?

Mole elbows Toad.

MOLE
Wrap it up.

POLICE OFFICER
What was that?

TOAD
Oh, he was simply suggesting that we wrap up our dinner from
the dining car.

POLICE OFFICER
Hmm... you look familiar. Have we met before?

TOAD
I am the best washer for the river bank. I have customers
all up and down the river.

POLICE OFFICER
That's right! Thank you again for rushing my order
yesterday.

TOAD
Oh don't mention it.

The Police Officer gets up, but
turns back toward Toad.

POLICE OFFICER
What was the name on the crest of my jacket?

MOLE
I don't like where this is going.

TOAD
The crest?

POLICE OFFICER
Yes, the crest on my jacket. The big red and yellow one with
big letters.

TOAD
Oh yes. Of course.

POLICE OFFICER
What was the name?

Toad thinks about this for a
second.

TOAD
Anderson?

POLICE OFFICER
Anderson?

MOLE
Anderson?

POLICE OFFICER
Not even close.

The Police Officer yanks the bonnet
off Toad to reveal his face.

POLICE OFFICER
I knew it!

Toad and Mole run for the door but
the Police Officer blocks them.

TOAD

Now, see here good man. I can explain. I'm actually innocent.

POLICE OFFICER

Yeah, that's what they all say.

MOLE

It's true! I heard the real perpetrators this very morning.

POLICE OFFICER

Because that's how the law works. One person hears a crime second hand and reports it, allowing a convicted felon out of prison by breaking them out.

TOAD

Could you make an exception?

POLICE OFFICER

No!

Toad and Mole shrug and then let out a war cry, tossing the police officer out of the train.

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)

I'll be back!

SOUND CUE: WATER SPLASH!

TOAD

Just for the record, Mole and kids at home, I don't condone violence of any kind. I simply needed to delay the good Police Officer until I can reclaim Toad Hall.

MOLE

Is it a consolation he landed safely in the water?

TOAD

Of course! And I'll see to it I pay him back ten fold.

Toad and Mole look around to the audience.

TOAD/MOLE

We promise!

Toad and Mole rush out of the train as SOUNDS OF IT STOPPING AT THE STATION rush into our ears.

EXT. TOAD HALL - DAY

Mole and Toad arrive at the entrance of Toad Hall. Rat and Badger are already there.

RAT

I say Mole, who's your friend?

Toad rips off his dress and does a little introduction dance like the bell of the ball.

TOAD

It is I, J. Thaddeus Toad Esq. Freshly sprung from Scotland Yard! Rat, Badger, it's so great to see you!

BADGER

Toad! Then our plan has worked. We only hope my next one works just as well.

RAT

You see, Toad. We all came up with this scheme the second we saw these rapsCALLIONS take up residence in Toad Hall. I mean, look at these scoundrels!

The stage flips to inside Toad Hall where WASELS and Macguffin are partying with SODA and POPCORN and being generally wild.

We flip back to outside Toad hall with our heroes.

TOAD

How dare they treat Toad Hall with such distain and little respect. I'll have their heads I will.

Toad rushes up to the door and bangs on it loud.

TOAD

I say get out of my house!

Mole, Badger, and Rat grab Toad by the collar and grab him off stage just as Weasel opens the door.

WEASEL

Who's there?

Weasel looks around, doesn't see anyone. Rat, Mole, and Toad disguise themselves as statues.

MCGUFFIN

(offstage)

Oi! What's going on, Weasel?

WEASEL

Someone was banging on the door!

MCGUFFIN

Come back to the party, we're about to use the art as target practice!

WEASEL

Oooo! Wait for me!

Weasel slams the door and rushes away.

RAT

Leave it to Toad to start things off on the wrong foot. You can't go in all willy nilly, we have a *plan*.

BADGER

A most advantageous *plan* indeed.

TOAD

Okay fine. What's your *plan*?

BADGER

First we wait.

Toad throws himself to the ground in agony.

TOAD

Oh no not that, anything but that! I hate waiting!

RAT

Would you rather be waiting in a prison cell?

TOAD

Oh all right. At least tell me there's more to it than waiting.

MOLE

Of course Toad, we're not going to allow Toad Hall to be destroyed by these ruffians. The next bit of the *plan* goes like this...

Mole and the others huddle up and whisper loudly. As they do, we flip to inside Toad Hall again.

Toad the others swing around to the back of the audience and tip toe

one more time through the them,
maybe they shush some people for
fun.

Once they get to Toad Hall, they
see everyone is fast asleep.

Note: everyone stage whispers here
for now.

TOAD

What rare luck is this? They seem to be fast asleep! All we
have to do is find the deed to Toad Hall.

RAT

Does anyone see it?

The deed is in the breast pocket of
Macguffin, he snores like a
cartoon.

MOLE

There I see it. It's in his breast pocket.

BADGER

I'm not lithe enough to grab it. Who can do it?

The group looks around to one
another. Suddenly Toad steps forth
triumphantly.

TOAD

I shall recover the deed and retake my ancestral home.

MOLE

Toad, I love you, but are you sure you can do this?

BADGER

This sort of maneuver takes guile, you're not usually the
sort to accomplish such a task.

Toad scoffs.

TOAD

Whatever gave you that idea?

RAT

Well, the boat crash, the carriage crash, the spree you went
on taking out people's mailboxes on accident, and your
general behavior for the last thirty years.

Toad waves him off.

TOAD

Pish posh. I can do it. It must be me. I am the owner of Toad Hall and I shall reclaim it.

MOLE

Best of luck Toad.

TOAD

Thank you Guacamole, but I don't need luck. I was born lucky.

RAT

This is going to be a disaster.

Toad tries with all his might to be sneaky. Despite this, he trips over several Weasels without waking them, crashes a vase on the ground, and opens a hissing soda can, all to the dismay of his friends.

Finally he gets to a sleeping Macguffin.

BADGER

This is it. Godspeed dear Toad.

Toad carefully grabs for the deed, but Macguffin turns in his sleep. They do this dance for a little while, until finally Toad snatches the deed from the breast pocket.

The others do a silent celebration dance but then they stop, for Toad is holding back a sneeze.

TOAD

Ah... ah... ah...

RAT

Toad hold it in dear fellow!

TOAD

ACHOOOOOOOO!!!!!!

The Weasels and Macguffin wake up and find Toad holding the deed in his hands.

MCGUFFIN

Oi! Old Toady has busted out of the pen. And he got the deed! Get em' boys!

Let's choreograph a really fun chase scene here where we use the entire stage, maybe a sword fight or two, and have a lot of fun with it!

At the end, Toad grabs a stack of papers and flings it into the air, confusing which one is the real deed.

Macguffin and the Weasels frantically search for the correct one while Toad grabs the real one.

Toad and the others rush off stage while the baddies keep searching.

SIRENS BLARE and the Police Officer from earlier arrives with Toad, Rat, Badger, and Mole.

TOAD

That's him officer.

TOAD

These are the scalawags who have invaded my home!

MCGUFFIN

Now wait just a minute here. This is our house.

POLICE OFFICER

Oh yeah? Then why does this chap have the deed?

MCGUFFIN

You see--

POLICE OFFICER

And isn't it suspicious that you're not Toad and you would be residing in Toad hall?

MCGUFFIN

We may be second cousins...

POLICE OFFICER

I've heard enough! You're under arrest.

The Police Officer ushers the Weasels and Macguffin out of Toad Hall.

Toad, Rat, Badger, and Mole do a victory jig.

TOAD

We did it! Oh I'm so lucky to have friends like you.

BADGER

Yes, but Toad didn't you learn anything on this wild adventure of yours.

TOAD

I certainly did.

Toad goes center stage and clears his throat as if giving a speech to all his country men and women.

TOAD

I J. Thaddeus Toad Esq., have learned that my actions have consequences and I must take into account other people's feelings as well as my own.

Rat, Badger, and Mole all lightly applaud Toad, but then Toad goes off subject.

TOAD

Furthermore, I shall make a trust for all young Toads and Toadettes to learn this very message...

RAT

I say Toad...

TOAD

And also my children's children shall know of this day...

BADGER

That's quite nice but Toad...

TOAD

And their children's children to the end of time...

MOLE

Toad?!

Toad snaps out of his trance.

TOAD

Oh, yes Mole?

MOLE

It's getting quite late and the children are growing restless.

Toad clears his throat.

TOAD

Oh yes, of course my dear fellow. But my point stands. I shall never again give way to my deliriums.

THE SOUNDS OF AN AIRPLANE GROAN
OVERHEAD.

Toad rushes to center and looks out
past the audience.

TOAD

Egad! I daresay what is that?

BADGER

That's an airplane, dear Toad.

TOAD

An airplane you say?

RAT

Now Toad... calm yourself.

MOLE

Think of your children's children children children children
children.

TOAD

But I am! To the airport!

RAT/BADGER/MOLE

Here we go again!

Toad rushes off stage and the
others follow.

The Narrator comes center stage.

NARRATOR

Wasn't that simply grand? Toad has the best of friends an amphibian could ever ask for. Indeed he was only able to win the day with the matchless valor of Mole, consummate strategy by Rat, and a proper handling of court documents by Badger. Treasure your friends as Toad has learned to do. I sincerely hope you enjoyed your time at Toad Hall. Do come again.

The Narrator bows and exits the
stage.

THE END.