

MOLE. *[To Badger as s/he follows him off]* You want *me* to carry it? Why do I have to carry it? Why can't you carry it?

TOAD. Are you really going to leave me imprisoned in here, Ratty?

RAT. It's for your own good, Toad. Just think—no more arguing with the police when they stop you for speeding.

TOAD. I like to argue. I always win.

RAT. And no more long stays in the hospital.

TOAD. I like the hospital. They have great nurses.

RAT. Think of it this way. We're protecting you from yourself.

TOAD. I can't stay cooped up like this. *[He pretends to have a sudden pain.]* Ohhh! *[RAT looks toward him. He does it again.]* Ahhh! *[RAT says nothing. TOAD does it again, but bigger.]* Ohhh! Ahhh! Ewww!

RAT. *[Suspiciously]* Toad, what is it?

TOAD. *[Still pretending]* What? Oh, nothing. Ohhh!

RAT. Then why are you groaning?

TOAD. *[He bends over holding his stomach.]* I'm groaning because it hurts. Ohhh!

RAT. What hurts?

TOAD. What hurts? I hurt! My arms, my legs, my stomach. Even my nose hurts!

RAT. What can I do to help?

TOAD. Get me a doctor.

RAT. I can't. Badger told me not to leave you.

TOAD. Then call me an ambulance.

RAT. The phone's inside the house.

TOAD. Then go away and let me die in peace. *[He pretends to swoon.]* Eeww!

RAT. You're dying?

TOAD. *[He coughs]* I'm breathing my last.

RAT. I'm not sure I believe you.

TOAD. That's right. Don't believe a dying toad. *[He suddenly holds the right side of his chest.]* Ohhh, my heart, my heart. It's stopped ticking.

RAT. Your heart's on the other side of your chest.

TOAD. Oh. *[He quickly moves his hands to the left side of his chest.]* I'm dying, I'm dying. *[Pause. He glances at RAT.]* I'm dead. *[He falls out of sight.]*

RAT. *[In a panic]* Dead? No, wait, wait! Don't do that. Don't die. I'll run and get Badger. He'll know what to do. Stay right there. Don't die until I get back. *[S/he rushes off Down Left calling]* Moley? Badger? Heeeelp!