

"Can I help you? *Toad*? Is it really you?"
Toad knew that voice. "Ratty! Oh, it's good to see you."

"Toad, what are you wearing? Come and find some dry clothes."

Soon Toad was at Ratty's house, and he was dry and dressed. "Now it's time to go home!" he said. He stood up.

"Oh, Toad, I'm very sorry," said Mole, "but the Wild Wood weasels are in your house and we can't go near it."



Toad was so angry that he couldn't speak.
"Don't worry," said Mole. "Badger has a plan."

Badger arrived that afternoon. "There are weasels and foxes everywhere," he said, "but tomorrow, there'll be a big party for old Grandfather Weasel's birthday. Now, Toad, many years ago your father told me about a secret passage. It goes all the way from the river bank to the middle of your home, so I was thinking..."

"Yes!" said Toad. "We'll surprise them!"



They spent all the next day planning and getting ready. When it was dark, Badger took them to the secret passage and they followed him inside.



When they came up into the house, they could hear loud singing. "This way!" shouted Badger. He opened the door and they all ran through.

The weasels stopped singing. They seemed to see angry Badgers and Moles and Rats and Toads everywhere. All those terrible animals were shouting and running towards them with big, heavy sticks.

The weasels ran this way and that way, between tables and through doors and out of windows, until the four friends were alone in the room.

"Oh, Toad, what a mess," said Ratty sadly.

"Don't worry, we can clean the place tomorrow," said Mole. "And then, Toad, you must have a party."

Toad held out his arms. "You are the best friends in the world, and I am a very lucky Toad. Thank you all. It's good to be home."

