

railway train, mere child's play. I'm going down there now.

Mole	}	<i>(talking over each other)</i>	And I'm coming with you.
Rat			No you are not, Mole.
Toad			He can if he wants to.
Rat			Be sensible, the pair of you.

Badger Shut up, the lot of you. There are more ways of capturing a place than by taking it by storm. Now I am going to tell you a great secret. Coming right up in the middle of Toad Hall and leading from the river bank quite near here is an underground passage.

Toad Oh nonsense, Badger. I know every inch of Toad Hall inside and out and there's no such passage. You've been listening to some of the tales they tell in public houses.

Badger I wasn't told it in a public house, Toad, for the good reason that I have never been in a public house. It was told me by someone for whom I had an immense respect, your father. He discovered the passage, repaired it and cleaned it out just in case and when he showed it to me he said 'Don't let my son know about it. He's . . . a good boy . . .

Toad begins to sniffle.

' . . . only what he's not good at is holding his tongue. But if he's ever in a fix, Badger, you can reveal the secret.'

Toad It's not my fault if I am a bit of talker.

Badger I've found out a thing or two lately. There's going to be a big meeting tonight and all the weasels will be gathered in the dining hall eating, drinking and generally carrying on and, this is the important thing, with no guns, pistols or anything.