

Weasel Norman I'm a cow.

Rat You are a weasel.

Weasel Norman I'm a cow. Moo.

There is pandemonium in the court, shouts of 'Cow!' 'Cow!' and counter-cries of 'Weasel!' 'Weasel!'

Magistrate Stop it, stop it. Whether the witness is a cow or a weasel might exercise an Oxford philosopher but it need not detain us here.

Fox Sir, sir.

Magistrate Oh, I'm fed up with being interrupted. What is it?

Fox The prisoner's driving brought a hen of my acquaintance to the brink of nervous collapse. She didn't know whether she was coming or going.

Magistrate Hens never do know whether they're coming or going.

Fox This one did. She was very single-minded. Only now she's lost her head completely.

Magistrate And who are you?

Fox I'm a fox with a conscience.

Badger Ha!

Magistrate I don't want to hear any more. Despite all these objections I still retain the favourable impression I had of the prisoner when he first stepped into the dock. I keep thinking of that riverside mansion, where who knows I might one day be a guest . . .

Toad has begun to doze off and it takes a poke from Rat to alert him to the benefits that might accrue from an offer of hospitality.

Toad Oh yes. Any time you please. It will be a pleasure.

Magistrate Oh that's very kind of you . . . though that does not affect my judgement in the least. Do you do kedgerie for breakfast at all?

Toad Oh yes. And devilled kidneys.

Magistrate Oh my favourite. However kedgerie and kidneys to one side, my inclination is to let the prisoner go free. With one small proviso, namely the prisoner must never under any circumstances go near a motor car again. He must never ever drive.

Clerk What do you say to that?

Toad (*very subdued*) Never.

Magistrate Excellent. Case dismissed.

Toad No. Stop. I don't mean I never will. I mean I never won't.

Magistrate You never won't what?

Toad I never won't . . . not drive. I love motor cars. Motoring is my destiny! Petrol runs in my blood. I was born to drive. Poop poop. poop poop.

He starts driving around the dock and there is uproar in the court. Shouts of 'Seize him!' 'Restrain him!' 'Put him in neutral!'

Badger	}	<i>(together)</i>	He is not himself, your honour.
Rat			The trial has turned his head.
Toad			No, it hasn't. Poop poop.
Mole			Believe me, your honour, he's very nice underneath.