

The Wind in the Willows (musical)

The Wind in the Willows is a novel by Kenneth Grahame. It is about a group of animals who live on the banks of a river. Recently, Stephen Kingsbury and Ben Sleep transformed this novel into a musical. In this extract from their script, Toad finds himself in trouble with the law...

Scene 6: A Courtroom

The JUDGE pops up from the WILD WOOD chorus

Judge: ...TOAD! You have been found guilty, on the clearest evidence, first, of stealing a valuable motor car; secondly, of driving to the public danger; and, thirdly, of gross impertinence to the rural police. The latter being by far the most serious of your numerous crimes.

Policeman: Hear, hear.

Judge: Be quiet you nincompoop!

Policeman: Er, begging your pardon M'Lud...

Judge: Quiet!

The CLERK also pops up next to the JUDGE

Clerk: But Your Honour...

Judge: I said quiet!

Policeman: Yes Your Honour.

Judge: Now, Mr...Toad, if that is your real name, these are grave, grave offences — you do understand that?

Toad: Oh yes Your Honour, nothing clearer... I am of course most dreadfully, dreadfully sorry...

Judge: Some of these crimes are unforgivable.

Toad: I didn't mean to steal; I mean it wasn't really stealing...

Judge: Not that! I understand that you verbally abused this officer here...

Toad: Oh I didn't mean it Your Honour...

Policeman: He called me a...

Judge: Quiet you nincompoop! I'm quite capable of getting the details from this wily frog!

Policeman: Toad...

Judge: How dare you! Never have I been spoken to in such a manner...

Clerk: I think he was referring to Mr. Toad, Your Honour.

Judge: What?... Oh, right.

Toad: It was only in jest!

Judge: That's no excuse. No one, whatever their rank, should take the name of the law in vain. Now...what did you call him?

Toad: I called him a...a...

Policeman: He said I was a...

Judge: Quiet you nincompoop! Now...Mr. Toad?

Toad: I called him a...nincompoop.

Silence

Judge: Disgraceful!