

FROG THE TOAD

Written by

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EXT. TOAD TOWN SQUARE - MORNING

A rickety old BUS drives down a dirt road. Large blades of grass line the road.

FREDDIE (O.S.)

So yeah, my dad was a toad, but my mom was a frog! So like, we're half and half, but we were raised as frogs. But hey, even though I didn't get the toad culture, I got *everything else*. Warts, am I right?

The bus comes to an abrupt stop and the door opens. A grumpy toad BUS DRIVER sits up front.

BUS DRIVER

Toad Town.

FREDDIE, a young half frog, half toad walks to the front of the bus. He has the long, lanky legs of a frog and the short stubby body and arms of a toad.

FREDDIE

Thank you! Oh, before you go, I just wanted to finish my story about-

The bus drives off abruptly. Freddie shrugs.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Guess he was in a hurry.

Freddie turns and sees the front gate to Toad Town, a town inhabited by... well, toads. Freddie walks through the town market, enamored by the sights. The town is dry, with barely any water in sight. An elderly toad woman stands by a market stall looking around expectantly. She sees Freddie and goes into a loving frenzy, running over and fiercely hugging him. This is GREAT AUNT TOAD.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Freddie! You made it!!

FREDDIE

(struggling to breath)
H-Hi Great Aunt Toad... G-Good to see you..!

She relinquishes him and looks him up and down.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

You've gotten so tall since I last saw you!

FREDDIE
Well, you know, frog legs.

GREAT AUNT TOAD
Let's get you all settled in. I'm
so happy you're helping us with the
market for the summer!

EXT. TOAD TOWN MARKET - MIDDAY

Freddie and Great Aunt Toad set up shop in the Toad Town market.

GREAT AUNT TOAD
How are you liking Toad Town so
far, Freddie?

PAN TO Freddie, who's incredibly shriveled up and has a raspy voice. The sun is beating down hard.

FREDDIE
(raspy voice)
It's lovely in the summertime.

GREAT AUNT TOAD
Oh no! I forget, you need to stay
moist!

She pulls out a spray bottle and spritzes some water on him. He rehydrates.

FREDDIE
I would've been okay!

GREAT AUNT TOAD
Know your limits, nephew.

Freddie eyes their products.

FREDDIE
So... What are we selling here?

GREAT AUNT TOAD
Only the finest Toad Town has to
offer.

She reveals that she's cooking flies on the grill.

FREDDIE
Flies!! Wait... You're... burning
them?!

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Ha ha, not burning, *roasting* them.
There's nothing better than roasted
flies wrapped in bay leaves.

FREDDIE

Huh... Frogs always eat flies raw
or chilled. I've never seen them
"roasted" before.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

And frog food is certainly...
unique. But this dish is a staple
amongst toads. Here.

Great Aunt Toad passes Freddie a wrapped fly.

FREDDIE

Down the hatch!

Freddie stretches his tongue out and eats it in one bite. His
face shrivels up and his body dries out. Smoke comes out of
his nostrils.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

I should have warned you, it's
spicy!

Freddie swallows.

FREDDIE

(raspy voice)
Nothing I can't handle.

Great Aunt Toad spritzes him with the spray bottle again. A
young Toad girl approaches.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Good morning, Polly! I've got your
mom's order right here.

She hands Polly a basket of fly wraps.

GREAT AUNT TOAD (CONT'D)

And one extra for you.

She hands Polly a single wrap.

POLLY

Thank you, Mrs. Toad!

Polly eats the fly wrap without hesitation.

FREDDIE

Wait!

She swallows and pats her stomach.

POLLY

Ah... Pure bliss. You always make the best fly wraps, Mrs. Toad!

She walks away.

FREDDIE

How did she... But she's just a little kid!

GREAT AUNT TOAD

It's an acquired taste around here. But it's okay if it's not for you, Freddie!

A line of toads starts to form.

GREAT AUNT TOAD (CONT'D)

The lunch rush already? Here, let me show you how to make this.

Freddie's eyes gleam.

FREDDIE

You mean I get to learn how to make them too?! This is amazing! Way better than last summer with Cousin Mudpuppy...

BEGIN MONTAGE

-Great Aunt Toad teaches Freddie how to roast the flies to perfection. He causes a small fire, and immediately shrivels up. She spritzes the fire out, as well as him.

-Freddie tries wrapping the fly in the bay leaf, but it comes undone each time. He gives up in frustration before Great Aunt Toad comes over, rolls up her sleeves and tightens it to perfection. It's so tight it looks like it's going to burst.

-The line goes down one by one, with Toads walking away completely satisfied.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TOAD TOWN MARKET - AFTERNOON

The lunch rush dies down as Freddie and Great Aunt Toad are cleaning up the stall.

FREDDIE

That was amazing! I feel like I can take on the world!

GREAT AUNT TOAD

You did wonderful, Freddie! You're really getting the hang of this.

She turns to clean off the grill. An elderly, grumpy toad named FELIX approaches the stall. Freddie eagerly goes to take his order.

FREDDIE

Hello! Welcome to the home of Toad Town's finest fly wraps! What can I get you?

FELIX

What? Who are you?

FREDDIE

Oh, I'm Freddie Toad! I'm here for the summer, and let me tell you, I can make one *mean* fly wrap.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Thank you, Freddie! But why don't you leave this customer to me?

Freddie steps aside.

GREAT AUNT TOAD (CONT'D)

Mr. Wartworth! So good to see you, I've got your special order right here.

FELIX

Hmmph, thanks.

Felix takes the wrap and leaves.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Felix is one of my more *particular* customers. I'll teach you how to make his special order another day.

Great Aunt Toad looks at the clock on the counter.

GREAT AUNT TOAD (CONT'D)
 Ah! Already 3? I need to go pick up some ingredients downtown. I know it's your first day, but could you watch the stand? It shouldn't be too busy!

FREDDIE
 You can count on me! I *am* a Toad after all, making this comes naturally to us!

GREAT AUNT TOAD
 Alright, just be careful and if there's any trouble come find me, okay?

She gives him a kiss on the forehead and departs.

FREDDIE
 Yep, just a Toad running a food stand. Just one of the Toads.

Freddie whistles awkwardly to himself. Felix approaches the stand again, holding a sloppy mess of a wrap and looking incredibly annoyed.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)
 Hey Mr. Wartworth! Enjoy your wrap?

FELIX
 Does it look like I enjoyed my wrap?

Freddie looks at the mess in his hands.

FREDDIE
 ...Maybe?

FELIX
 I tripped and dropped it, I need a new one!

FREDDIE
 Right... I can do that. Let me just make that for you.

Freddie turns around and looks at the kitchen area. All the spices and various ingredients look incredibly intimidating to him. He fires up the grill and begins making one without Great Aunt Toad's supervision. He finishes and hands Felix a poorly put together wrap that's practically falling apart.

FELIX

What is this? I asked for my wrap!

FREDDIE

Right, I just, um-

FELIX

The *right* way!

FREDDIE

Y-Yes sir!

Freddie turns back to the grill. He's sweating bullets.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

It's just one customer! You can do this! As long as nobody else shows up...

A bus pulls up to town square. It says "Toad Town Tap Dancers" on it. A group of tap dancing Toads exit, holding trophies.

TAP DANCER

What a toe tapping victory! Or should I say... *toad* tapping?

They all laugh with their inflated throats.

TAP DANCER (CONT'D)

Fly wraps are on me!!

They begin forming a line.

FREDDIE

Not the world famous Toad Town Tap Dancers!! Their appetites are as legendary as their footwork!

Another bus pulls up with a bunch of flamenco dancer Toads. They look angry.

FLAMENCO DANCER

I can't believe we lost to those tap dancing fools... Why were we even in the same contest?! Come on, fly wraps will quell our anger!

The crowd gets bigger.

FREDDIE

Not the awe-inspiring Toad Town Flamenco Dancers!

(MORE)

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Their short tempers are as well known as their amazing sense of rhythm!

The crowd is now massive, and Freddie continues to mess up orders. He has no clue what he's doing. The pressure and heat from the fire causes him to shrivel up.

FELIX

What kind of Toad did she leave in charge here?!

FREDDIE

I-I'm trying my best, sir, I-

FELIX

Are you even a Toad?! You look more like a frog to me!!

Tears well up in Freddie's eyes. The stress has become too much for him. He runs away from the stand and bumps into Great Aunt Toad.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Freddie! What's going on?

Freddie bursts into tears. She immediately understands.

GREAT AUNT TOAD (CONT'D)

Let's get you inside.

She flips the 'Open' sign on the stand to 'Closed'. Everybody verbally groans. They walk away sadly, as one of the Toad tap dancers does a quick little dance on their way out.

INT. GREAT AUNT TOAD'S HOUSE - EVENING

Great Aunt Toad sits Freddie down on the couch. She hands him a cup of tea.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

You're so dry! Here.

She sprays Freddie with a spray bottle of water to moisten him. He shrugs it off.

FREDDIE

Do you think I'm a toad?

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Is that what this is all about? Of course I do.

FREDDIE
 But toads don't need to be
 moistened! Or have long legs or, or-

He curls up and looks away.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)
 I'm not one of you.

GREAT AUNT TOAD
 What is your last name?

FREDDIE
 ...Toad.

GREAT AUNT TOAD
 And your dad is a...?

FREDDIE
 A Toad...

GREAT AUNT TOAD
 Did you know that I'm part newt?

FREDDIE
 You are? But... you don't look like
 it.

GREAT AUNT TOAD
 We don't always look like what we
 are. But that doesn't change *who* we
 are. You are a toad. You're also a
 frog. And nobody can tell you any
 differently.

Freddie smiles.

GREAT AUNT TOAD (CONT'D)
 Now why don't we go out there and
 fix this mess?

EXT. TOAD TOWN MARKET - EVENING

Together, Freddie and Great Aunt Toad serve up fly wraps to the tap dancers and flamenco dancers. They dance in the streets, putting aside their differences over a delicious shared meal. Felix, now fed, approaches the food stall.

FELIX
 Er... I'm sorry about earlier,
 young man. When I get hungry I lose
 my temper, but... there's no excuse
 for what I said.

FREDDIE

Hey, who doesn't get hangry from time to time? All is forgiven.

FELIX

See, Mrs. Toad here usually makes my wrap special. I prefer my wrap to be chilled, with mint leaves. I just enjoy frog food a bit more.

Great Aunt Toad smiles at Freddie.

FREDDIE

I'm actually half frog, you know! Maybe I can whip up something for you next time? We have tons of great food too!

FELIX

I might take you up on that offer, young man.

GREAT AUNT TOAD

Freddie! Can I get your help with these wraps!

FREDDIE

Of course!

Freddie runs over to manage the grill. He shrivels up, but spritzes himself with the spray bottle.

THE END