



FROG & TOAD UNDER COVID PROTECTION TIER 3

It was a hot day. Toad and Frog went for an ice cream together. They walked all the way to the ice-cream shop. But the ice-cream shop was closed. A notice in the window said it was closed due to Covid restrictions.

‘Oh dear,’ said Frog. ‘What shall we do?’

Toad thought long and hard. Then he cheered up.

‘Do not worry, Frog,’ he said, ‘We will get our ice-cream. We shall go to my house. I have some ice-cream in the freezer.’

Frog hopped up and down. ‘You are clever, Toad!’ he exclaimed. ‘What flavour is it?’

‘I have chocolate ice-cream,’ said Toad.

Frog said that was his favourite. Together they set off for Toad’s house. When they got there, Toad opened the door and went in. Then he came out again.

‘What is wrong, Toad?’ asked Frog. ‘Do you not have any ice-cream after all?’

Toad looked worried. ‘I have got ice-cream, Frog,’ he said. ‘But I have just remembered. A friend from another household cannot be in my house at the same time as me.’

Frog was very sad. Toad sat down on his doorstep, his chin in his hands.

Then Frog jumped up. ‘I know what!’ he said. ‘Let us go to my house instead. I have got some strawberry ice-cream.’

‘Oh good!’ said Toad. ‘You are clever, Frog.’

Together they set off for Frog’s house. When they got there, Frog opened the door and went in. Then he came out again.

‘What is wrong, Frog?’ asked Toad. ‘Has your ice-cream melted?’

‘No,’ said Frog, ‘it is not that. But I have just remembered that a friend from another household cannot be in my house at the same time as me.’

‘Oh dear,’ said Toad. ‘You are quite right, Frog. We cannot go into your house either.’

The two friends sat down on Frog’s doorstep and wondered what to do next.

Then Toad jumped up. ‘I know what, Frog,’ he said. ‘Let us go to Newt’s house instead.’

‘Oh!’ exclaimed Frog. ‘What a good idea! And I will bring my ice-cream and we can eat it there.’

Arm in arm, Frog and Toad set off for their friend Newt’s house. Frog carefully carried a tub of strawberry ice-cream. Newt was not at home. But the door was open. Toad and Frog went in and sat at Newt’s kitchen table. And they were just about to eat Frog’s ice-cream when Newt came home.

‘Oh,’ said Newt, ‘but that is not allowed, Frog and Toad.’

Frog and Toad looked at Newt.

‘But we are not in my house,’ said Toad.

‘And we are not in my house either,’ said Frog.

‘But you are in my house,’ said Newt. ‘And two friends from other households cannot be in my house at the same time as me.’

‘Oh,’ said Toad crossly, ‘this is giving me a headache. What are we allowed to do, then?’

Frog and Toad and Newt sat and thought very hard for a few minutes. Then Frog leaped up.

‘I know what!’ he shouted happily. ‘We can take it in turns to be inside Newt’s house. First, Newt can be in, and we can be outside, and Newt can serve us ice-cream —’

‘And then,’ interrupted Toad, ‘you can be inside, and Newt and me can be outside —’

‘And then,’ finished Newt, ‘Toad can be inside and serve ice-cream to Frog and me!’

[In honour of the wonderful Arnold Lobel]

And so the three friends spent a happy time darting in and out of Newt's house and eating up all the strawberry ice-cream.

Then Newt took a tub of vanilla ice-cream from his fridge and off they went to Frog's house. And the three friends spent an hour darting in and out of Frog's house and eating vanilla ice-cream. And then they went back to Toad's house and ate up all the chocolate ice-cream as well.

'That was very nice,' said Toad later, as the three friends lay on the grass with their tummies full. 'It all worked out for the best after all!'

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