

THE VISITOR

My husband, very last thing at night, has a habit of looking round outside before finally locking up. Recently, what he thought was a pile of leaves in the porch corner, proved to be a toad! As it was dark, he did not attempt to move it, resolving to attend to it the next morning.

On retrieving the newspaper first thing, (that plopping through the porch letter box must have frightened the toad) he saw the toad sitting on the step immediately outside the front door facing inwards as if to enter. My husband did not want this to happen, so gently nudged it with the paper so that it turned and faced outwards. A few more nudges and pushes persuaded it to move towards the porch entrance, where it flopped on to the paving stone just outside the porch doors. Recognizing its own environment, with one leap disappeared.

I thought this unusual incident worth recording. We almost enjoyed "toad-in-the-hall" that time!

Shirley Jackson

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