

# 10 Toads On Trade

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**T**ater Toad wanted to see the world. He hopped a train and travelled far and wide. He saw the big city lights of Atlanta. He soared through the rolling hills of the Carolinas. He made his way to the coast to dip his toes in the salty waters of Myrtle Beach. He even got so far as Vermont once, but decided the North was not the place for his Southern soul. But it was in Savannah that he met his one true love, Tallulah. He spotted her bright green eyes and shiny skin from across a crowded pond. She was lying alone on a lily pad, gently paddling with a lazy leg. He swam up to her and it was love at first sight. They married in a romantic courtyard in Charleston and decided to head back east to meet the rest of Tater's family. Tater returned home and introduced his beautiful bride. He told them all about his adventures, the amazing places he saw and all of the exotic bugs he ate.

"But ah," he said, "there truly ain't a better place than home."

This is why they chose to come back to the Upstate and settle in Greer with the rest of his kin. At least there, he could still hear the rumble and whistle of the train to remind him of his travels.

Tater's sister, Tess, was the first to ask if he had met any famous people along the way. Tater mentioned his encounter with the famous singer, Tino. He seduced many young lady toads with his rough and gritty voice. (He also played a mean fiddle.) Tater told Tino all about Greer and with a little luck may have convinced him to bring his talents here. Little cousin, Timmy was hopping as high as he could go, excited that he might actually meet a real life celebrity.

"Uncle Tater! Uncle Tater!" cried Timmy. "Think he'll give me an autograph? Do ya? Do ya? Huh?"

"Calm down, 'lil Timmy," said Aunt Tully. "We'll just have to wait and see. Besides, now's time to catch up with Tater and Tallulah." Tater's brother, Tex had just gotten back from his trip to the big pond and about got run over by little Timmy.

"Hey there little guy! Sloooooow down," cautioned Tex.

Timmy ignored him and hopped away to see if the other young toads wanted to play leap frog or hopscotch. He found Talon and Taylor teasing Tiesha down by the riverbed and jumped right into the game.

"Youngins these days," sighed Mama Toad.

Mama Toad and Papa Toad decided it was time to turn in. They nuzzled Tater. "It's so good to have ya back, son."

"Night Mama. Night Papa," said Tater before falling asleep below the stars, happy as a toad in the pond of his dreams.

THE END

