**CLASS 16-21**

IRISH RATS RHYMED TO DEATH  
*Carol Ann Duffy*

(It was once a common belief that rats in pasturage could be destroyed by anathematizing

them in rhyming verse or by metrical charms…)

Do you want to get rid of an Irish rat?

I can advise how to go about that.

Take a deep breath

and rhyme it to death:

Look, rat!

There goes a cat in a new hat!

Get lost, rat!

There isn't a WELCOME for you on this mat.

Rot to a skeleton, ratty old rat.

You're fat.

Do you want to get shut of a Scottish mouse?

I can advise how to de-mouse your house.

Take a deep breath

and rhyme it to death:

See, mouse!

A louse is itching away in a grouse.

Go away, mouse!

We don't want you here a-nibbling our house.

Watch out for the cheese in the trap, mousey mouse.

Use your nous.

Do you want to be shot of an English fish?

I can advise how to fulfil your wish.

Take a deep breath

and rhyme it to death:

Oy, fish!

There's a pool of pish in this dish.

Scram, fish!

You're wet.  Your mouth is an O,

your tail is a swish.

We've got a good idea, fishy fish,

we'll eat you with chips.

Do you want to be free of a Welsh cow?

I can advise exactly how.

Take a deep breath

and rhyme it to death:

How now, cow!

A dancing sow is taking a bow.

Disappear, cow!

Your udders are bagpipes making a row.

Put a plug in that *Moo*, cowy cow.

Do it now.

Let's all have one last rhyme for the cow:

Pow-wow!

(And one for the rat -

SPLAT!)