

## SIDE #5

Characters: Rat 1, Rat 2, Rat 3, Rat 4, Darktan

- RAT 1** Poor old Fresh. He was a good rat.
- RAT 2** Should've looked where he was going, though. Let's get him out of the trap, then. Doesn't seem right, leaving him there.
- RAT 1** Especially since we're hungry.
- RAT 3** Dangerous Beans says we shouldn't eat rat at all.
- RAT 2** What do you think happens to you, after you're dead?
- RAT 1** You get eaten. Or you go all dried up, or moldy.
- RAT 2** But what about the bit inside?
- RAT 4** The squishy green wobbly bit? You shouldn't eat that. Tastes *awful*.
- RAT 2** No – I mean the bit inside you that's *you*. Where does *that* go?
- RAT 4** Sorry – you've lost me there...
- RAT 2** Well...you know, like...dreams. You know, when you wake up, where does the dreaming part *go*? When you die, where does that bit that's inside you go?
- RAT 1** What, the green wobbly bit?
- RAT 2** No! The bit that's behind your eyes!
- RAT 4** You mean the pinky-grey bit?
- RAT 2** *No* – the invisible bit!
- RAT 4** How would I know? I've never seen an invisible bit! I don't like this kind of talk – it reminds me of the shadows in the candlelight!
- RAT 3** They say the Bone Rat comes and gets you when you're dead, they say.
- RAT 1** They say, they say. They say there's a Big Rat Underground who made everything. They say if you've been a good rat, maybe the Big

Rat has got this tunnel full of good eating that the Bone Rat will take you to —

*[Darktan enters.]*

**DARKTAN** All right, all right, what's been happening? *[Seeing the 'body']* Ah. I see. What do I tell everyone?

**RAT 1** Not to use tunnels that haven't been marked clear, sir. But Fresh never was a good listener.

**DARKTAN** He's not going to be doing any more listening now, that's for sure. We've got to go. There are too many traps; too much poison. No one is to go any further along this tunnel, understood? Everyone say, 'Yes, Darktan'.

**ALL RATS** Yes, Darktan!

**DARKTAN** And one of you stand guard. Everyone's getting nervous. The fear is spreading – if the Changelings panic, they'll panic as normal rats.

*[He starts to leave.]*

**RAT 2** What shall we do with Fresh, sir?

**DARKTAN** *[Pausing, and speaking over his shoulder]* Don't eat the green wobbly bit.