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This story takes place in the same universe as the short story "Rain Check" and I recommend you read that first.

PAGE ONE (four panels)

Panel 1: Dawn. An exterior view of a block of flats in Port Elizabeth. There's no vegetation anywhere.

TITLE:
The Shower

Panel 2: A closer view of the flats, centred on a window on the third floor.

Panel 3: A closer view of the window. A small brown-green slug crawls up the wall past the window.

Panel 4: Interior of a bedroom from the window's POV. A couple (Lynn and Donovan) cuddles in bed. Lynn wears a t-shirt and boxers while Donovan wears only boxers. A radio alarm clock displays the time 6:03 a.m.

PAGE TWO (five panels)

Panel 1: He climbs out of bed.

DONOVAN:
I'm gonna shower.

Panel 2: She lies in bed and stares at the ceiling.

SFX (shower):
Whooooosshh

Panel 3: She leans over and turns on the radio.

SFX:
Whooooosshh

SFX:
Click

RADIO:
Worldwide water restrictions are set to continue. As if we haven't suffered enough since the Arcole incident...

Panel 4: Bathroom. Lynn climbs into the shower. We only see her head and shoulders. The shower has two glass walls, one of which doubles up as a door. Next to the shower there's an opaque window which slides up to open.

Panel 5: She stands in the running water. An unpleasant look on her face.

SFX:
Whooooosshh

LYNN (thought):
Dammit Donovan! You used all the hot water again.

PAGE THREE (five panels)

Panel 1: Evening. A busy road. Exterior view of a car in which Lynn and Donovan shout angrily at each other. She's driving. There's no vegetation anywhere.

Panel 2: Lynn and Donovan stand in the corridor outside her flat. They are both upset. Her handbag hangs over her shoulder, and she holds two bags of take-aways and a set of keys.

DONOVAN:

OK, Lynn. So you want us to break up?

LYNN:

If that's what you want.

Panel 3: He walks away in anger down the corridor. She watches him leave.

DONOVAN:

Fine, then it's over. For fuck's sake!

Panel 4: She stands in her small kitchen. The two bags of take-aways are unopened on the table. Her handbag and keys lie on the table.

Panel 5: She angrily throws the one take-away bag into the bin.

SFX:

Thud

PAGE FOUR (six panels)

Panel 1: Afternoon. Interior of a glass-domed botanical garden. There are large trees and lots of people. Lynn walks among the crowd.

CAP:

Four months later.

Panel 2: She stands before a large tree.

Panel 3: She runs her palm across the tree's rough bark.

WESLEY (OP):

We always seem to take things for granted until it's too late.

Panel 4: She leans around the tree to see who spoke. A man (Wesley) is on the other side, and his hand is also against the tree. He smiles at her.

Panel 5: They stand closer to each other and look at the tree.

LYNN:

We haven't lost all the trees, so it's not too late.

Panel 6: Exterior view of a coffee shop. Through the large window we see Lynn and Wesley seated at a table. They talk and laugh. Various plants adorn the interior of the shop. There's no vegetation outside.

PAGE FIVE (five panels)

Panel 1: Morning. The same bedroom as before. Lynn and Wesley cuddle in bed. The radio alarm clock displays the time 6:10 a.m.

CAP:

One month later.

Panel 2: He looks at her.

WESLEY:

You want to shower first?

LYNN:

You can go first.

Panel 3: He climbs out of bed.

WESLEY:

OK.

Panel 4: She smiles as he walks off panel to the bathroom.

WESLEY:

But we can take turns to shower first.

Panel 5: Wesley in the shower. He washes his hair. His eyes are closed and covered in shampoo.

Lettering note: The shower's sound continues throughout the remaining panels.

SFX:

Whhooooosshhh

PAGE SIX (five panels)

Panel 1: The bottom half of the bathroom's window is open. A large brown-green slug squeezes through the window. The slug is larger than a grown person.

Panel 2: The slug slides up the outside of the shower's glass wall behind Wesley.

Panel 3: It hangs over the top of the shower, close to Wesley's head. Its mouth is wide open. Wide enough to enclose Wesley's head.

Panel 4: Close-up of Wesley. He frowns as he notices a shadow fall over him.

Panel 5: He looks up in horror at the slug above him. Its mouth a wide dark abyss.

PAGE SEVEN (four panels)

Panel 1: The slug's mouth envelops Wesley's head and shoulders.

Panel 2: The slug slides down as it swallows Wesley alive. It envelops him up to his knees. He struggles to break free.

Panel 3: Blood splatters onto the shower floor.

Panel 4: Lynn stands outside the bathroom door. She frowns and knocks on it.

LYNN:
Wesley?

SFX:
Knock knock

PAGE EIGHT (two panels)

Panel 1: She opens the door.

Panel 2: She gasps at the scene in the bathroom. The shower is filled with blood. The slug is curled up in the shower, half lying against the walls. Wesley's feet stick out of its mouth. His feet are twisted at unnatural angles. This is the largest panel on the page.

CAP:

The end.