

EXCERPTS FROM THE SLUGS OF DOOM

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EXT. LARGE SHED IN GARDEN ON ISLAND OF DOOME - DAY

More bangs, crackles and flashes: it appears fireworks are exploding in the pristine new shed at the end of a lusciously blooming garden.

There's a loud boom and the door flies open as two ten year olds, CHARLIE Skiddle and BILLY 'Wizz' McGreggor emerge coughing and spluttering. Their blackened faces and wild hair seem at odds with their ecstatic expressions.

CHARLIE

Well that seemed to do the trick.
Thunderslugs are go!

BILLY

Wow. That was wicked!

They walk away from the shed, ignoring the the door falling off behind them, towards a trellis on a garden wall covered in a profusion of fire red flowers - and huge orange slugs. WOOFER, Billy's dog rushes to the boys, tail wagging.

Garden lighting is starting to spread a warm orange glow as dusk falls. On closer inspection it is clear that the light is coming from luminous giant slugs luxuriating on fire flower balls that fill the lamps.

Zooming in, some of the slugs on the trellis sport little silver saddles with numbers on: 1, 2, 4, 6. And some have words on: Kiss, Heart, Capital and Juice. The slugs appear blissfully content, grazing gently on the flowers. The antennae on Magic are glittering and vibrating.

Charlie thoughtfully and gently strokes Magic the slug, who takes no notice whilst Billy kicks a deflated football at an imaginary goal and celebrates his victory with a back flip. Woofer races for the ball and plays with it.

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CHARLIE

And we have now proved beyond all possible doubt that the slugs can communicate with radio waves.

BILLY

As well as being amazing slime lights.

CHARLIE

And are therefore definitely our friends and not to be exterminated.

BILLY

Though I'm still not sure my mum will be happy. She doesn't seem to like slugs.

The boys pause. Billy's excitement is replaced by thoughtful contemplation that almost matches Charlie's.

CHARLIE

No. Yes. Maybe. We need more proof. I think our radio transmitter is bust.

Charlie looks back at the shed, which isn't looking good after the explosion. One of the walls is buckling. BILLY follows his gaze whilst aiming a nifty kick at a stray plastic flower pot.

CHARLIE

Don't you think this is such an awesome discovery everyone will be cool. Including my dad?

BILLY

Isn't that a new shed?

CHARLIE

It can be fixed.

The shed crumples to the ground. A large burnt out radio can be seen on the workbench.

CHARLIE

Or replaced.

They stand for a moment considering the implications of the destruction of the shed and it's contents.

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CHARLIE

Let's go to yours to fix the radio. Then we can demonstrate everything. Is your mum at home?

BILLY

No, she's at the labs for some meeting. Everyone's there.

BILLY runs back to the remains of the shed, picking his way through the debris to examine the shell of the burnt out radio before putting it in his rucksack.

BILLY

Do you think we should cut down on the lithium?

Charlie looks thoughtful then shrugs.

They grab their bikes and speed away from the house with a joyful Woofy running alongside. Billy performs wheelies, whilst Charlie ploughs on in a straight line. It becomes clear there are only a few houses around, and that nature rules here: countryside, shoreline and sea stretch all around on this small island.

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 LATER SCENE

EXT. PATCHING VILLAGE - DAY

Bodgit, Leggit and Scarper turn up in their van at the Garden of Perfect Harmony. The puddles make it clear that there has been rain. This has washed away most of the yellow lines.

BODGIT

Council's fault we had the wrong paint. Someone ordered water based yellow paint because it's cheaper.

LEGGIT

Who orders supplies?

BODGIT

The yellow line man.

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LEGGIT

You?

BODGIT

Yeah. But how was I to know.

Scarper gets busy repainting double yellow lines whilst Bodgit and Leggit settle down in deckchairs with a windbreak held up by cones.

LEGGIT

So why are you calling a car park a community hub?

BODGIT

Because then I can arrange a compulsory purchase of course. Through the council.

LEGGIT

Why would the council do that?

Bodgit turns to look at Leggit as if he's a little soft in the head.

BODGIT

Because Patching doesn't have enough green spaces for the local kids to run around in.

LEGGIT

How do you know?

BODGIT

Because I'm the councillor with responsibility for parks and recreation.

LEGGIT

You?

Bodgit flashes an identity card that proves his status as a Patching Local Councillor (online). Maisie May has curly blonde hair but otherwise shares Bodgit's looks, including a hint of a moustache.

There is a pause as Leggit thinks about Bodgit's words.

LEGGIT

But if you make it into a car park then the kids still won't have anywhere to run around.

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Bodgit grins and shrugs.

BODGIT

Not my problem. There's an urgent need for car parks too. Anyway I'm going to find out who owns those gardens and make them an offer they can't refuse.

LEGGIT

You ain't not got no money.

Bodgit pauses as he tries to work out the triple negative.

BODGIT

Compulsory purchase means I, I mean the council, can buy it for £1 if we want. No one lives