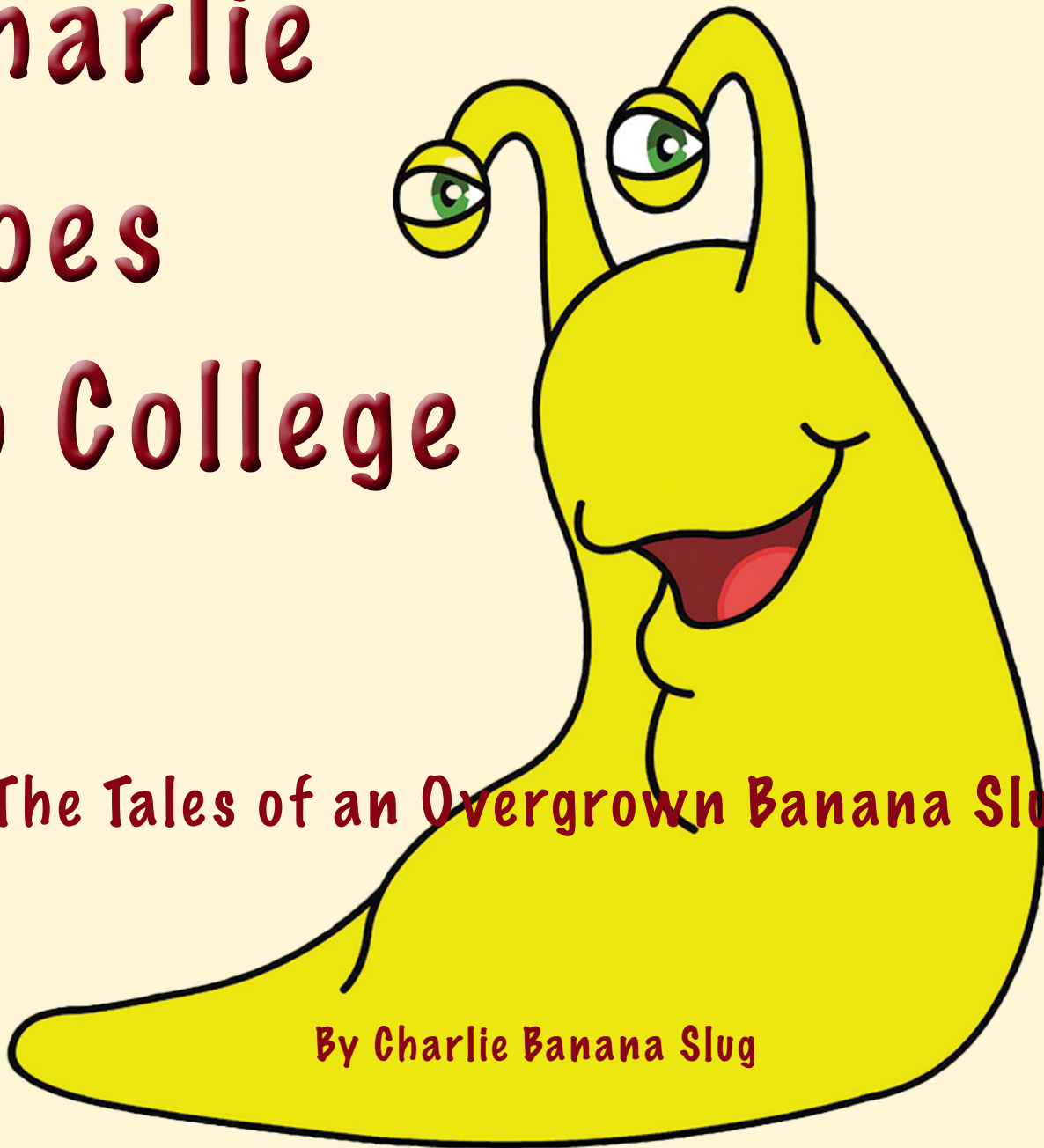


Charlie Goes To College

The Tales of an Overgrown Banana Slug

By Charlie Banana Slug



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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO ALL
BANANA SLUGS EVERYWHERE.

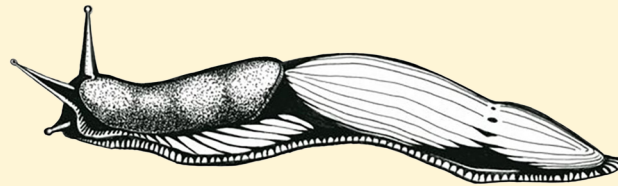




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Image Credit: [<https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheRedwoodsLeague/posts/a-baby-banana-slug-with-an-adult-the-kind-of-thing-one-encounters-in-the-red-wood/10158480872540676/>]



I

Baby Banana Slugs

Charlie finished reading his parents' note about the elixir and put the note and the bottle on the shelf above his bed. That night he dreamed about a banana slug couple in the forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains, not too far from where he lived. Charlie dreamed that the two banana slugs were mating, and would soon have baby banana slugs in their forest home. When Charlie woke up in the morning, he remembered his dream about the banana slug couple and rushed down the forest path to find the banana slug nest. Charlie wanted to see if there were baby banana slugs!



II

The Banana Slug Nest

Charlie peered inside a large, wet tree log that had fallen across the forest path a few months ago and saw a few small, baby banana slugs chewing on leaves amongst the branches and moss inside the log. Charlie wondered if he would ever be a regular-size banana slug again. Charlie wondered what would happen if he drank the small bottle of elixir his parents gave him before they left. Would he shrink down to his regular banana slug size of about 10 inches? Or would he remain his current size of about 250 pounds? Or would something else happen?



III

Charlie Goes to College

Charlie didn't want to risk the consequences of the effects of the elixir, and decided to enroll at the local university, UC Santa Cruz. Charlie lived in an on-campus apartment at Rachel Carson College where he cooked his own meals and shared his apartment with three roommates.



IV

Charlie's Path

Charlie went to class and studied the effects of the elixir on plants and animals. The elixir didn't work - it didn't make anything bigger or smaller - it just made them sick, and eventually they died.



V

Charlie Studies Wildlife Biology

Charlie found a book in the library about banana slugs and brought it back to his room. He read through the book and decided to become a wildlife biologist. Charlie is currently finishing his PhD program in Forest and Wildlife Biology at UC Santa Cruz.

The End