

From How to Get Into College by Don Zolidis

From How to Get Into College (1 M 1F)

By Don Zolidis

MINA, a high school senior
CHARLES, her brother

Mina and Charles are on a boat in the Pacific Ocean giving a talk on how to save the least-loved endangered species.

MINA

Hi there! My name's Mina and I'm trying to save one of the world's least-loved endangered species, The Scorpion Devil Slug!

Mina produces a Scorpion Devil Slug, a slimy spotted thing about a foot long.

Look at this little guy.

Beautiful.

I'm being careful because the Scorpion Devil Slug is one of the most toxic and venomous creatures on the planet. One little sting from one of his two dozen or so probing tentacles and I will soon be frothing at the mouth and going into anaphylactic shock! Then my catatonic body will fall from this little dinghy into the ocean, where I will be consumed in an orgy of death and feeding.

Speaking of which, it's a really nice day to be out here on the water, in the Scorpion Devil Slug's natural environment.

Her brother, CHARLES, enters, a little less certain about how great this is.

CHARLES

That's right, Mina! Beautiful nature. The open ocean. Only one hundred and seven degrees of punishing sunlight and salt spray! My skin might never recover! Woo!

MINA

But it's worth it!

CHARLES

It sure is! To save these beautiful slimy poisonous creatures!

MINA

Venomous, not poisonous!

CHARLES

Fun fact: The Scorpion Devil Slug is the only creature which is both poisonous and venomous!

MINA

Wow! Nature is so amazing!

CHARLES

From How to Get Into College by Don Zolidis

Yes it is! And look what I found!

Charles takes out an even bigger, slimier, more evil looking thing.

It's the Scorpion Devil Slug's larger, more dangerous, more ornery cousin! The Giant Vampiric Scorpion Devil Slug!

MINA

Wow! Where did you get that?

CHARLES

I found him affixed to my leg, dissolving my skin! I only have a few moments before excruciating, agonizing pain overwhelms my senses! But it's worth it! We're making a difference!

MINA

Yes we are! Because without us, these creatures might very well disappear from the planet.

CHARLES

Literally! Because the Scorpion Devil Slug requires a host body to breed!

Charles tries to keep a smile as agonizing pain hits him.

Oh boy I'm feeling that!

Sort of an otherworldly nightmare feeling!

Why don't you tell our audience about the slug's breeding requirements while I try to push down the horrific pain using only the power of my mind!

MINA

Thanks! You okay over there?

Charles keeps a smile and whimpers.

Well, um, when this little cutie is ready to breed, she latches on to a human – sort of like this – and dissolves a layer of skin with her acidic saliva, and then uses her tentacles to inject several thousand eggs subcutaneously. Just like a tick. Except thirty or forty times the size. Later – the baby slugs chew their way out of the eggs and up through the soft tissues of your body and... Isn't nature neat? Right, Charles?

Charles can no longer speak.

He starts making a horrific high-pitched squeal.

Ha ha ha. It's a good thing we're out here! Making the world safe for these beautiful terrifying horrible monsters. Why don't you tell our audience about the role they play in the ecosystem, Charles!

Charles cannot.

Well, in their native environment, Scorpion Devil Slugs are typically used as ammunition by Orcas in their undersea wars. Orcas just launch these little suckers at each other like hockey pucks. If they go extinct, the Orcas will have to go back to slapping each other with their fins. Which would be terrible.

Oh boy. Oh. I believe I have annoyed the Scorpion Devil Slug. Whoops.

Her natural response is to – dig in – and inject 550 ccs of potent venom into my bloodstream and

–

From How to Get Into College by Don Zolidis

CHARLES

AAAAAAAAAAAAAH I CAN'T TAKE IT IT BURNS IT BURNS I WANT TO DIE KILL IT
KILL IT!

MINA

No Charles we're *saving* them!

CHARLES

AAAAAAAH!

Charles falls off the boat.

MINA

Whoops there goes my fine motor skills!

It was... worth it.

Mina freezes and collapses.