

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Software Testers, This Is Your Life

“What Is Software Testing?” How I Explain What I Do	3
Own Your Career	4
Is Your Career Rewarding?	5

Chapter 2: Testing in the Agile Age

Transitioning from a Traditional Tester to an Agile Tester	7
An Agile Approach to Managing Your Software Testing Career	9
Maintaining Tester Independence in an Agile World	10

Chapter 3: Tools and Techniques

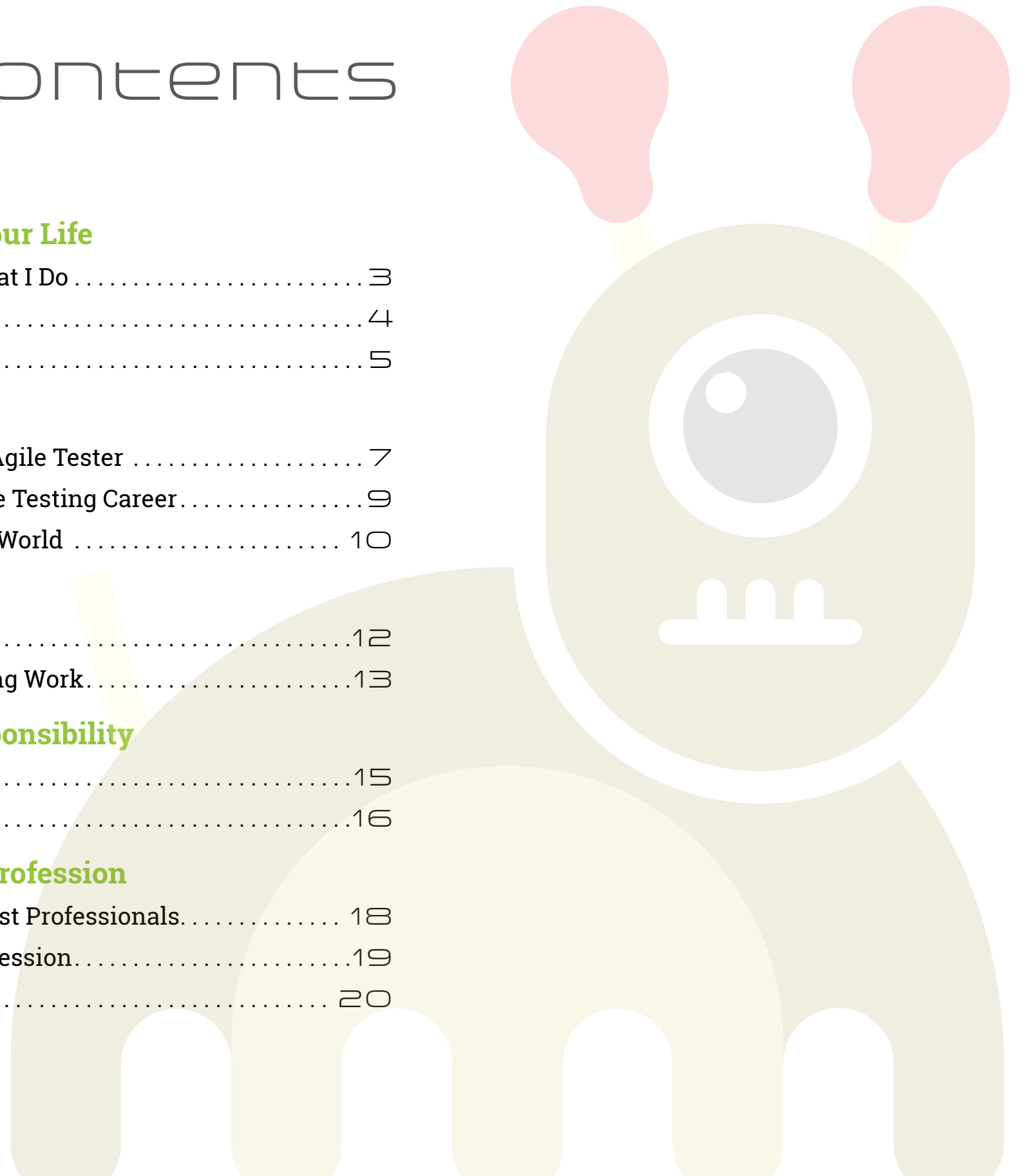
More Slack Time, Please!	12
The Value of Checklists in Our Software Testing Work	13

Chapter 4: Leadership and Social Responsibility

Be Big, Bold, and Brave in Your Testing Efforts	15
Software Testing: A Social Responsibility	16

Chapter 5: The Future of the Testing Profession

Five Predictions: What the Future Holds for Test Professionals	18
Video: The Future of the Software Testing Profession	19
About the Author	20



CHAPTER 1

Software Testers, This Is Your Life

“What Is Software Testing?” How I Explain What I Do

You’re at a party and someone asks you what you do. You answer that you’re a software tester. “What is that?” the person asks, and you begin what is usually a much longer answer than the listener can bear. Soon, the person interrupts and says, “Hey, I’m thirsty. Let’s get a drink!” Anything to get you to stop all the technobabble.

The work we perform is complicated by the objects (modules, methods, applications, systems) that we work on. Yet, given the ubiquitous nature of software and our passion for our profession, it’s easy for us to conclude that everyone understands (or should understand) software.

However, using our software engineering community lingo to explain what we do gets us “deer in the headlights” looks quickly!

I recently read the Bloomberg article [“What Is Code?”](#) It’s a long but good article that uses examples and interaction to describe what code is and how it works.

Still, it leaves the question: How do we simply explain what we do in

