

Bug-a-phobia

Spiders, flies and every insect imaginable crept up Ashley's body. A shrill scream escaped her mouth but was silenced by the bug's chirping and buzzing. Creeping slowly up her shaking arm was a hairy, hideous spider with staring; glazed red eyes that made Ashley stifle a puny cry. The spider scampered its way up Ashley's neck and placed itself on her pale nose. Ashley stood in the sea of insects trembling gazing cross-eyed at the revolting creature.

To her surprise the spider whispered faintly, "This is the world without me..." All of a sudden insects of all kinds flooded into Ashley's room. Ashley sunk further and further down into the never-ending swarm of insects gasping for air.

Ashley jolted awake in her bed. Her whole face was covered in glistening beads of sweat. Panting heavily, she scanned her dark room for a trace of the horrid insects. She nervously glanced at her analog clock. "Oh no, it's one in the morning I better go to bed before my parents see that I'm up," she murmured to herself.

Sleep didn't come to her easily. Ashley kept trying to reassure herself that no bugs were in her room. Just to be sure, Ashley walked around her room inspecting everything for the slightest trace of insects.

Satisfied, Ashley tugged the flannel covers over her head. She daintily placed her head on the fluffy pillow. "I wish bugs didn't exist," Ashley sighed.

Creeping ever so slowly down Ashley's window was a female wolf spider. Ashley, who was still scanning her room, spotted the feared creature immediately. "There was a bug in my room after all!" Ashley gasped. She reached for her book on her nightstand and tiptoed over to the window overlooking her backyard. "Go away you annoying, nasty bug!" Ashley yelled at the top of her lungs.

The wolf spider coiled into a tight ball and wedged herself into the corner. Her hairy legs shielded her beady eyes. Courage somehow swelled up inside of the tiny, helpless creature. "For your information I am not an insect. I'm an arachnid," she squeaked.

"You're like the talking spider in my nightmare....." Ashley stammered. "Now I especially want you to go!" The spider still stood her ground. "I wish spiders didn't exist!"

"Actually without my kind the world would be covered and destroyed by insects," the wolf spider said proudly.

"Really, are you serious?" Ashley questioned.

"Yes, I'm completely serious and honest," the creature replied. The spider then gingerly crept down the wall to Ashley's bed and crept up to her pillow. She asked politely, "May I sit here, dear?"

Ashley hesitated. Did she really want a spider on her bed? Ashley then nodded her head and the spider positioned herself on the pillow. "My dear the spider went on I just realized how rude I recently was. I never introduced myself. Shame on me for doing something so rude! Anyway, you may call me Patricia."

"Nice to meet you Patricia," Ashley said as she smiled warmly. "I am Ashley."

"I know," Patricia replied. "My family has been living in this house even longer than you."

"Wow, that is pretty long," Ashley said.

"I know a perfect way you could understand the world without spiders! Sit back and listen to this poem my mother used to recite to me. Every time I heard somebody saying that they hate spiders she would recite it to me to cheer me up," Patricia continued. Ashley sat on her bed and focused on the spider. "Here it is;

"The noises never end
A world of complete bugs without spiders will never mend
Everywhere are bugs
It is not a jolly time to laugh and give hugs
Spiders are the guardians
Of peace and Earth"

"That was really good, Patricia. I never knew spiders had a way with words. You truly have changed my view on spiders. I will never try to harm a spider ever again so my nightmare will just be a dream and never a reality," Ashley concluded.

"Without us keeping insects at a safe limit by eating them the world would be a horrid place to live!" Patricia boasted "Ah, Ashley, do you mind giving me a ride to your window?" She nervously questioned.

"I don't mind at all," Ashley replied. "Here jump on," Ashley said while lowering her arm to her new friend. Patricia scampered up her arm. They walked across the room and Ashley gently placed the spider on the window.

"Thank you, I really mean it," Patricia said. "What a lovely view," she said gazing dreamily out the window."

"I'll see you tomorrow," Ashley yawned. Ashley went to bed and never had another bug nightmare ever again.