

CECILY AND SPIDER

There's no greater love than that between a little girl and her spider. Anyone can understand this kind of love, the beloved pet and its parent.

Some prefer to keep a dog, some prefer a hamster, some a ferret and others prefer a cat. But not Cecily, she loved her pet spider and Spider loved her right back.

Years ago Spider was a wild spider living outside in a pine tree near their home, but on a cold September day Spider decided to find someplace warm to live.

Cecily and her mother arrived home from school at the normal time in the late afternoon.

In their modest house, in the front picture window, something was glistening in the day's disappearing sunlight. It was gossamer and golden.

In the glimmering threads there sat a thin silvery spider, spinning her lace weight web.

As if knitting, Cecily could almost count along with the spider's stitches. Round and around, row after row the golden web grew.

The silvery spider was not very frightening, so Cecily decided not to swat at it with her hand.

Cecily decided it was best to place the spider outside before her mother saw it. It could live happily out of doors and not in Mother's clean house.

Cecily reached up to grab the spider with a soft towel. But then she took a very good look into the gleaming spider's web. The spider had spun gold.

She took the web down and brought it to Mother. Mother brought it to a jeweler who, looking thought a loop, confirmed that it was indeed gold.

For a tidy sum of money the jeweler purchased the webbing. "The texture is beautiful and the artistry is celestial. Do you have any more?" He inquired.

"Why yes, yes I do," Cecily's Mother said in a buoyant tone knowing very well that she did not.

Cecily and her Mother went home with a smile and vowed to tend and care for the gold spinning spider.

Cecily and her Mother were not rich; they were, as everyone in her neighborhood, somewhere in the middle of things. That said, the tidy sum the kind jeweler had given mother was more money than they had seen in a very long time.

They grew quite prosperous, Cecily and Spider were very happy together for many years.

Spider always had nice clean window to sit and knit and Cecily brought her an abundance of insects to eat.

On cold nights Cecily would exhale condensation clouds on Spiders large window. With her finger she would draw a heart and in the heart she would draw a smiley face.

On warm nights while Spider knitted they would look out of the window and count the stars.

As we know, all things change as time moves forward. Cecily grew taller and went to a new school. Spider began knitting her golden webbing less and less.

Mother become worried and wondered what they would do without the Spider. She had come to rely on the gold to keep her living in a way that she enjoyed.

Greed often reaches farther than it should and in a moment's thoughtlessness, Mother took a rolled up newspaper and batted at the wall near Spider.

Seeing her mother act so out of character, in horror Cecily screamed "Mother, please stop! I love Spider he is our friend."

With her arms flung out to protect Spider, Cecily professed, "This has never about the gold she brought into the world, or the money we made, or the things that were made from her silk."

"Our friendship has always been about how well we all get along together, how much time we have spent together, how well we care for one another."

Spider had run into the curtains to hide from the angry woman. Mother in turn put down her newspaper, knelt down to Cecily and in a big hug began to cry.

"You are so wise my little girl. I had hoped that we could find freedom through our little spider friend." She called to Spider in her motherly voice. "I am so very sorry, please take this house fly and eat."

Cecily knew that their future would be as golden as their past. "We'll cope the best we can as we have always done, together as a family."