

Meaghan E. Lawrence

## Spider Metamorphosis

When Meaghan Lawrence woke up one morning from a night filled with strange dreams, she looked down at herself lying in bed and saw that she was changed into a giant, hideous spider....

She woke up around 10:00 one lovely blossoming spring morning to find a spider's web wrapped around her legs. *Eight legs.*

"Where are my hands - my fingers?" Meaghan cried, looking down at the legs, that were apparently hers, realizing for the first time since she woke up, that she had no hands ... not to mention fingers.

After she had untangled herself from the web, she toppled out of bed to look in her full-length mirror hanging on the wall to see if any other changes had taken place. Meaghan gasped at her reflection in the mirror. So she *had* changed completely into a spider.

"But -how-what-when-where-why?" She stuttered. She tried to put on a skirt and blouse, but of course, it wouldn't fit over her eight legs.

"Well at least I can still eat something," she mumbled at the sound of her empty stomach growling. She walked (well, crawled) downstairs to the kitchen to join her family for breakfast.

"Eeewwww!" Meaghan's little seven year old sister, Lila, screamed as Meaghan entered the room. "Get it away from me! Get it out of here!"

"JIM! YOU BETTER COME DOWN HERE RIGHT N..." Mrs. Lawrence started to call for her husband.

"No, Mom, it's me, Meaghan!"

"Oh, Meaghan!" Mrs. Lawrence cried, changing her tone of voice quickly as she started to move gently and cautiously to her daughter's side. "What happened?"

"I - I don't know really," Meaghan said, truthfully.

"Well, tell me anything unusual that's happened to you this morning or during the day." So Meaghan told her story, from the odd dreams in the night, to that very minute, trying to tell every single little detail possible.

"Well, why don't you come have a seat at the table? We were going to have breakfast, but we need to find out what happened to you," Mrs. Lawrence said.

"Sure, Mom," Meaghan said anxiously.

“I’d still like to get rid of her.” Lila said quietly, trying to make sure that nobody heard her. At that moment, her father started to walk down the staircase, overhearing Lila’s comment.

“Lila!” Mr. Lawrence said sternly, coming down the stairs from his room. “I will have no such thing taking pla...” Then, seeing the giant spider at the kitchen table, he screamed, “Whoah! What the heck is that?”

“That,” said Mrs. Lawrence, “is your daughter, Meaghan.”

Mr. Lawrence stood there in shock, and exclaimed, “but how, what, when, where, why?”

“We don’t know,” Mrs. Lawrence, answered, “and we’re trying to figure out what is going on.”

“Meaghan, is that really you?” Mr. Lawrence asked.

“Yes, Dad, it’s me, but I don’t know what is happening to me, and I’m really scared,” Meaghan said.

Hearing the fear in the voice that he knew was his daughter’s, Mr. Lawrence paused, and tried to calm Meaghan. “Don’t worry sweetheart. Everything will be alright,” he said. Mr. Lawrence’s familiar, reassuring words calmed Meaghan.

“I don’t know why, but I’m really hungry,” Meaghan said. Her mom, still surprised and not sure what to say, pointed to the food on the table and said, “Well, help yourself Meaghan.”

Meaghan served herself a big stack of pancakes and some bacon strips. She looked down at the food she had just piled onto her plate. It didn’t look so appetizing anymore. Actually, it didn’t look appetizing *at all*. She sighed. “Oh, well.” She thought. “It’s the only food I have right now, might as well eat it.” But she could not.

“What’s wrong?” Lila asked curiously.

“Nothing,” Meaghan said quickly.

“You look like you hate pancakes and bacon. But you *love* it!” Lila informed her as she shoveled a huge fork full of pancakes into her mouth.

“Eeewwww! Bluch! Yuck! This tastes *disgusting!*” Meaghan sputtered, spitting out all the food she had just put into her mouth a moment before.

“Meaghan! What do you think you are doing?!?” Meaghan’s mother asked her, grabbing one of her legs to keep her from jumping on the table.

“I can’t do anything! How am I supposed to live and eat!?” she said hopelessly.

“I don’t know” Mrs. Lawrence said, laying her head down across her arms on the table.

“Well, first of all,” Mr. Lawrence said, standing up suddenly and throwing his napkin down on his chair that was currently toppling over backwards onto the floor. “It’s past eight o’

clock and I'm supposed to be at work before nine, and now this, and, and, and... I don't know *what* to do," Mr. Lawrence exclaimed.

Lila looked up from staring at her even-more-ugly-as-a-bug-sister and turned to her father saying, "Can't you think of anything else at a time like this? Like your hideous daughter?"

Mr. Lawrence paused and turned to look at Lila. "Oh, Lila," Mr. Lawrence said switching his voice to a soothing and comforting tone. "You're not hideous."

Lila jumped up. "Me!" She pointed a finger at her sister. "Her! Why would I call myself hideous?"

"Lila! Can't you show a little sympathy for your sister?"

"It's not really that easy. *Especially* when she's turned into a spider."

"What if you were changed into a spider? How would you feel then?"

"I wouldn't. I'm not as dumb as her.

Actually, I'm not dumb *at all*." Meaghan informed her.

Mrs. Lawrence just sighed. "It's not because she's dumb. It's because of something else that happened when she was sleeping. Think about it. What if you *did* get changed into a spider, or some other kind of bug?"

Lila shuddered at the thought. "Well, I guess that maybe - just maybe, though - it would be sort of creepy--"

"But no matter how you looked, you would still be *you*, isn't that right, Lila?" her Dad asked.

"Well, yes, of course," said Lila.

"And how would you feel when people looked at you funny, or even screamed when they saw you?" Mr. Lawrence asked.

Lila thought for a moment and said, "That would be pretty awful. It's still me even though I would just look different on the outside."

"Exactly right," said Mrs. Lawrence.

Then Lila turned, and looked at her sister, the spider, and said, "I'm sorry that I screamed and said mean things about you, Meaghan."

"It's okay," Meaghan replied.

"No, it's not," said Lila. "I shouldn't have hurt your feelings just because of how you look. Mom and Dad will figure something out to change you back ... or ... or ... I'm just going to have to get used to you being a spider," Lila continued. "No matter what, you are my sister, and I love you."

“Thank you, Lila,” Meaghan said, “I just feel terrible because everyone is upset, and it’s all because of me.” Meaghan laid her head down on her arms and sighed.

“Don’t feel bad,” Mrs. Lawrence said comfortingly to her daughter. “We’ll come up with something sooner or later.”

“Soon? Like how soon? Now, maybe?”

“Well, we just don’t know yet,” Mr. Lawrence said, “we’re thinking.”

“Great. Got any ideas?”

All of a sudden, Meaghan felt incredibly tired. She thought that she was going to fall asleep right on the spot.

“I’m so, so tired,” Meaghan said. “I’m going back to bed while you guys do your thinking.” Meaghan stood up and started to climb the stairs. “Let me know if you come up with any ideas.”

About two hours later Meaghan woke up again. ‘I think I’ll go check to see if they thought of anything to turn me back to my normal human shape.’ She climbed off of her pink flowered bedspread and half dragged, half walked down the stairs again to the sofa.

“You didn’t come up with any ideas while I was sleeping, did you?” Meaghan asked.

Lila looked up from her spot on the sofa and started to say, “Not really, but we’ve --” She gasped and pointed at her. “MEAGHAN!!!”

“What?” She looked down at herself, wide eyed. “I’M BACK!!!!!!!!!!!! Mom, look at me, I’m my real human self again!!!”

“Oh, Meaghan I’m so happy that my little girl is back to her true self again.” Mrs. Lawrence came running over and gave her ‘little girl’ a big hug and a kiss on the cheek.

“I’m so happy that I’m back too, Mom.” Meaghan smiled an extra big smile, and gave her mother a big hug. Lila came over to give her sister an extra big hug saying, “I love you Meaghan, and I always have.” And that’s when Meaghan realized:

*My family loves me, no matter what happens.*