

Chapter 1: The Rendezvous

“Where are those two? Why aren’t they here?” fumed Aerial, throwing his front two legs up into the air. “I reminded them yesterday not to be late!”

The orb-weaving spider paced to and fro at the appointed rendezvous spot where he and his two best friends, Trap and Springer, had agreed to meet prior to starting their hiking trip. He couldn’t wait to show his friends the fruits of his labor—the camping equipment he’d spent a great deal of time designing and making.

Aerial had overcome many obstacles in his spiderling days. He had run away to a human senior citizen community center where he learned his web-making skills using crochet hooks designed from toothpicks. He had employed his unique talent when saving the town of Spiderville from a flock of hungry birds. Strong, intelligent, brave, and caring, he was the town’s hero, but that never spared him the frustrations of Trap and Springer not being punctual.

Time passed slowly as Aerial waited at the edge of Spiderville. His impatience growing minute by minute, he decided to calm himself down with some relaxing techniques. He climbed onto an unnaturally bent trillium leaf hovering slightly above the ground. It was the only available seating where he had been standing vigilant, waiting for the arrival of his friends. Aerial was just getting comfortable, when all of a sudden...

“Aaaaaaah!” he screamed as he was catapulted into the air.

The trillium had sprung.

“Help me!” shouted Aerial.

It didn’t take long before he had reached the height of his vault and the laws of gravity took over. He plummeted to the earth, anticipating the pain of his demise, but to his surprise, eight legs suddenly wrapped tightly around him.

Aerial had been caught by his friend, Springer, just before hitting the ground. The two spiders sprang into the air as they reached the end stretch of Springer’s silk thread. This was quite the bungee jump.

Springer was a jumping spider, so he didn’t make webs to catch his prey. Instead, he attached his silk just before pouncing on an intended victim. The controlled length of his silk kept him from any harm.

He was quite lanky in appearance with long legs and a slender body. He also had an engaging personality and

