

Suzie Spider Looks For A Friend

Ages 4 to 9

Suzie was the last baby spider to hatch from her mother's egg sack. All two hundred of her brothers and sisters had already hatched and gently ballooned away on silk threads in the warm breeze. She had been so packed in that egg sack with all the others that she had to stretch all eight of her little legs before she could crawl. Once her legs were stretched and strong enough she began to learn how to climb! She loved exploring and found wonderful new things on which to crawl.

Mother Spider busied herself catching tiny bugs for their dinner, so Suzie had plenty of time to play ...but there was no one to play with. Being the only one left at home made Suzie a bit lonely, and she wished for a friend.

One afternoon Suzie decided to look into a tiny hole she found in the side of the house. Suzie was a very curious spider and this looked like fun. It was dark in there and very quiet, but she crawled bravely on, hoping to find something or someone to play with. The farther in she went, the more she wished there was a light to show her the way. She used six of her little legs to crawl on and two to feel her way along the dark passageway.

Soon she heard feet scurrying around. Hundreds of feet! There appeared to be a small crack along one wall where the sound was coming from. It let in just enough light for her to see a group of ants that looked like they were having a parade!

"It would be so much fun to be part of that parade!" thought Suzie.

Actually, they were hard at work, carrying crumbs that they had found under the big table. They seemed to be excited over their treasure and when she tried to join them, they became angry.

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"Go away spider! We found these crumbs first and they will feed our whole colony, so just SCRAM!"

No matter how many ants Suzie tried to stop and talk to, they were all rude to her and too busy to stop and play. So Suzie squeezed through the crack and found herself in a gigantic room.

"Wow!" Suzie exclaimed as she looked around.

It was the kitchen, and it looked enormous to a small spider. She dashed around the corner and found a cupboard door under the sink had not been pushed shut all the way. That looked like a neat place to explore, so she slipped inside where she bumped into something warm and hairy!

"What do you want, you scrawny little spider?" asked the indignant mouse. "This is MY cupboard, where I get lots of left over goodies that the people throw away. I won't share and I don't want you here!"

"But I'm lonely and I'd like someone to talk to and play with." said Suzie.

"Well, that's your tough luck, go find someone else and leave me alone!" grumbled the greedy mouse.

Poor Suzie was turned away again. Feeling even lonelier than before, she left the mouse's cupboard and crawled all the way across the kitchen floor and into the living room. Suzie had never before been inside the house and it was amazing to see how huge it was. She was creeping along the floor examining all the things she had never seen before when a flash of fur lit right in front of her! As badly as she wanted a friend, this growling, green-eyed cat did not look like a good playmate. With one big swoop of his paw, Suzie was sent sailing across the floor and banged against the wall. It's a good thing spiders can crawl fast on those eight legs because no

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sooner had Suzie gotten half way up the wall when that huge cat began leaping up trying to catch her!

Spiders are good at crawling on walls, and Suzie felt right at home up close to the ceiling. She would just have to bide her time until that angry cat got tired of waiting for her to come down.

That's when Suzie heard a fluttering sound and a cute little moth flew past her.

"Hello there little spider, would you like to play with me?" the moth asked.

"Oh YES, I've been looking for a playmate all day, but no one wants to play."

"Well, I'll play with you. Just follow me and we will have a lot of fun together!"

The little moth took flight, flitting back and forth, up and down, around in a circle and out the open window before Suzie could even tell it that spiders can't fly.

"Wait, wait!" Suzie called. "Please come back and play with me."

But the little moth was already swooping around the flower garden to play with the butterflies. Looking down, Suzie saw that the angry cat had grown tired of waiting for her and was curled up on the couch fast asleep. She quietly climbed down and crept into the next room wondering if she would ever find a friend. Suddenly she came to a huge shaggy mountain lying right in the middle of the floor. She tip-toed up to it to get a better look, but was stopped by a huge wet nose!

"Wow, what are you and do you want to play with me?" asked Suzie.

"I am the family dog and I'm too old to play anymore. Besides, I'd just crush you with my big paws." the dog mumbled as it yawned. With that being said, he laid his head back down and promptly began snoring.

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The ants were too busy for her, the mouse was too greedy, the cat was too mean, the little moth had flown away and now the dog was too lazy and old to play. Slowly and sadly, Suzie turned away and scooted under the screen door to the porch.

And there, to her delight, were two little girls having a tea party! They were all dressed up in fancy hats and gloves with soda in their tea cups and delicious looking cookies on a platter in the middle of their table. They were laughing and having so much fun that Suzie was sure they would welcome her to join them for tea. She hurried across the floor, up one of the table legs and ran right out to where the platter of cookies sat between the two girls.

“Oh this is going to be the best friendship ever!” exclaimed Suzie.

But no, both girls screamed and jumped up, knocking their chairs over backwards, and ran from the porch. In their hurry to get away from the spider, they accidentally tipped over one of the cups of soda and it splashed all over poor Suzie. There she sat, all sticky and lonesome and she began to cry. Mother Spider heard her crying and came out from under the steps to see what was wrong. She found Suzie sitting in the mess on the table and put one of her arms around her for comfort.

“Come home with me Suzie and I will get you all cleaned up while you tell me what has happened.”

When she was bathed and had her tears dried, Suzie explained to her mother about her awful day and how lonely she has been.

“Mommy, why won’t anyone be my friend when I tried so hard to be friendly?”

“Don’t worry Suzie, not everyone you meet will be your friend. But there will be many others that will be happy to be friends with you. I happen to know a little secret. The mother spider that

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lives in the garage just had her egg sack hatch and the babies will soon be big enough to play. In the meantime, I'll teach you how to make a pretty web and you can teach them when they are a little older."

True to her word, Mother Spider taught Suzie how to make many different kinds of lovely webs. It wasn't long before Suzie was making beautiful webs in all kinds of designs and had forgotten all about her awful day. Within days she became the best web spinner in the neighborhood. Never again was Suzie lonesome, as there was always a new batch of baby spiders hatching. Many of them sailed away on silk threads like her brothers and sisters did, but others stayed close to home with Suzie. Now she had lots of playmates and her new friends loved her. Soon they were old enough for Suzie to begin teaching them web design. Suzie's webs were the prettiest webs anyone had ever seen and she had so many friends she couldn't count them all.