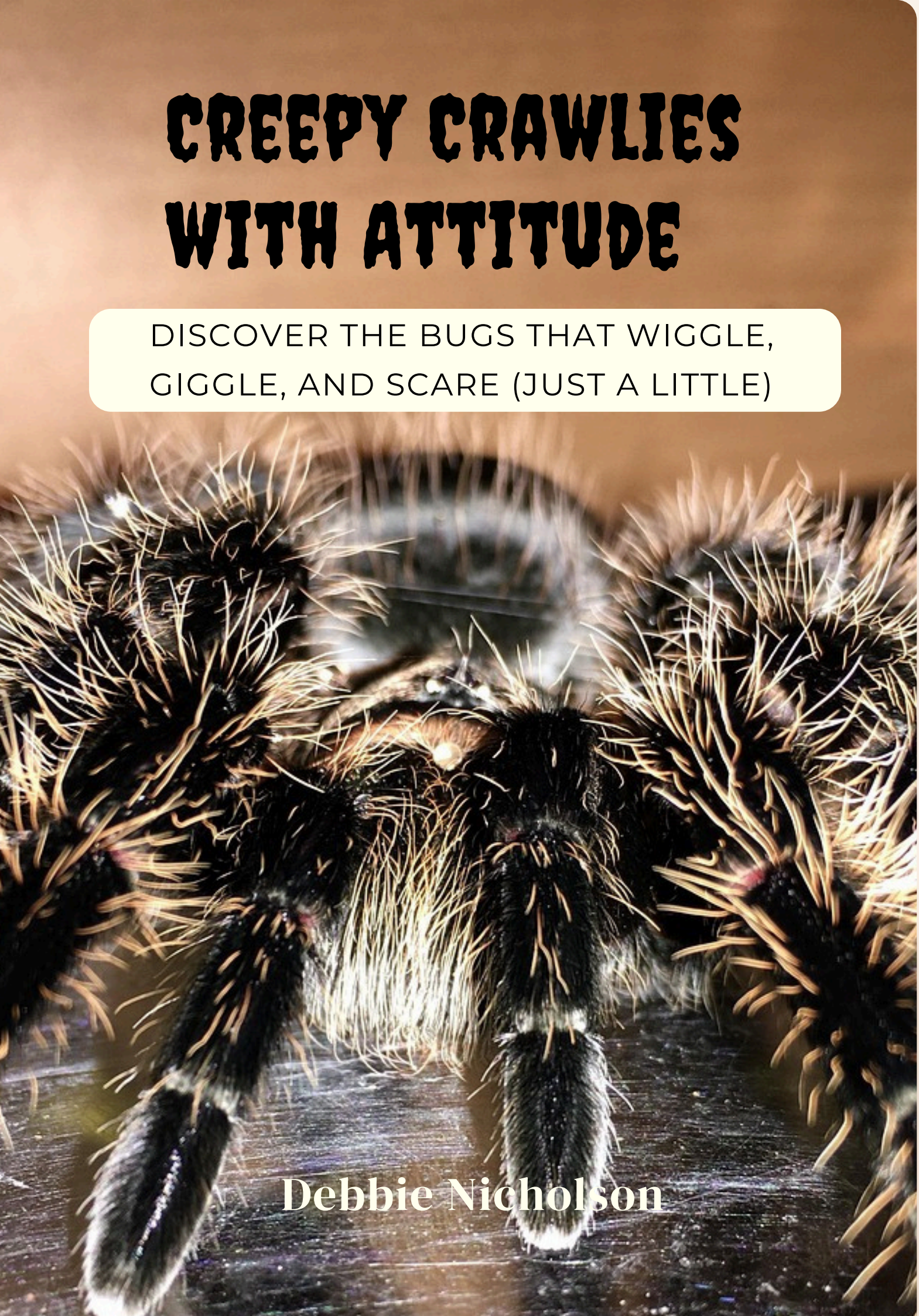
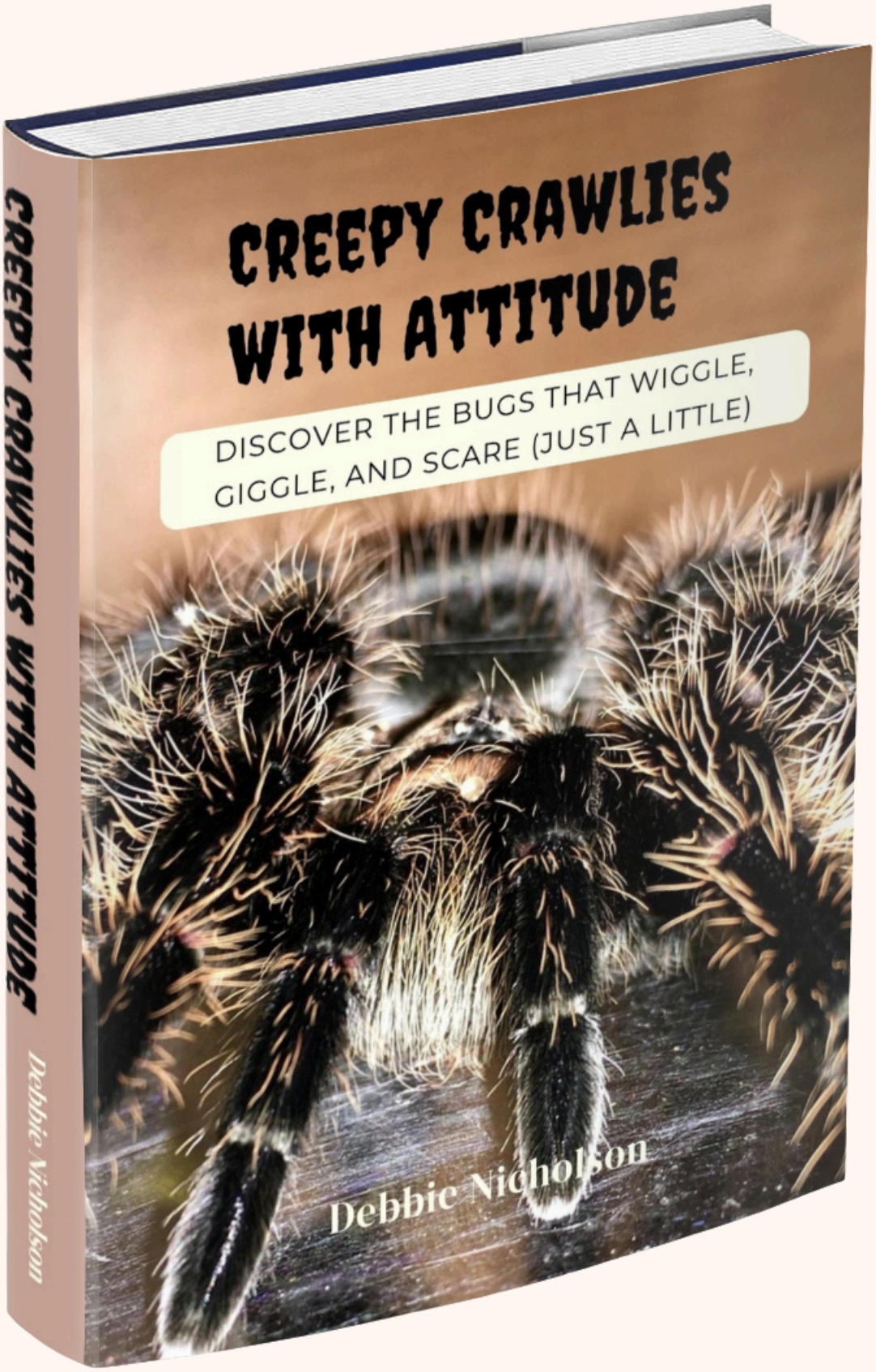
CREEPY CRAWLIES WITH ATTITUDE

DISCOVER THE BUGS THAT WIGGLE, GIGGLE, AND SCARE (JUST A LITTLE)



Debbie Nicholson


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DEDICATION PAGES

To all the creatures hiding under rocks,
hanging from webs, and tiptoeing
through the garden at night —
this one’s for you.

And to the brave souls who dare to look
a little closer…
you’re my kind of curious.

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INTRODUCTION

You know those creatures that make you scream, jump, or run for the nearest chair to stand on?
Well… they've heard the rumours. And frankly, they're tired of the bad PR.

This book is their big chance to set the record straight.

Here, the giant millipede finally gets to show off his fancy legwork. The golden orb-weaver talks fashion. The assassin bug polishes his invisible ninja sword. And the tarantulas? Oh, they're just fluff balls with attitude.

This isn't a science text book, (although

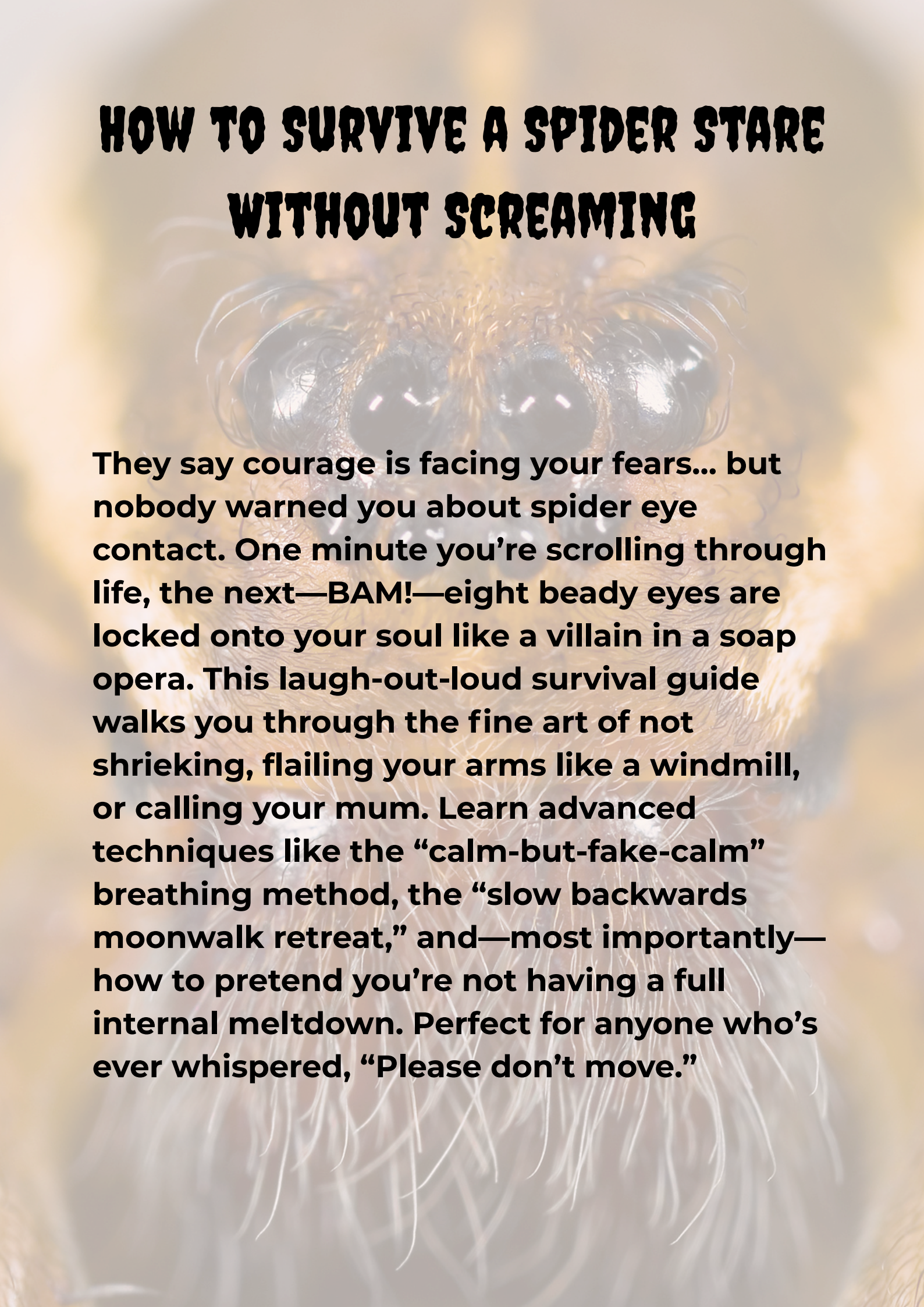
INTRO continued:

you might learn a thing or two). It’s a front-row ticket to the funniest, weirdest, spookiest cast of critters on the planet.

So, grab your magnifying glass — if you dare — and step into the shadows where the creepy crawlies live.

But don’t worry… most of them are just here for the snacks.

How to Survive a Spider Stare Without Screaming



They say courage is facing your fears... but nobody warned you about spider eye contact. One minute you're scrolling through life, the next—BAM!—eight beady eyes are locked onto your soul like a villain in a soap opera. This laugh-out-loud survival guide walks you through the fine art of not shrieking, flailing your arms like a windmill, or calling your mum. Learn advanced techniques like the "calm-but-fake-calm" breathing method, the "slow backwards moonwalk retreat," and—most importantly—how to pretend you're not having a full internal meltdown. Perfect for anyone who's ever whispered, "Please don't move."

BUG ETIQUETTE

🕷️ 1. The Staring Contest Rule

- If a bug locks eyes with you... don't panic.

✅ Breathe in.
✅ Blink like a polite human.
✅ Let the bug think it won. (It probably did.)

🪲 2. The Tiny Tenant Policy

- Remember: bugs were here first.

✅Ants are basically tiny real estate agents.
✅Spiders are rent-free security guards.
✅Moths are your midnight fashion critics.

🪳 3. Emergency Calm Down Procedure

- When a bug shows up uninvited:

✅Don't scream (it just boosts their confidence).
✅Don't swing (you'll miss and look silly).
✅Relocate or observe respectfully — they have places to be too.

BUG ETIQUETTE

🐞 4. Proper Bug Greetings

✅Fly: Nod politely.
✅Beetle: Compliment the shine.
✅Caterpillar: A gentle “hello” will do.
✅Wasp: Step back slowly and let Her Majesty pass.

🐝 5. Coexistence Contract (optional printable)

✅Create a “bug peace treaty” — a funny little agreement where you promise not to squash, and they promise not to land on your face at 2 a.m.

CHAPTER ONE



GIANT AFRICAN MILLIPEDE

Wiggles doesn't bite... but he might tap dance on your shoe



CREEPY STORY TIME

Wiggles was born
with so many legs,
even he lost count.

While other bugs
spent their days
creeping under logs
and hiding from birds,
Wiggles had bigger
dreams... of becoming
Bugland's greatest
dancer.

When a human
spotted him one
night and yelled,
"Eeeeek!" Wiggles
thought, "Wow, my
first fan!" He gave
them his best spiral
twirl — all 300 legs in
perfect motion.

The human ran.

Wiggles took a bow.

Clearly, the crowd was
overwhelmed by his
talent.

This gentle giant is
one of the largest
millipedes in the
world, stretching up
to 30 cm long.
Despite its spooky
many-legged
appearance, it's
completely harmless
and loves to munch
on decaying leaves
and plants. When it
feels threatened, it
curls into a tight spiral
— a clever little body
shield. Nature's
wriggly recycler!

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

Meet Wiggles — the bug with more legs than a marching band. When trouble comes his way, he doesn't run... he spirals like a living cinnamon roll. Totally harmless, but if he shows up at a dance party, clear the floor — he's got moves.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Native to Central Africa’s rainforests
- Can grow up to 30 cm long — that’s a lot of dancing legs!
- Eats decaying leaves and wood, helping keep the forest clean
- When scared, it curls up tight like a cinnamon roll
- Doesn’t bite, sting, or attack — it just… wiggles.



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MEDIUM:

Looks like a wiggly spaghetti monster at first glance... but is really a gentle leafy ballerina.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Antennae - Buggy Wi-Fi receivers that help them pick up all the latest garden gossip

Eyes - Bugs have *way* too many eyes... which is why they always catch you sneaking up on them

Mandibles (Bug Jaws) - Like tiny nutcrackers — made for munching, crunching, and occasionally terrifying sandwiches.

FINAL ZINGER

Wiggles doesn't bite... but he might tap dance on your shoe.

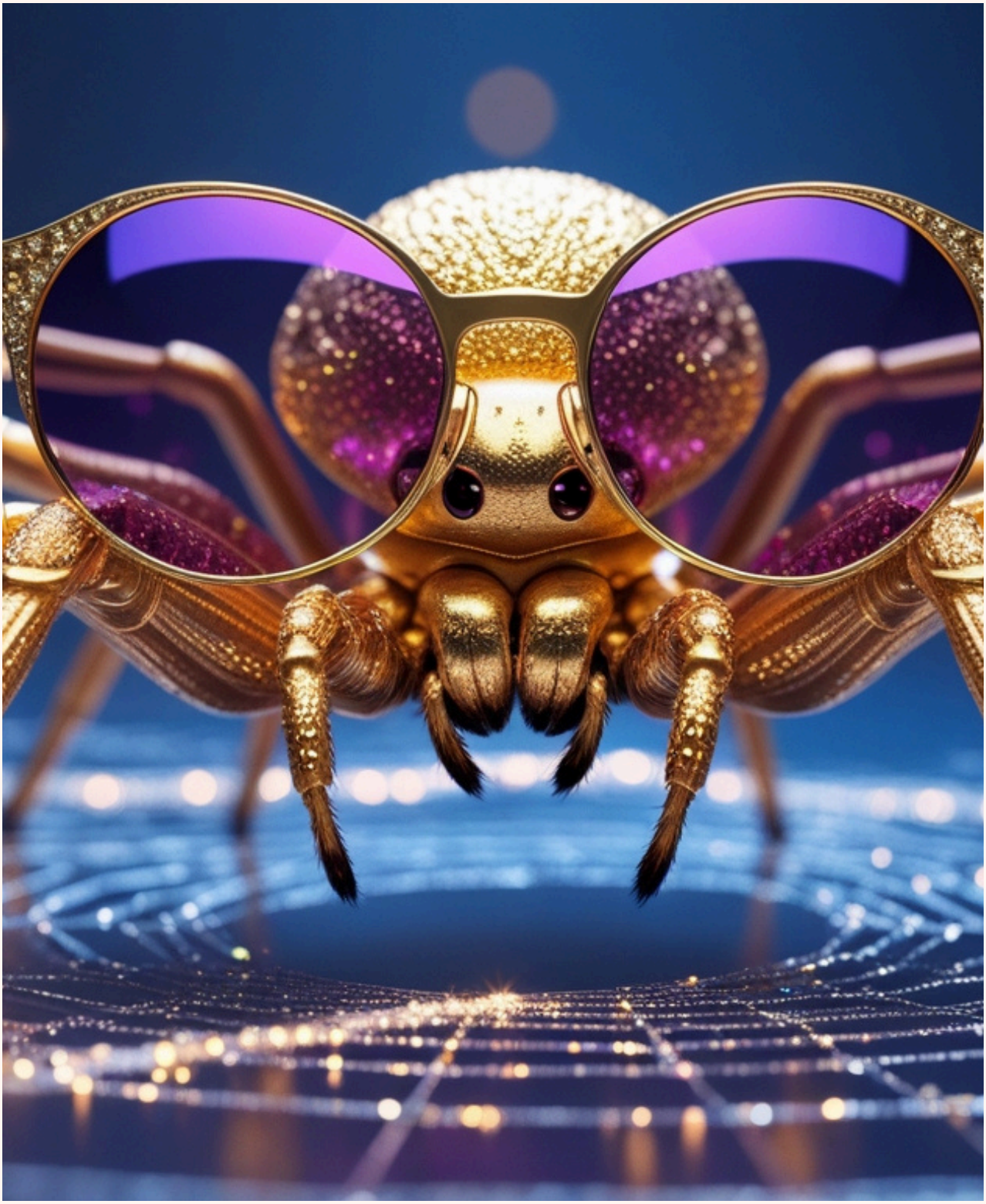


CHAPTER TWO



GOLDEN ORB-WEAVER SPIDER

Goldie — Nature’s Sparkly Web Designer Goldie



CREEPY STORY TIME

Goldie isn't just any spider.
Oh no — she's fabulous.

While other spiders spin plain old cobwebs, Goldie weaves golden silk that shimmers in the sunlight. Birds stare. Bugs gasp. Humans walk into her masterpiece and panic like they've been ambushed by an eight-legged stylist.

But Goldie doesn't mind. She simply sighs dramatically and starts designing a new web. A queen has to keep her runway fresh.

These elegant spiders weave webs that shimmer like spun gold in the sunlight.

.They're not aggressive, but their huge circular webs can startle an unsuspecting wanderer! Females can grow impressively large, and their golden silk is both strong and beautiful — almost like nature's jewellery.

This fabulous lady spins webs that sparkle like gold necklaces. If you accidentally walk through her web, you'll look like a star in a spooky fashion

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

show. Don’t panic — she’s too busy redecorating to bite you.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Lives in warm, tropical places all over the world 🌴
-
- Famous for her golden silk — yes, it really shines in the sun! ✨

- Her webs can be over a metre wide (that's a serious interior design project)

- Females are much bigger than males — Goldie runs the show 💪

- Her bite is harmless to humans (she's a designer, not a fighter.)



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

FULL "EEEEEEEK!

Giant sparkly web + big spider = dramatic human flailing. But honestly? She's too busy accessorising her silk to care.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Orb-weaver: A spider that makes big, round, wheel-shaped webs.

Silk: The strong, stretchy thread spiders make — Goldie's is gold.

Spinnerets: The silk-spinning "machines" on a spider's behind. (Very classy.)

FINAL ZINGER

Goldie doesn't care if you scream — but she will charge you for wrecking her runway.



CHAPTER THREE



SOCOTRA BLUE BABOON TARANTULA

Bluey — The Diva of the Desert



CREEPY STORY TIME

Bluey wasn't born to blend in.
She was born to shine.

With legs that shimmer blue like moonlight on midnight water, Bluey doesn't just walk — she struts. She lives on the island of Socotra, far away from nosey humans, and frankly... she likes it that way.

If you get too close to her burrow, she'll give you The Look. You know the one. The "I'm too fabulous for this" look. She's fast, bold, and has zero patience for uninvited guests. Diva? Oh, absolutely.

With its gleaming armour and spectacular "antler" jaws, this beetle is a showstopper of the insect world. The males use their impressive pincers to wrestle over territory or mates — like tiny gladiators in shining armour. But don't worry — they're more bark than bite.

With shimmering blue legs and a feisty personality, this tarantula from the island of Socotra looks like it walked

straight out of a fantasy novel. It’s fast, bold, and prefers dark burrows — not one for tea parties! Though it’s not deadly to humans, it’s best admired from a respectful distance.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

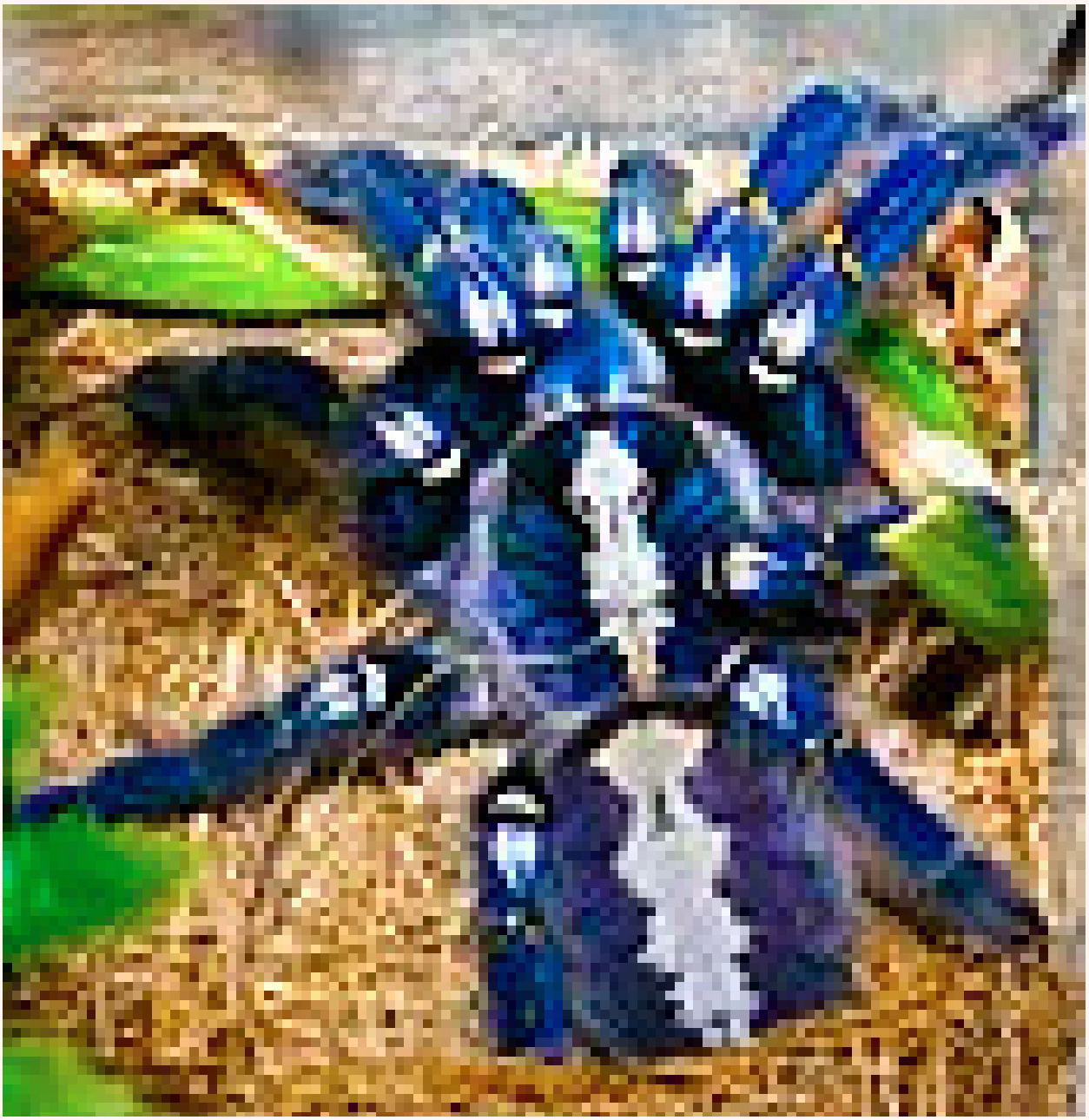
- Native to the remote island of Socotra
- Can grow up to 30 cm long — that’s a lot of dancing legs!
- Lives in burrows and loves the dark — think spider spa retreat
- Known to be quick and defensive (Bluey has boundaries)
- Not deadly to humans, just… dramatic



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

FULL "EEEEEEEK!

Big, blue, fast-moving, and opinionated.
Approach with caution and compliments.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Tarantula: A large, hairy spider that looks scarier than it is.

Defensive posture: When Bluey throws up those front legs like, “Back off, darling.”

Burrow: Her cosy underground palace.

FINAL ZINGER

Bluey doesn’t chase people… she simply waits for them to trip over themselves.



CHAPTER FOUR



CURLY HAIRED TARANTULA

Curly —Fluff Ball with Attitude



CREEPY STORY TIME

Curly might look terrifying to some people, but really... she's just a fuzzy little diva.

She's got the hair. She's got the flair. And she's got eight legs to strut down her web-catwalk.

When she's not busy striking dramatic poses, Curly spends her time chilling in her burrow, waiting for dinner to crawl right up to her. Talk about *service*.

Covered in soft, curly hairs, this tarantula might look like a spooky dust ball with legs. But it's actually calm and gentle compared to many of its cousins. It loves quiet burrows, warm temperatures, and the occasional crunchy cricket for dinner.

Fluffy, fabulous, and surprisingly chill. This tarantula is like a hairy marshmallow with eight legs. She'd rather lounge in her burrow than cause trouble — but she will give you side-eye if you disturb her nap.

CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Native to Central America
- Known for her soft, curly hairs — more fluff than fright
- Tarantulas aren’t dangerous to humans (but they love to *look* scary)
- Eats insects... and occasionally shows them who’s boss
- Moves slowly and gracefully, like a spooky ballerina



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING

MEDIUM:

Fuzzy... but freaky if she pops up in your sock drawer.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Tarantula: A big, hairy spider with more attitude than most movie villains.

Fangs: The tools she uses to catch her lunch.

Burrow: Her underground hideaway.

FINAL ZINGER

Curly doesn't *mean* to scare you — she's just fabulous and misunderstood.



CHAPTER FIVE



AFRICAN PALM WEEVIL

Snouty — The Palm Tree Snacker



CREEPY STORY TIME

Snouty has one big passion in life: food. And if you're a palm tree... well, you're the buffet.

He's got a nose longer than his patience, perfect for poking, nibbling, and slurping up the good stuff hidden inside tree trunks. While some bugs zoom around trying to impress, Snouty just rolls up, sniffs out the best spot, and digs in.

His hobbies include eating, eating, and occasionally... eating.

Considered a delicacy in some countries (yep, the tables do turn.)

Despite his looks, Snouty is more of a foodie than a fighter.

This chunky beetle has a long snout and loves feasting on palm trees. It may look intimidating, but it's more interested in wood than people. In some countries, these weevils are even considered a delicacy — crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside. (Eek!)

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

This chunky snout-nosed critter is basically the bug version of a foodie. Palms, wood, snacks — if it's chewy, it's dinner. Some people even eat him as a snack... but he'd rather not talk about that part.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Native to Africa, but also found in warm places around the world
- Big, chunky, and surprisingly strong for its size
- That long snout? It’s for boring holes into palm trees to get to the juicy inside
- Considered a delicacy in some countries (yep, the tables do turn)
- Despite his looks, Snouty is more of a foodie than a fighter



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MILD:

More likely to snack on your tree than on you.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Weevil: A type of beetle with a long snout used for chewing into plants.

Larvae: Baby weevils — also known as “wiggly wood worms.”

Borer: An insect that drills into wood for lunch.

FINAL ZINGER

Snouty doesn’t need a menu… every palm tree is the menu.



CHAPTER SIX



METALLIC STAG BEETLE

Shiny - The Knight in Buggy Armour



CREEPY STORY TIME

Shiny wakes up every morning, polishes his armour, and practices his knightly poses.
With massive pincers that look like they belong in a medieval movie, he's always ready for a beetle showdown.

But here's the secret: Shiny doesn't actually fight dragons or rescue damsels. His "epic battles" are just wrestling matches with other beetles over who gets the best spot on a tree.

He wins, of course. Not because he's mean — but because he's got serious pincer power.

With its gleaming armour and spectacular "antler" jaws, this beetle is a showstopper of the insect world. The males use their impressive pincers to wrestle over territory or mates — like tiny gladiators in shining armour. But don't worry — they're more bark than bite.

The knight in shining

CREEPY STORY TIME

armour of Bugland. He struts around in metallic gear and has pincers for days. He doesn’t actually fight dragons... just other beetles who dare to get between him and his lunch.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Found in forests around the world 🌳
- Famous for his huge, antler-like jaws (mostly used for wrestling, not biting people)
- Males wear the armour; females are smaller and a lot less showy
- Known for their shiny metallic bodies that glisten like polished treasure ✨
- Totally harmless to humans — unless you're a rival beetle, then good luck



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MEDIUM:

Looks like he could pick a fight... but probably just wants a snack and a mirror.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Stag beetle: A beetle with long “antler” jaws.

Mandibles: Those big pinching jaws up front.

Exoskeleton: The beetle’s hard outer shell — shiny and stylish.

FINAL ZINGER

Shiny doesn’t roar in battle… he clicks dramatically.



CHAPTER SEVEN



SPOTTED FLOWER BEETLE

Dotty — The Polka-Dot Party Crasher



CREEPY STORY TIME

Dotty never got the memo that flowers were supposed to be quiet places.
She’s loud, spotted, sparkly, and shows up to every blossom like it’s a disco.

While other bugs hum softly, Dotty buzzes in with flair — no RSVP required.
Her mission? Sip a little nectar, cause a little chaos, and make sure every bee knows she’s the star of the garden.

Polka dots aren’t just a fashion choice. For Dotty, they’re a lifestyle. Dressed in black and white polka dots, this beetle is one of nature’s best-dressed bugs. It’s a pollinator, zipping between flowers and helping plants grow. It might look like a spooky speckled alien, but it’s actually a garden helper in disguise.

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

If polka dots were a personality, this beetle would be the life of the garden party. It zips between flowers like it owns the place, leaving pollen gossip in its wake. Scary? Not really. Fabulous? Absolutely.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Native to Central Africa’s rainforests
- Lives in warm, flowery places all around the world
- Feeds on pollen and nectar — basically a buggy sugar addict
- Important pollinator: helps flowers grow while looking fabulous
- Those bold white spots? Nature’s version of a power outfit
- Not dangerous to people — unless you’re allergic to cuteness



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MILD:

She might make you blink twice if she lands on your nose, but that’s about it.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Pollinator: An insect that helps flowers grow by spreading pollen.

Pollen: That yellow, dusty flower powder Dotty wears like glitter.

Exoskeleton: Her polka-dotted party dress.

FINAL ZINGER

Dotty doesn’t ask to join the party — she is the party.



CHAPTER EIGHT



DORCUS BEETLE

Tank — The Silent Sap Slurper



CREEPY STORY TIME

Tank doesn't do drama.
He doesn't do disco.
He doesn't even do buzzing.

Tank is the strong, silent beetle who turns up at the tree sap bar, leans against the bark, and just... slurps.

Other beetles chatter. Tank just raises an eyebrow (if beetles had eyebrows.)

No need to show off — his big black jaws and serious glare say it all. He may look like a mini monster, but really... he's just here for a peaceful drink.

Similar to stag beetles, Dorcus beetles have impressive jaws and glossy black armour. They may look fierce, but they're mostly busy munching on sap and rotting wood. Think of them as the forest's silent knights.

Another strong-jawed fellow, Dorcus likes to flex like a body-builder

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

at a gym made of tree bark. He looks tough but is basically just a sap-slurping softie.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Found in forests across Asia and other warm regions 🌳
- Known for those strong jaws — perfect for wrestling and sap sipping
- Males are larger with impressive mandibles (beetle muscles)
- Loves tree sap like it’s a five-star meal
- More likely to ignore you than attack you



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MEDIUM:

Big jaws can be spooky, but Tank’s just chillin’



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Mandibles: Those chunky beetle jaws — like built-in pliers

Sap: The sticky tree juice Tank slurps like a milkshake.

Exoskeleton: His shiny black “armour suit.”

FINAL ZINGER

Tank doesn’t start trouble — but he will win the beetle arm-wrestling contest.



CHAPTER NINE



GIANT MALAYSIAN KATYDID

Leafy — The Jungle's Best Camouflage Artist



CREEPY STORY TIME

Leafy is so good at hide-and-seek, no one's ever won against him.

When trouble comes, Leafy doesn't run. He doesn't scream. He just... stands there looking like a leaf.

Birds fly past. Humans squint. Even other bugs whisper, "Where'd he go?"

Leafy loves watching explorers jump when they finally realise that "leaf" has legs. It's his favourite jungle prank.

This leaf-lookalike insect is a master of camouflage. It's so convincing that predators often walk right past it. At night, it can make a surprisingly loud chirping sound — a spooky jungle symphony. Gentle but eerie!

This is the ultimate leaf impersonator. If there were a prize for best disguise, this bug would win every Halloween. It's big, it's green, and

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

when it chirps at night, the forest sounds like it’s got its own band.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Found in the lush rainforests of Malaysia 🇲🇾
- Can grow as big as your hand (and still look like a salad leaf)
- His leaf-like wings are so detailed, even veins and bite marks are copied!
- Makes loud chirping noises at night — nature's jungle concert
- Harmless, gentle, and a master of "leaf it alone.



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MEDIUM:

You might scream... but only after you notice him



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Camouflage: Blending in with your surroundings to stay hidden

Katydid: A long-legged insect related to crickets and grasshoppers.

Chirping: The sound Leafy makes to let everyone know he’s fabulous

FINAL ZINGER

Leafy doesn’t hide from you… he just lets you embarrass yourself trying to find him.”



CHAPTER TEN



ASSASSIN BUG

Shadow — The Ninja Nobody Saw Coming



CREEPY STORY TIME

Shadow doesn't buzz.
Shadow doesn't prance.
Shadow appears... when you least expect it. 👀

While other bugs go around minding their business, Shadow is on a mission — a bug bounty mission. He creeps through the undergrowth, finds pesky pests, and — zap! — job done.

If bugs had an action movie, Shadow would be the mysterious hero who never speaks, never brags... and always gets the bad guy.

The mosquitoes fear him. The flies know his name. The garden... sleeps soundly at night.

With a name like "assassin," it's no surprise this bug is a skilled hunter. It uses a sharp beak to catch and feed on other insects. Creepy but clever, assassin bugs help keep pest

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

populations in check — nature’s tiny ninjas!

Ninja. Shadow. Bug. This sneaky little hunter has a name scarier than his actual bite. He’s a pest control expert — taking down mosquitoes one secret mission at a time. Just don’t give him a tiny sword or we’ll never hear the end of it.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Found in warm places all around the worl
- Uses a sharp, straw-like beak to catch other insects
- Injects enzymes that turn its prey into bug soup (ick but effective!)
- Plays a big role in natural pest control
- Doesn’t go after humans — unless they’re an insect in disguise.



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MEDIUM:

Looks sneaky, moves fast, but unless you’re a bug… you’re safe.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Assassin bug: A predatory insect that hunts other bugs.

Proboscis: A sharp, straw-like mouthpart for slurping its meals.

Enzyme: A special bug chemical that helps turn prey into soup. Yum?

FINAL ZINGER

“Shadow doesn’t talk. Shadow just… disappears after a job well done.



CHAPTER ELEVEN



SRI LANKAN MANTIS

Zen — The Calm Before the CHOMP



CREEPY STORY TIME

Zen isn't in a hurry. Zen doesn't need to chase anyone. He simply stands still... veeeery still... until something yummy flies by.

Other bugs rush. Zen waits. He believes in "patience, peace... and pouncing."

One second he's a quiet little statue, the next — SNAP! Lunch is served. The flies never see it coming.

If bugs held yoga classes, Zen would be the instructor who speaks softly... then eats the student.

This graceful insect has the stillness of a monk and the reflexes of a fencer.

It patiently waits with folded "praying" legs until the perfect moment to strike. Elegant but deadly (if you're a bug)!

Calm, quiet, patient... and terrifying if you're a fly. This mantis waits with its "praying"

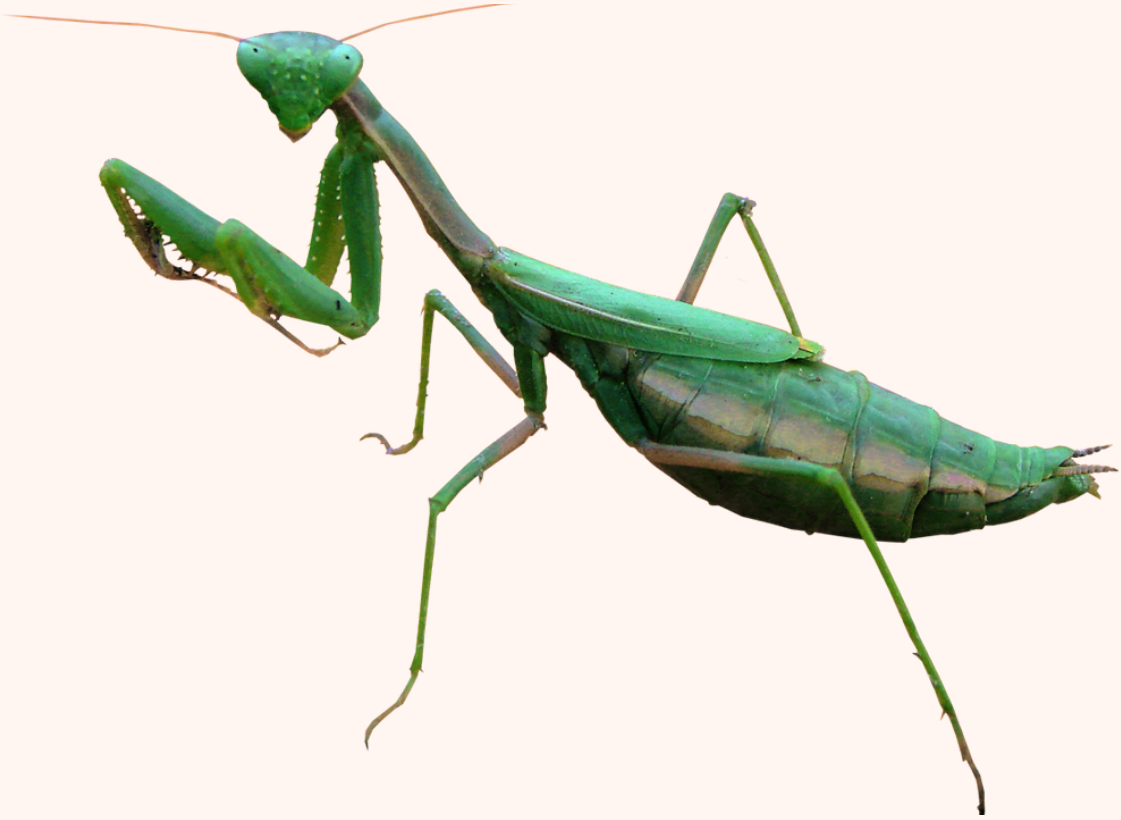
CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

legs, but don’t be fooled. When lunch flies by — WHAM! Dinner is served. (And no, it’s not saying grace.)



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Native to Sri Lanka 🌿
- Masters the art of stillness to sneak up on prey
- Strikes in less than the blink of an eye ⚡
- Eats flies, crickets, and anything small enough to catch
- Females are usually bigger than males (girl power, mantis edition)



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MILD:

Unless you’re a bug with wings... then it’s terrifying



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Mantis: A predatory insect known for its “praying” pose.

Ambush: Waiting patiently for prey instead of chasing it.

Raptorial legs: Special grabby front legs made for lightning-fast snacking.

FINAL ZINGER

Zen doesn’t run after lunch — lunch runs into him.



CHAPTER TWELVE



ORCHID MANTIS

Blossom — Pretty... and Deadly (to Lunch)



CREEPY STORY TIME

Blossom is a flower. Well... not really. But don't tell the bugs that.

She sits perfectly still, looking soft, sweet, and totally harmless. Bees, butterflies, and all sorts of little critters land right on her, thinking they've found the prettiest blossom in the garden.

Then — SNAP! Lunch is served with a side of sass.

Blossom never runs, never chases. She simply waits. Because when you're this gorgeous, lunch comes to you.

Pretty and dangerous, this mantis mimics a delicate orchid flower so well that other insects land right on it — straight into its trap! Its pink and white colouring makes it look innocent, but it's a master of disguise and a swift hunter.

The flower who eats her guests. Pink, white, and way too pretty to be trusted.

CREEPY STORY TIME continued:

Other insects think they’re landing on a blossom… surprise! They’ve just joined her lunch menu. It’s like a fancy restaurant — but you’re the entrée.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Found in the rainforests of Southeast Asia
- Perfectly mimics orchid flowers with pink and white petal-like legs
- A top ambush predator — patience is her superpower
- Females can grow larger than males (she's the boss)
- Despite her looks, she's just a bug with really good fashion sense 👑



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

MILD:

She’s too pretty to scare most people — but other bugs know better.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

Mimicry: Copying something else to fool others (in her case, a flower).

Ambush: Hiding and waiting for prey to come close.

Raptorial legs: Her fancy grabby arms that make sure lunch doesn’t leave.

FINAL ZINGER

Blossom doesn’t chase her meals — she lets dinner make the first move.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN



Sea Urchin – Commonly Called Kina in New Zealand

Pokey — The Prickly Kina of the Sea



CREEPY STORY TIME

Pokey doesn't chase anyone.
Pokey doesn't crawl very far.
Pokey just sits on the ocean floor like a spiky little rock... waiting.

Fish swim by carefully, crabs give a respectful detour, and humans — well, they learn quickly not to step on Pokey barefoot! 🦶😬

But behind that scary spiky exterior is just a slow-moving grazer who loves a good seaweed salad. In Aotearoa, this wee prickly fellow is known as Kina — a local delicacy and a legend of the rocky shore.

Beneath the waves lurk these spiky little sea creatures, looking like nature's underwater pincushions. They move slowly on tiny tube feet, cleaning the ocean floor. Step on one accidentally, though, and you'll know why they're on the "scary" list!

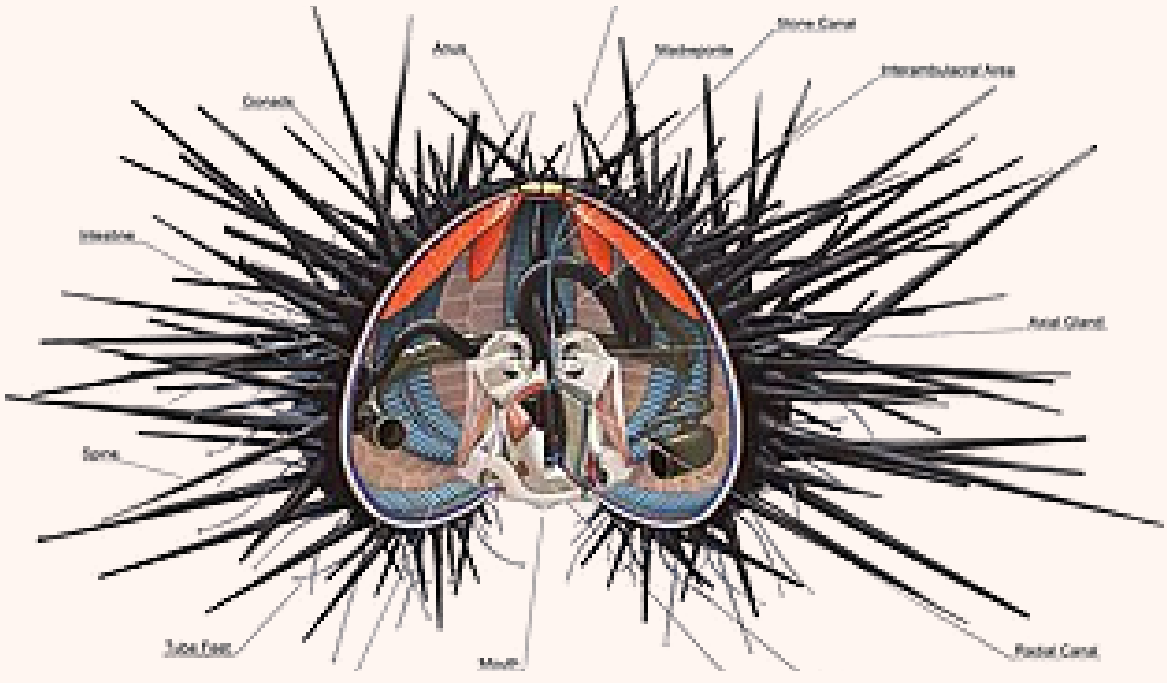
This spiky little ocean hedgehog has one life goal: look uninviting. It sits on the sea floor, poking anything that gets

too close. It doesn't chase, jump, or crawl — it just stabs you with love.



CREEPY BUT COOL FACTS

- Common around New Zealand’s rocky coastlines 🇳🇿
- Covered in sharp spines for protection (and accidental “ouch!” moments)
- Moves slowly using tube feet hidden under its body
- Loves munching on kelp and other sea greens
- Kina has soft golden roe inside that many Kiwis enjoy as a delicacy.



EEK METER (SPOOKINESS RATING)

FULL:

Full “Eeeeeek!” if stepped on barefoot.
Mild if admired from a safe distance.



WIGGLE WORDS: (FUN VOCABULARY)

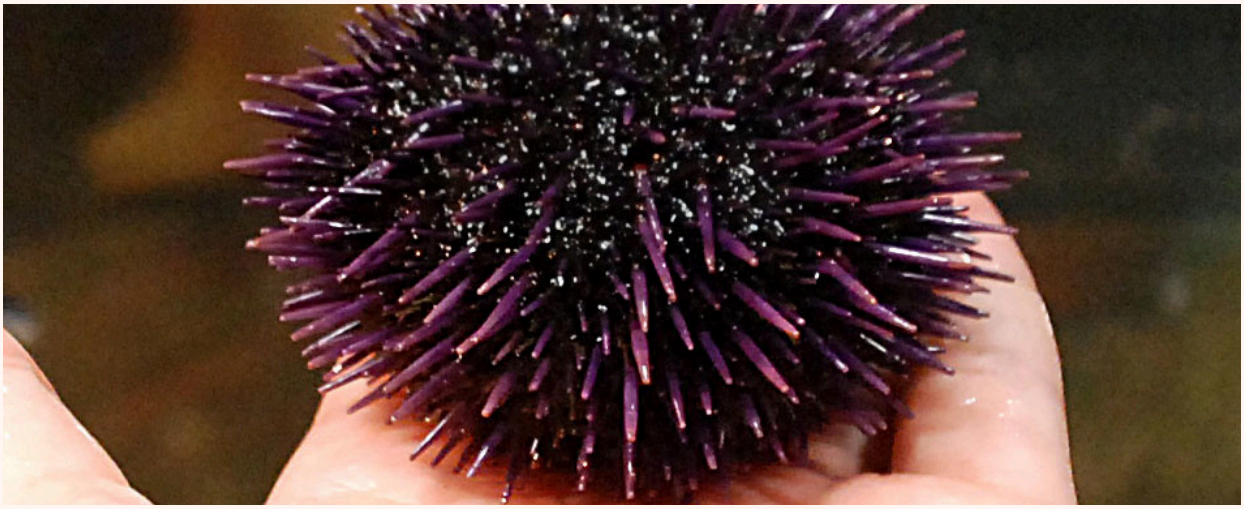
Kina: The Māori name for sea urchin, especially in New Zealand.

Tube feet: Tiny suction-cup feet that help kina move slowly along rocks.

Spines: Their sharp, pointy defence system — like body armour with attitude.

FINAL ZINGER

Pokey doesn’t want trouble … unless you’re a bare foot.



BUG VOCABULARY WORDS



BUG BODY & BEHAVIOUR

* Antennae
* Exoskeleton
* Abdomen
* Thorax
* Mandibles
* Proboscis
* Compound eyes
* Camouflage
* Molting
* Metamorphosis
* Cocoon
* Chrysalis
* Spinneret
* Webbing
* Venom
* Pheromones
* Stridulation *(bug “singing”)*
* Bioluminescence *(glow in the dark!)*

KID-FRIENDLY BUG BODY

* Antennae
* Eyes
* Legs
* Wings
* Shell
* Mandibles *(bug jaws)*
* Exoskeleton *(hard outside body)*

BUG TYPES & GROUPS

Insect

* Arachnid
* Crustacean
* Beetle
* Moth
* Butterfly
* Mantis
* Tarantula
* Katydid
* Antlion
* Earwig
* Weevil
* Cicada
* Stick insect
* Centipede
* Millipede
* Dragonfly
* Ladybird *(or ladybug)*

KID-FRIENDLY BUG TYPES

* Beetle
* Moth
* Spider
* Mantis
* Katydid
* Tarantula
* Weevil
* Ladybird *(Ladybug)*
* Kina *(Sea Urchin)*

HABITATS & HOMES

* Hive
* Colony
* Burrow
* Web
* Nest
* Log
* Leaf litter
* Canopy
* Coral reef *(for kina and marine critters)*
* Rainforest
* Grassland
* Rock pool

KID-FRIENDLY BUG HOMES

*Web

* Nest

* Burrow

* Hive

* Log

* Leaf pile

BUG ACTIONS

* Crawl
* Wiggle
* Scuttle
* Buzz
* Flutter
* Swarm
* Burrow
* Spin
* Hover
* Munch
* Chirp
* Click
* Shed
* Sting
* Bite
* Glide
* Pounce

KID-FRIENDLY BUG ACTIONS

* Crawl
* Wiggle
* Buzz
* Fly
* Spin
* Chirp
* Sting
* Flutter
* Munch

BUG-RELATED ADJECTIVES

* Creepy
* Crawly
* Prickly
* Spiky
* Fuzzy
* Leafy
* Slimy
* Shiny
* Sneaky
* Wiggly
* Webby
* Buzzing
* Glittery *(for Dotty’s party vibes 😄)*

KID-FRIENDLY BUG-RELATED DESCRIBING WORDS

* Creepy
* Crawly
* Fuzzy
* Spiky
* Sneaky
* Shiny
* Leafy
* Wiggly

EPILOGUE

Creepy, Crawly, and Kinda Wonderful



And so... we come to the end of our journey through the shadowy corners of gardens, forests, jungles, and oceans.

We've met divas with eight legs, ninja bugs with secret missions, leafy pranksters, polka-dot party crashers, and one very prickly Kina who's just trying to mind its own business at the bottom of

EPILOGUE Continued:

the sea.

Turns out, the “scary” ones aren’t out to get us at all.
They’re just living their best buggy lives — eating, hiding, shining, and occasionally making humans shriek for fun.

Wiggles is still dancing.
Goldie’s rebuilding her runway.
Bluey’s giving someone The Look.
And Pokey… well, Pokey is exactly where you left him. 🪸

The next time you see a creepy crawly and feel that little shiver down your spine — take a breath, lean a little closer (safely), and remember:
🐞 Most of them are harmless

EPILOGUE Continued:

🕷 All of them are fascinating.

😂 And some of them have better fashion sense than we do.

So go on...

Be brave.

Be curious.

And maybe even say “Kia ora” to a bug.

BUG CLUB MOTTO

💬 Bug Club Motto

“Don’t squash it — spot it.
Don’t fear it — cheer it.
Every critter’s got a story!”

✨ The End… or just the beginning of your next adventure with the wiggly, spiky, sneaky, and fabulous little creatures that share our world. 🕸️🌿

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This little book was written with laughter, love… and a healthy respect for anything with more legs than a human.

“Creepy Crawlies with Attitude” is not just a collection of weird facts. It’s a celebration of the misunderstood, the wiggly, the spiky, the sneaky, and the just plain fabulous creatures that share our world.

From dancing millipedes to fashion-forward spiders, from pink mantises to prickly kina, every critter has its own personality and purpose. Some clean up the forest floor, some keep pests in check, and some… just like to look dramatic.

The truth is — they’re not villains in our

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Continued:

stories.
They're co-stars in the great, wild theatre of life.

So, whether you met these creatures with a giggle, a shiver, or a "YIKES!", I hope you also met them with a little more wonder than before. Because behind every "Eek!" there's usually something incredible waiting to be discovered.

Thank you for joining me on this spooky, silly, wriggly safari.
And remember...

"Be kind to bugs.
They were here first." 🪲✨

DID YOU KNOW

🪲 Bugs were here before the dinosaurs — and they'll probably still be here when we're gone. (They've got great survival skills... and no rent to pay.)

.

 Crickets have ears on their knees. So next time someone says "Listen up!" they might bend a leg.

🐞 Beetles make up almost a quarter of all known species on Earth. That's right — if Earth had a class photo, a whole row would just be beetles.

🕷️ Spiders can fly — well, sort of. Some baby spiders release silk threads and let the wind carry them like tiny hairy parachutes. (Frequent flyers, no luggage).

DID YOU KNOW

Continued:

🐛 Millipedes don’t actually have a thousand legs. But Wiggles says what he lacks in leg count, he makes up for in style.

🦋 Insects outnumber humans by an estimated 200 million to 1. So technically… it’s their planet. We’re just visiting.

🪸 Kina have no brain. But don’t underestimate them — they’ve perfected the art of being stepped on exactly once.

🕷️ The silk of a golden orb-weaver is stronger than steel of the same thickness. Goldie could basically weave her own superhero suit.

DID YOU KNOW

Continued:

🐝 Some insects never sleep. Which explains why they always look like they’re buzzing with energy.

✨ So the next time you see something tiny creeping, crawling, or buzzing nearby, remember — it might just be a record-holding, knee-hearing, sky-flying, world-dominating superstar.

Acknowledgments

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https://debzebooks.com/





About The Author



Debbie Nicholson



Debbie is an author with several books already published in the Amazon Kindle Store, several of them best sellers, beginning that journey with humour, then progressing into motivation, animals, health and children's poetry.



She lives in a motor home in New Zealand with her husband, enjoying a retired lifestyle touring their country as their projected main focus. Family is important in Debbie's life as are her spiritual interests.



She also gives back and in so doing, pursues a career in helping budding entrepreneurs to bring themselves up through the ranks. They can then create lifestyles whereby they can live the life of their dreams and on their own terms.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Debbie Nicholson has never met a creepy crawly she couldn’t turn into a story. She writes from the comfort of her cosy home on wheels in New Zealand, where spiders occasionally drop by uninvited — and usually end up with their own book chapter.

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When she’s not writing, Debbie creates videos, sings songs, tells funny stories, and makes people smile. Her favourite hobbies include exploring history, laughing at life, and trying very hard not to scream when something with too many legs shows up on the front step.

This book is her love letter to all the wonderfully weird creatures that make our world a little wiggly and a lot more interesting

“THEY CREEP, THEY CRAWL, AND THEY’VE GOT ATTITUDE…”





They creep… they crawl… and they wiggle their way right into your nightmares.
But what if the world’s creepiest creatures weren’t actually out to get you?

Meet the misunderstood stars of the undergrowth — the spiky, the hairy, the sassy, and the sneaky. From fashion-forward spiders to leafy lookalikes and ocean hedgehogs with bad manners, this book introduces you to the wild side of nature… with a wink and a laugh.

Come discover the secret lives of the bugs and beasties that make us say “EEK!” — and learn why they’re actually kind of fabulous.

Warning: may cause uncontrollable giggles and sudden respect for insects.