

# Spider Girl Tells All

Contributed by Spider Girl

Spider Girl

The wind pushed the brown curled leaves across the road  
In the long shadows of approaching evening  
I saw spiders  
Migrating from one side of the country lane to the next  
Crushed under the weight of my tires  
Pieces fluttered desperately in my rearview mirror  
I opened the cabinet door  
one shelf stocked with brown bottles  
Mice, moles, centipedes  
A tarantula floated in liquid  
Each hair intact  
"Pick me" it said  
Something special for show and tell  
I was sent home  
Crying, I didn't know what I had done  
"Terrifying"  
"Inappropriate"  
They accused with narrowed eyes  
"Ignorant"  
"Idiot"  
My mother erupted  
It was a spider in a jar  
Every hair intact  
A beautiful creature  
I didn't understand  
In her white lab coat and black stilettos  
Stethoscope still curled around her neck  
She took me by the hand and led me from the school  
"How can people be so stupid?" she asked no one  
At the Dobb's House  
Over black bottomed pie  
I watched a tiny spider crawl across the counter  
I put my napkin over it  
And crushed it  
"Did I do right this time mom?"  
"Will they like me now?"  
She put down her fork silently  
Without expression  
Speaking forward  
"They will never like you."  
"Why can't you be like everyone else?"  
"Take a doll next time. A pretty doll."  
"I'll buy you one, today."  
I looked at the spider in my napkin  
A black smudge  
And silently apologized  
For asking it to make me better  
Like everyone else  
I would never be like everyone else  
No matter how many dolls  
No matter how pretty  
Spider girl