

**Bourne**  
**toWrite...**  
creative writing  
workshops

## Ode to My Arachnid Friend

by Marion Umnay

I know where you hide, in your dark secret lair  
Sometimes in the corner or under the stair  
You're scary sometimes, You know that, I'm sure  
It's part of your armour, Your secret allure.

I used to be REALLY scared of you  
Jumped out of my skin when you ran into view  
In my mind you were huge, a big hairy giant  
Though I knew you were harmless, just unreliable.

It's your stillness which scares, then that scuttling race  
Not forward, but back to your dark secret place.  
But really I know you're just scared of me  
Not tempted to add to your afternoon tea

You keep down the flies, (nasty things)  
And spin webs for dewdrops to glisten within  
You don't make a sound – not like noisy bugs  
Nor eat my plants like those slimy slugs

So why do we humans dislike you so much?  
While most of you are harmless enough  
We focus on those who CAN sting and bite  
With venom enough to give more than a fright!  
Is that the answer.....

or do you provide  
Something to reflect our own evil side,  
Our desire to patiently wait for our prey

Then slowly devour it in the cruelest way.  
To disguise our trap in a gossamer veil  
To sit at its centre controlling the trail?

Arachne, your namesake challenged the Gods  
Exposing the deities' feet of clods  
In her beautiful work she showed great Zeus  
As a cruel tyrant, and Athene to lose  
In the battle of art and autocracy,  
Our legacy still, it seems to me

So little spider, as that is your name  
With my blessing do please carry on just the same.  
You're a little scary sometimes, you know  
But that's your power and justly so;  
And forgive me if sometimes I still jump and scream  
When you creep up upon me, once more, unseen.