

## Spider Down There

### Prologue

“I wouldn’t get too close there, boy,” said the old woman. “There’s a spider down there, down in that hole!”

Despite the warning, the boy inched closer, until he could look directly down into the hole in the pine floor, his face only a few inches away. “What kind of spider, Grandmother?”

“A nasty one, a black widow,” she replied. “If she bites you, for sure you’ll swell up and die right soon!”

“Why don’t you kill her?” he asked, still trying to peer down into the hole, but all he saw was darkness.

“Now why would I want to do that?” the old woman cackled. “She ain’t bothering me, and I surely ain’t bothering her. Besides, she looks after that side of the hole for me. I don’t have to worry about nothing coming up through it with her down there!”