

KINGDOM OF THE SPIDER

by NICK ZAGONE

CHARACTERS

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BIBLE GIRL

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KINGDOM OF THE SPIDER

[While getting the newspaper Bob discovers a Black Widow on his front porch.]

Whoah! Hey... wow.

How ya doin'.

Oh boy. Uh...

Mornin' Sunshine.

You're not what I think you are... are you?

That's right honey.

Shit.

Black. Eight long legs. Red hour glass on my ass.

A black widow.

Am I the biggest one you ever saw?

You are the biggest one I ever saw.

Welcome to the neighborhood.

Yea.

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BOB

BLACK WIDOW

BOB

[staring]

BLACK WIDOW

Hello? Hon? Are ya there?

BOB

Huh? Sorry I just...

BLACK WIDOW

Stunning huh. This your first house?

BOB

Um... well.

BLACK WIDOW

Yea, I figured. That's your first baby too. Huh child?

BOB

You, you saw my...

BLACK WIDOW

Oh yes, he's gonna be a tasty little morsel.

BOB

Oh gezz. What am I gonna do with you?

BLACK WIDOW

First house, first kid, you're not used to this stuff huh?

BOB

What stuff?

BLACK WIDOW

Stuff that you can't ignore until it goes away.

BOB

Hey!

BLACK WIDOW

Don't deny it! I'm right baby. Every personal problem you ever had you would just ignore 'til it went away. Can't do that now man, you got a kid, a house, problems like me can't be ignored. Leaky faucets, baby colds, termites, poopy diarrhea diapers, mice, black widows on your doorsteps, overhanging trees that need to be topped, this shit don't go away Bob.

BOB

You know my...?

BLACK WIDOW

Yes, I know your name. Look I'm not really a day arachnid okay? Sun's comin' up so I'm just gonna turn in.

BOB

Wait. You're going away, you're going to hide?

BLACK WIDOW

I'm gonna have a little beauty rest, unless that baby of yours comes by and disturbs me, which he might, babies love to stick their fingers into little crevices where they don't belong. You have baby proofed your house, right Bob?

BOB

Well, I'm...

BLACK WIDOW

Plugged up all your unused outlets?

BOB

I was just...

BLACK WIDOW

You can't ignore this stuff Bob!

BOB

Look, buying plastic dohickys for the outlets I can do. I just have a problem with...

BLACK WIDOW

Bugs.

BOB

No! Just killing bugs. Killing things. Anything! I'm not good at killing animals. I'm a vegetarian.

BLACK WIDOW

Well, good! We got a nice relationship then here! I'm pregnant, so I...

BOB

Congratulations.

BLACK WIDOW

Well bless your heart thank you! I'm gonna be having a mess of little kids on your doorstep, so I hope you don't mind. Now tell your baby there, what's his name?

BOB

Isaac.

BLACK WIDOW

Now tell Isaac when he sneaks out here again not to disturb us now 'cause...

BOB

He was...

BLACK WIDOW

Yea, he crawls out here all the time when you don't latch the door.

BOB

What?

BLACK WIDOW

Now tell him that we bite and it can be very dangerous to a little...

BOB

Do the babies bite? Shit, what am I saying. I think the previous owners left a fly swatter.

BLACK WIDOW

Oh forget it Bob, I'll be gone before you get back hon. Now let me tell you what my bite does so if you see any of the symptoms on little Isaac there you'll know.

BOB

Wait.

BLACK WIDOW

My venom travels through the blood stream rapidly and acts on the nervous system.

BOB

All right.

BLACK WIDOW

Causing varying degrees of pain, mostly in the abdomen and back. Cramping and rigidity occur in the muscles.

BOB

I was always told that if you leave a spider alone, they won't bug you!

BLACK WIDOW

You are right Bob! But your son ain't gonna leave me alone! And you obviously can't keep a trained eye on the little tyke. Now other symptoms include nausea, profuse perspiration and tremors.

BOB

Why don't you just go away!

BLACK WIDOW

Oh okay, I'll pack my pregnant ass up and find a place at the neighbors, come on!

BOB

What if I play loud music or...

BLACK WIDOW

Bugs don't have ears Bob. Finally if left untreated there's labored breathing, fever and certain death for a little guy like your son.

BOB

Now listen here.

BLACK WIDOW

You gonna kill me Bob? It would be good for ya I suppose. It would be the first kill on a long slow road of death and destruction. First me, then the cockroach in the kitchen, the rat in the attic, the mice in the garden, the termites, the kid's goldfish and hamsters and snakes, putting to sleep Isaac's dogs and cats. A house and family is just one long series of funerals really. You could start with me I suppose one quick kick with your foot when I'm not looking...

BOB

I think I'm going to wait until Katherine gets home.

BLACK WIDOW

Your wife? Come on Bob, doesn't she do enough? Bring home the bacon and all? My ass is in your court, this is your job. I'm on your castle Bob. Besides, your wife's a girl honey, she hates spiders remember?

BOB

An exterminator!

BLACK WIDOW

Got \$800.00? You're mortgaged to the moon Bob.

[Enter a Mormon. Female.]

BIBLE GIRL

Hello sir I was wondering if I could have a moment of your time.

BOB

I... Well...

BLACK WIDOW

Certainly out early today hon. Usually don't get Mormons until the afternoon.

BIBLE GIRL

Are you familiar with the Lord's Prayer?

BOB

Well, I'm Catholic so...

BIBLE GIRL

Then you are familiar, great. Can I ask you one question?

BOB

Look, I would love to discuss all this but...

BIBLE GIRL

What do the words thy kingdom come mean to you?

BOB

Thy kingdom come?

BLACK WIDOW

Didn't we just go over all this at the turn of the millennium?

BIBLE GIRL

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...

BOB

On earth as it is in heaven, I know.

BIBLE GIRL

What does it mean to you?

BOB

Well I'm sure to YOU it means the end of the world, but...

BIBLE GIRL

But what does it mean to you?

BLACK WIDOW

Does it matter honey? You're gonna tell me what it REALLY means anyway.

BIBLE GIRL

Can I read you a passage from the Book of Daniel?

BOB

Look I have a baby and...

BIBLE GIRL

Really? How old is your little one?

BOB

Almost a year and he's sick and napping and he crawls and...

BLACK WIDOW

Maybe she can tell you about the end of the world another time huh?

BIBLE GIRL

All suffering is soon to end. We are only trying to make the world a better place for you and your child.

BOB

Let me ask you something. Can I ask YOU a question?

BIBLE GIRL

Sure, please!

BOB

Did Jesus have a kid?

BIBLE GIRL

What?

BOB

Did Jesus ever get married, have a kid and buy a fucking over priced house.

BIBLE GIRL

Well...

BOB

Did he?

BIBLE GIRL

Sir I...

BOB

Answer the question.

BIBLE GIRL

No. He did not.

BOB

Then he don't know shit.

BLACK WIDOW

Whoah Bob, let's chill honey child.

BOB

Do you have children? A spouse? A house to take care of?

BIBLE GIRL

Now I understand that you are...

BOB

No! No you don't understand! You don't know shit! I haven't had four straight hours of sleep in two months. I've just spent the last five minutes talking to a black widow okay? OKAY? How 'bout that? You know NOTHING ABOUT PAIN and SUFFERING. Thy kingdom come? Please. KINGDOM COME and put me out of my FUCKING MISERY! Does that answer your question?

BIBLE GIRL

I know your soul is hurting.

BOB

Look I don't need you to save my soul, I don't need Jesus to give me shit about his will be done. I just need someone to kill this black widow on my front porch! Could God just help me out with that?

BIBLE GIRL

Maybe...

BOB

Yes...?

BIBLE GIRL

Maybe a pamphlet would help.

[Bob gets the idea. He turns to Black Widow.]

BLACK WIDOW

Now Bob, don't get rash now.

BOB

Yes, a pamphlet.

BLACK WIDOW

Bob, now you're a vegetarian. Remember?

BOB

A pamphlet will work nicely.

BLACK WIDOW

Thou shalt not kill Bob. Thou shalt not kill.

BOB

Would Jesus have killed a spider to save his baby son? Miss?

BIBLE GIRL

Would Jesus...?

BOB

These are the questions that need answered.

BLACK WIDOW

It's pretty cut and dried Bob, thou shalt not kill!

BIBLE GIRL

We are all Jesus' children, God's children and...

BOB

Yes! True! Would he kill a spider for me?

BIBLE GIRL

I don't... I don't think he'd kill anything for anybody.

BOB

Well then Miss, I guess we're on our own.

BLACK WIDOW

Bob! No Bob! No!

[He squashes the spider.]

BOB

Here's your pamphlet back. Thanks.

BIBLE GIRL

You keep it.

BOB

Okay. Are you all right?

BIBLE GIRL

I'm having... I'm having a sudden crisis of faith.

BOB

Really. I'm sorry.

BIBLE GIRL

Does He know? Does He know what we really go through?

BOB

Who?

BIBLE GIRL

Him.

BOB

If he changes diapers at three in the morning, well then that would do it for me. I'd listen.

BIBLE GIRL

I want to have a child.

[She goes to Bob and gives him a kiss.]

Thank you.

[She exits.]

[Bob watches her go.]

BOB

It's going to be an interesting life. Anyone else? Anything else want to give me a problem?

[a baby cries]

I'm coming Isaac. I'm coming.

[He closes the front door behind him.]

FADE TO BLACK