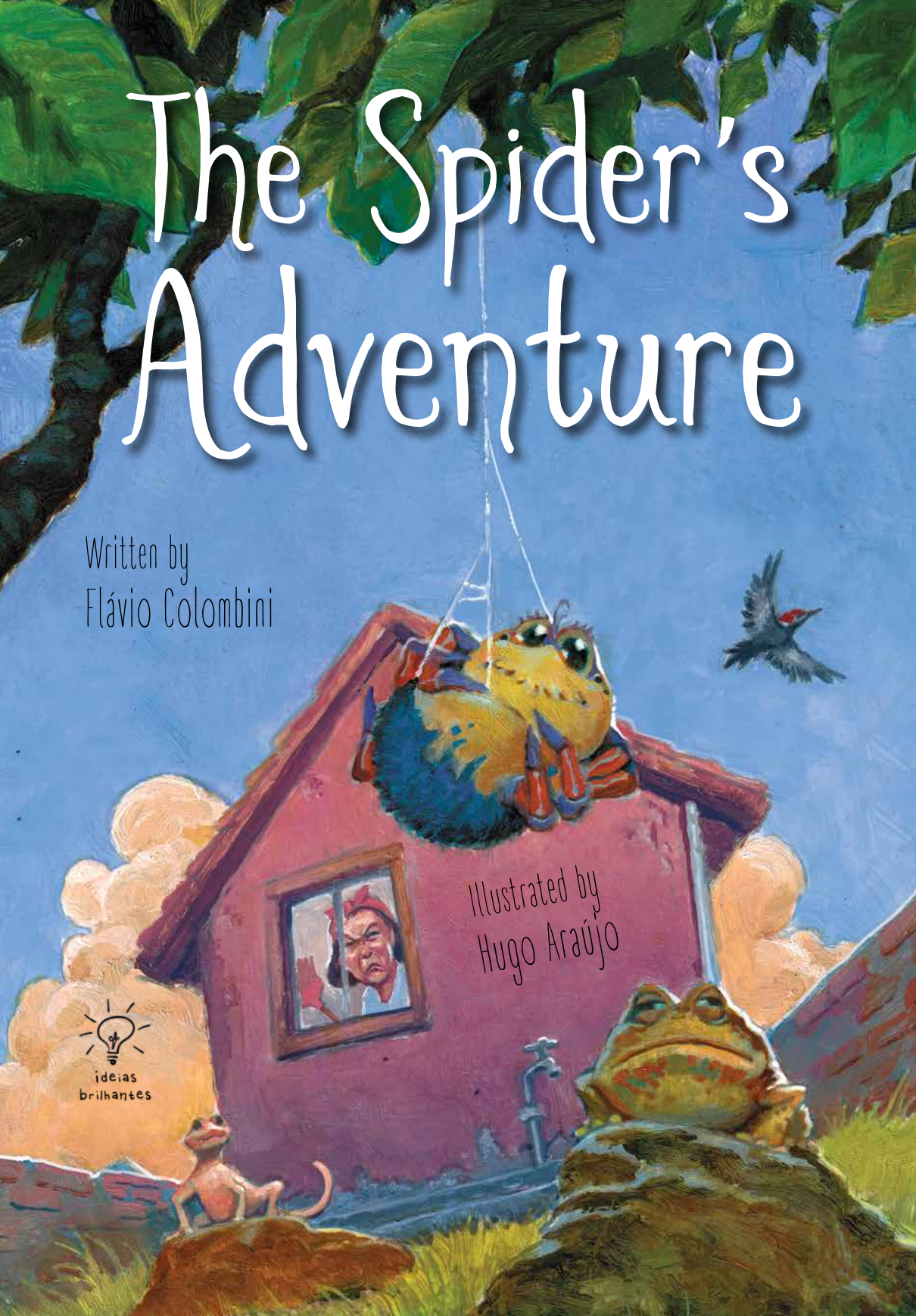


The Spider's Adventure

Written by
Flávio Colombini

Illustrated by
Hugo Araújo



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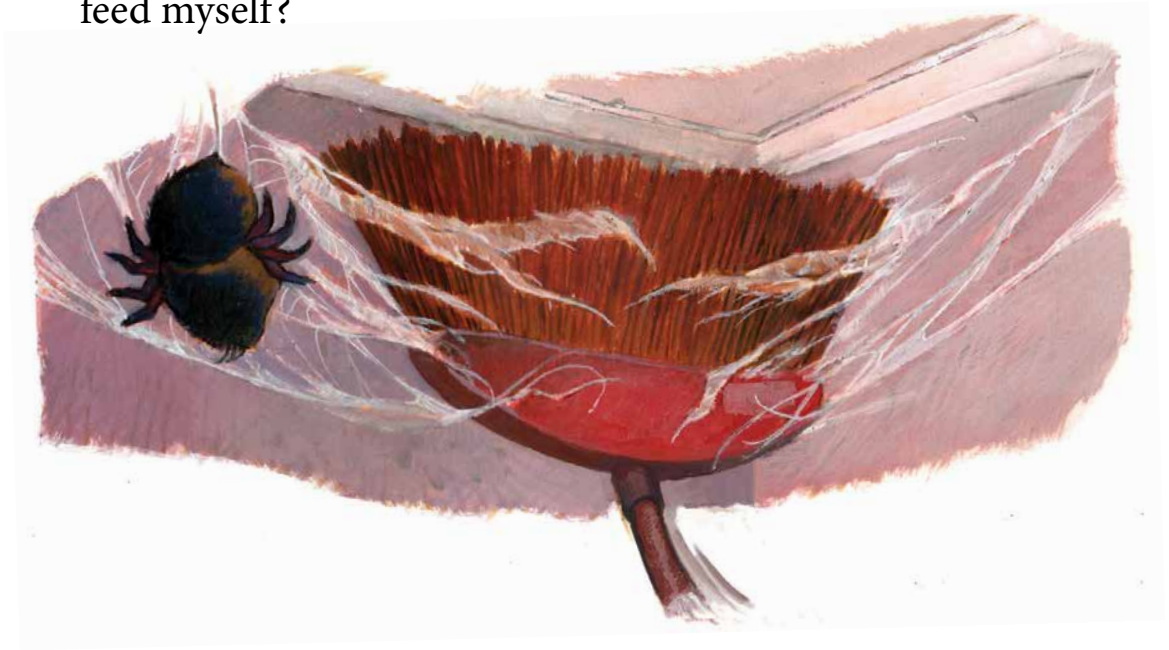
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I was spinning my web very carefully.
I spent hours weaving line by line.



Suddenly, a broom came by and swept the web away.
Oh no, it was almost ready! Now how will I be able to
feed myself?



I was very sad and looked at the woman down there
holding the broom. Why does she want to hurt me?
I didn't do anything to her.



But she looked at me angrily and hit me with the broom.



I flew forward and fell hard to the ground.
Wow, what a fright!



I barely caught my breath, and the woman came after me, smashing the broom on the floor. I jumped away as fast as I could.



I managed to hide myself under the sofa. She kept looking for me, but luckily she didn't find me. I remained silent there, scared to death.



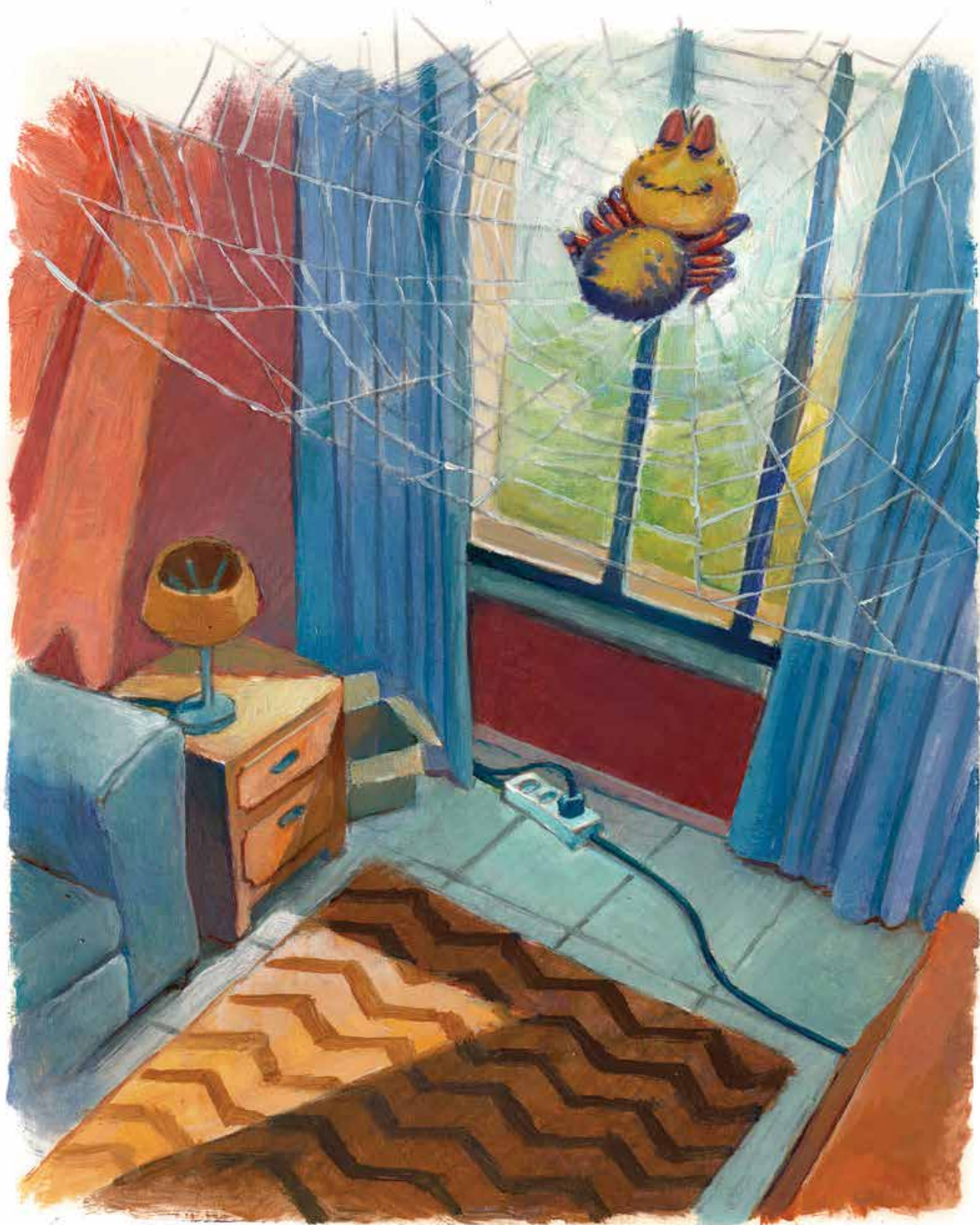
Later the woman threw herself on the sofa, started watching soap opera and eating snacks. I felt envious of her because I was very hungry.



Then she let out a loud and very smelly fart! I couldn't stand being there any longer with that horrible smell. I ran out from under the sofa.



I walked along the walls of the house and found another corner high up. I built a new web. More beautiful than the first. I think I'm getting better with each web I weave. Then I remained quiet, waiting, waiting...



I saw a mosquito downstairs bite the woman. Then it flew, did some pirouettes, and climbed closer and closer until it landed right on my web and stuck. He tried to struggle, but he couldn't free himself from the sticky threads.



I quickly ran to the insect and wrapped it in more web until it couldn't move. Then I sucked the liquids from his body. Hmm, how delicious! I finally managed to eat!



After the meal, I went to rest, happy to have a full belly. During the night, another mosquito fell on my web. I wrapped it and saved it to eat for breakfast. Then I slept peacefully.



In the morning, I woke up hungry. When I was about to eat the delicious mosquito I caught at night, I was surprised by the woman, who used her broom trying to reach me.



She climbed onto a chair, lifted the broom and pulled me off the wall. I was projected into the air...

...and fell to the living room floor.



The woman went crazy after me. I ran away as fast as I could. But she was quicker and used the broom to hit me.



Fortunately I am so light that the mass of air projected by the movement of the broom threw me forward. When the broom hit the floor, I was no longer there.



The woman thought she had killed me and was looking for me in the bristles of the broom. Meanwhile, I ran away and got out under the door. What an ungrateful woman! I captured the mosquitoes that were going to bite her, and this



is how she repays me? Are all human beings that bad?
Why don't they like me?

I went out looking for another place to live. Would I find a place where my life wasn't at risk all the time? It was then that I saw a frog. Is he dangerous?



He kept looking at me. Suddenly, he launched his tongue towards me, wanting to eat me... but I jumped quickly away from him. Wow, that was close!



I decided to climb a big tree. In the middle of the trunk, however, I saw a gecko. I decided to go down to get away from it. But I looked down and saw a woodpecker pecking at the trunk and climbing towards me. The two looked dangerous and were approaching me. *What do I do now?*



I decided to use my last resort. I released a long web into the air. Then another and another and another, quickly. They were dangling in the air.



When the gecko and the woodpecker were very close to me, I let go of the tree and let the wind carry me.



I managed to fly! Woohoo! The mass of hot air was carrying me away from there. The view from the top was so beautiful! I could see many houses and a park. The wind carried me away, and I enjoyed every moment of it.



Then I started flying lower and lower. Where would I fall?



I went down the backyard of a house
and fell into a washing tank.



I tried to get out of there, but the surface was too smooth, and I couldn't climb it. I moved my paws frantically, but couldn't reach the top. *Oh, how am I going to get out of here?*



The only way out seemed to be the drain. I looked through it and couldn't see the bottom because it was dark down there. Was it a safe place to enter?



Then a huge boy appeared and turned on the tap. A lot of water came down, and I started to get wet. *Oh, what now?*



The water was taking me into the drain, but I managed to stick to a dry corner and hold on. Then the water stopped. I desperately tried to get out of there, but I couldn't.



Until something beige appeared, and I climbed on it.
It was warm.



Oh no, it was on the boy's finger! When I realized this,
I froze in fear. If he closed his hand, I would be crushed
to death.



He brought his hand to his face and looked at me. Then he said: "Hello, little spider! How beautiful you are! Are you looking for a place to spin a web?"



Gently, he placed his hand against the wall, and I ran away, climbing to the ceiling, which is my favorite place. The boy looked at me affectionately and said: "You can stay at my house. Here you are welcome!"



My heart was filled with joy! I was very happy to have found a good human being! I felt so good there that I immediately started spinning a new web. The boy lay down in a hammock and admired me.



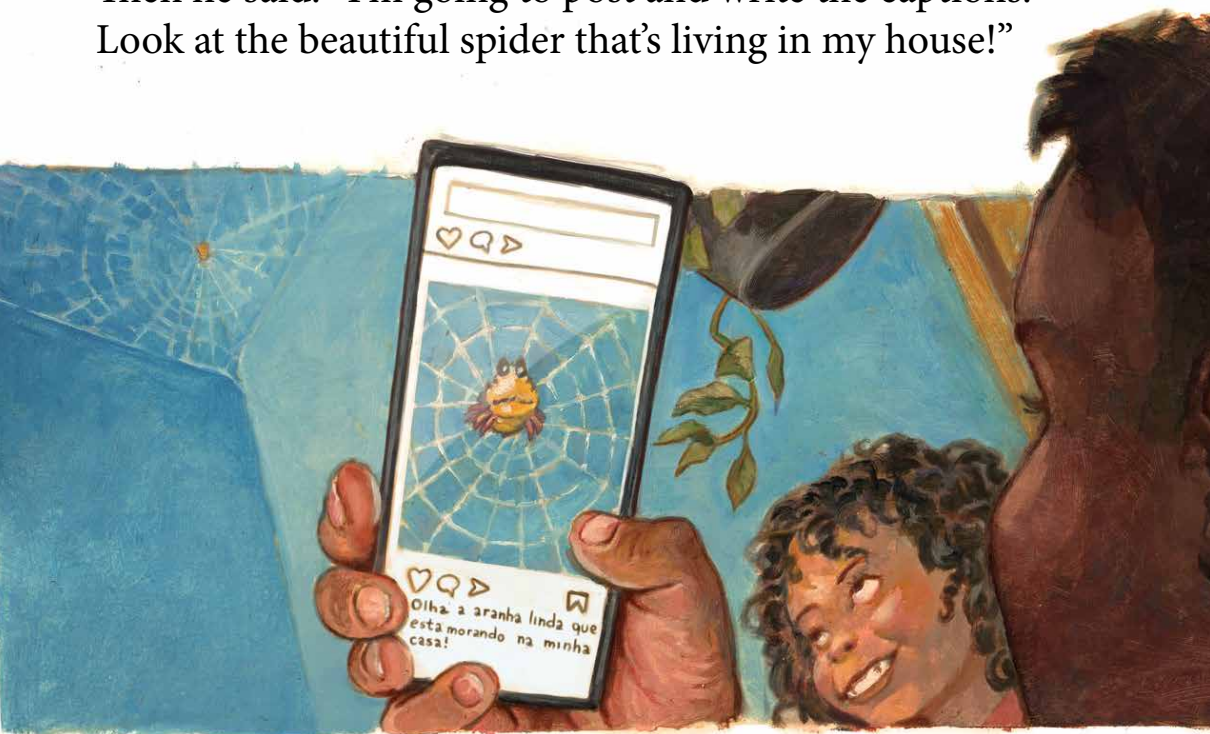
I worked long hours and wove the most beautiful web of my life! I was super proud of my work and stopped to rest in the middle of my masterpiece.



The boy's sister brought paper and coloring pencils and made a drawing of me.



The boy pointed a strange object at me, which made a click. Then he said: "I'm going to post and write the captions: Look at the beautiful spider that's living in my house!"



Soon a mosquito came, then a fly...

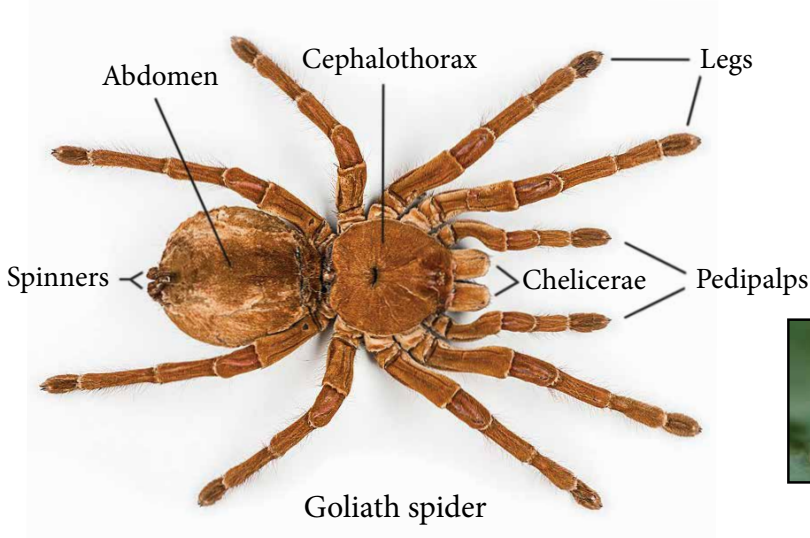


I ate very well and was happy that I found a wonderful place to live!



INFORMAÇÕES EXTRAS

There are more than 50 thousand species of spiders. The largest of them is the goliath spider (*Theraphosa blondi*), which measures up to 30 cm. The smallest is the *Patu digua*, native to Colombia, which is the size of a pin point (0.37 mm). Many people think that spiders are insects. In fact, they are arachnids. See below the main parts of it's body:



Patu digua

Spiders use webs to move around, to intercept and retain prey, and also to reproduce and protect their eggs. The web is produced in liquid form in the spider's abdomen and becomes solid when it comes into contact with air. A strand of warp can be ten times thinner than a strand of hair, yet it is one of the most resistant materials in nature.



Adrian Eugen Ciobanuc

Spiders position their webs for specific purposes. Horizontal webs capture insects that fly upward from the ground, while vertical webs capture insects that fly horizontally. Some spiders recycle their own webs. They eat the used webs to reuse their protein and thus make more webs.



Wasant Foodum

Webs can also make spiders fly. Some species have the ability to detect variations in the air and in the Earth's electric field. With favorable conditions, they raise their abdomens and release several webs, forming a kind of sail, which takes them through the air. They can reach 4,000 meters in height and travel hundreds of kilometers. This technique is called ballooning.



Spider throwing webs to fly.

Robin Loznak

Almost all spiders are venomous. Although many people are afraid of spiders, only the bites of around 30 species, of the more than 50 thousand that exist, are considered dangerous to humans.



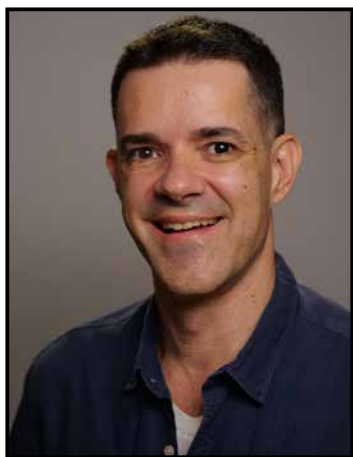
Güray Dere

Did you know that there are people who eat spiders? In Cambodia, an Asian country, fried tarantula is a very popular dish, sold in restaurants and even on the street. Some indigenous people in South America also eat spiders. Have you ever imagined yourself eating a delicious spider?



Mat Connolly - Wikimedia commons

Fried tarantulas sold at the market in Skuon, Cambodia.



Flávio Colombini

Writer

Some very small spiders live in my apartment. I love seeing them on the ceiling, quietly in their webs or walking along the walls. I joke that they are the only pets I have.

When I see people afraid of spiders, or wanting to kill them, I feel sad. Spiders, for the most part, are harmless. Furthermore, they play an important role in the environment by eating insects. With this book, I hope to encourage children not to be afraid of spiders, but rather to admire and protect them, as they are essential creatures for the balance of nature.

I've written several other books that talk about the importance of preserving animals and the environment. You can get to know them at my website: www.flaviocolombini.com/english



Hugo Araújo

Illustrator

I've been an illustrator since I was little, when I liked to draw the characters in the books and comics I read.

Nowadays, I work mainly producing illustrations for textbooks, in addition to collaborating with other children's works and comic books abroad.

See other drawings I did on my Instagram @ [bruxarium](https://www.instagram.com/bruxarium)