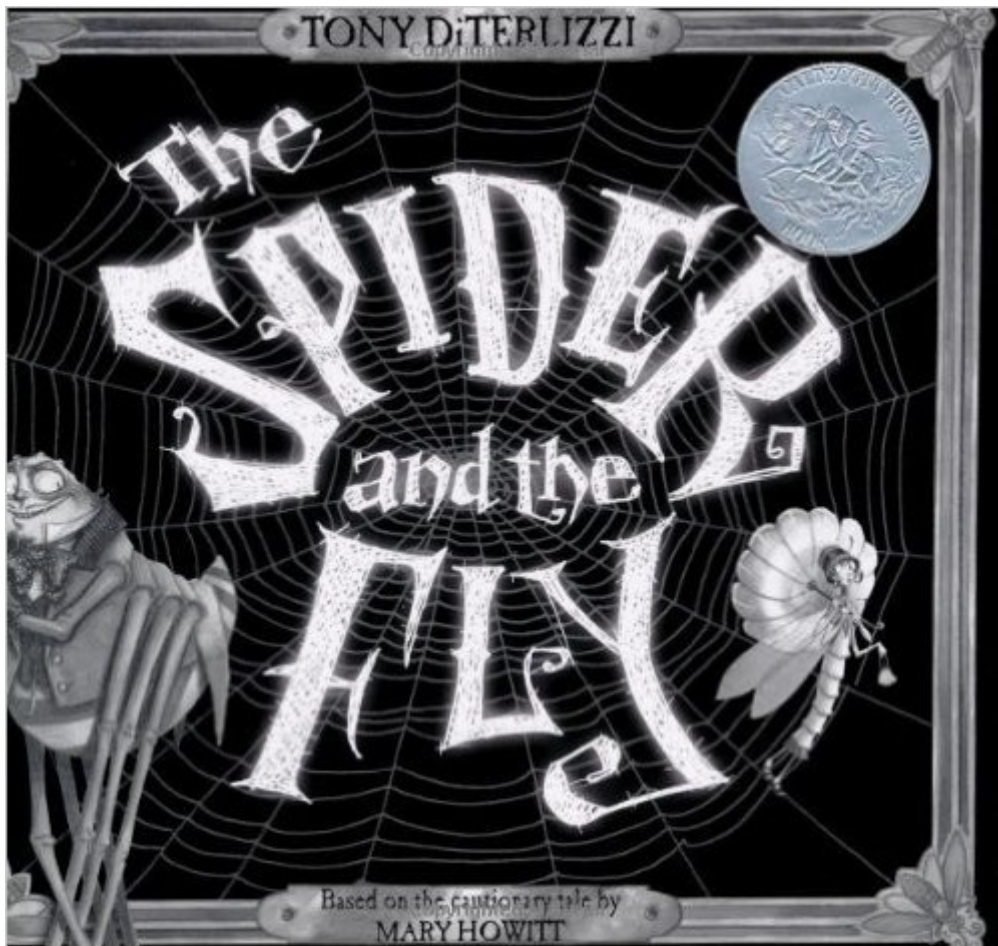


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The Spider And The Fly



Synopsis

"Will you walk into my parlor,' said the Spider to the Fly..." is easily one of the most recognized and quoted first lines in all of English verse. But do you have any idea how the age-old tale of the Spider and the Fly ends? Join celebrated artist Tony DiTerlizzi as he -- drawing inspiration from one of his loves, the classic Hollywood horror movies of the 1920s and 1930s -- shines a cinematic spotlight on Mary Howitt's warning, written to her own children about those who use sweet words to hide their not-so-sweet intentions.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Repackage ed. edition (October 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689852894

ISBN-13: 978-0689852893

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (131 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #40,996 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in [Books > Children's Books](#)

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Some picture books instantly impress. They have that extra little spark or oomph that sets them apart from the rest. At first, the idea of a modern illustrator reworking a cautionary tale from 1829 sounds as if it's in danger of becoming dull, preachy, or didactic. Then you take a single glance at Tony DiTerlizzi's reworking of Mary Howitt's poem, "The Spider and the Fly", and you're blown away. Referencing the silent films of the 1920s and 30s, the book is meant to guide youngsters on the path of wisdom. Presumably by showing the stupidity of flies. We all know the great opening lines of this tale. "Will you walk into my parlor?' said the Spider to the Fly". Here we see our villain, the gorgeously outfitted spider, bowing deeply to a lovely lady fly that bears no little resemblance to Shelly Duvall. The spider himself is replete with walking cane, spats on each of his legs, slick dandified hair, a Rhett Butler moustache, and a long top hat. The fly's initial answer (a negative)

shows her in her best flapper wear. She has the parasol, the delicately gloved arms, the handbag, bobbed antennae, and flapper hat. The spider is persistent, now donning a smoking jacket and fez as various buggy ghosts of his past victims attempt to warn the little fly away. Finally, after many attempts, the spider flatters the fly with tales of her beauty. She falls for it instantly and returns when the spider calls, "Your robes are green and purple - there's a crest upon your head; Your eyes are like the diamond bright, but mine are dull as lead". She comes, he pops her in his long hat, and the next thing we know she's tied up tight in a cocoon with the shadow of a spider (cook's hat on head, knife and fork in hand) laughingly approach her.

Eye candy with substance! I give it three hundred and nine stars! Luckily for me this book stood out and caught the corner of my eye in time for Christmas. I immediately bought a copy for myself just from the illustrations on the dust jacket. I wish I had stayed put and read through the book. Then I would have bought at least 3 more as gifts. While I am here on I am buying more copies for my artisty/illustrating/children's stories writing friends, I thought I owe it to Tony Diterlizzi to write a review. I am not very good at writing reviews anymore, and the more I adore something the more tongue-tied (or finger twisted) I get, please bear with me. I'm not a role-player or comic book collector I just came across this artist by chance or maybe a twist of fate. This book is so gorgeous. It is my introduction to the art of Tony Diterlizzi and I am so glad to have found it. As an aspiring illustrator myself who's lost motivation I have now found inspiration again. The Spider and the Fly is a terrific story with a lesson that all children need to learn: not to go off with strangers no matter how charming and wonderful they seem. The story is wonderful however only a mere compliment to the dark, delicate, dreamy and deliciously detailed illustrations. (But not bed-wetting scary; the book comes across as dark but still cheery). Any collector of Chaz Addams, Edward Gorey, The art of Tim Burton etc will instantly fall in love with these illustrations. And it's great to find a gothy book suitable for children. A more refined alternative to Angus Oblong (who I also adore)! Ms. Fly will remind you of that one gothy girl so luminous and so delicate you had to love from afar believing her to be too delicate to touch.

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