

Chapter One

A Spider's Journey

Arian compared to no ordinary spider. She stood at the height of twelve feet tall, a frightening creature by the views of most or those who had the unluckiest of chance to meet her. “Akalu Anna Lu,” or, “Eater of Men,” is the name given to the Arachne long ago. Though spoken in different languages, the euphemism means much the same on all the worlds visited by the Arachne.

Her web, she meticulously wove amongst the trees of the Ancient Forest, compared to no ordinary web. Though mostly created to entrap her victims and hold them fast, Arian’s web also doubled as a portal to other worlds. Using strands of silk infused with magic, Arian had the skill to create a defined path in her web; she could spin a web that would lead directly through dimensions linking to the invisible connecting threads of many worlds. Tonight, Arian would finish creating the path to one world in particular.

Queen Maites, one of the most ruthless rulers of her time, discovered Arian’s talent not long after her siege in the most eastern land of Authora. Maites sequestered Arian away along with a few of the other younger Arachne, to a cavern deep in the ground below the three spiked mountains.

Arian remembered nothing more than that, except for feeling very sleepy. When Arian awoke, she had but two thoughts on her mind, food, and a task she must complete.

She didn’t know how long she had been asleep, only that her hunger grew with each silky thread she spun, so she continued endlessly spinning anticipating her feast. She had been weaving for months by night, sleeping during the daylight hours, hidden so that no one would discover her existence. Tonight however, she would finish, and then she would eat the beasts from the new realm into which she would go.

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As the moonlight filtered through the great canopy of trees casting its light upon Arian, silver needle-like hairs covering the massive bulk of her body shimmered. Her long spindly legs glistened like icicles in the dark. Arian's face, hidden in shadows, depicted that of an ancient spider with many eyes conformed to such a way that they looked like two giant orbs set just at the anterior of her head. Her mouth, fixed with long razor sharp fangs, deadly apparatuses which carried an assortment of liquids ranging from a mere stunning potion to a deadly poison. In essence, Arian represented the very monster that often crept into nightmares of the unwary sleeper, instilling fear in the hearts of all creatures with warm blood running through their veins.

As dawn approached, the evening sounds faded and the babbling of daylight began, Arian finished her weaving. Her hunger so intense, she wasted no time as she gingerly stepped through the center of her masterpiece. In an instant, she slipped from the dawn's early light of her realm and entered a new realm still dark and untended by a moon's glow.

At first Arian stood waiting to acclimate herself to her new surroundings. Arian's senses reached out searching. She knew where her quarry was, she could sense the presence of it, but her hunger gnawed at her. Therefore, she set out in this new and strange land in search of food to satisfy her hunger because if she didn't eat she would not survive to complete her task.

After she had eaten just enough to sustain her body, she would find the child Queen Maites sent her to capture. Arian would sting the girl with her sleeping potion and then return to her own world with the child. Once she returned to Authora, Arian would store the young one safely in the caverns until Queen Maites came for her.

This purpose imbedded in her mind compelled Arian to obey. Driven upon this impulse and obsessed to see the task through, it didn't matter to Arian that it made no sense. That is why Arian labored so long and traveled so far to be here tonight, in this strange but familiar place. A place where she has previously been, the place called Earth.