

MY GIANT ARACHNOPHOBIA - DANIEL MCMULLENCast (any names/genders used can be changed):

- ❖ Hannah Drevor: (main character): new intern at research facility with arachnophobia
- ❖ Greg Walters: Hannah's boyfriend/roommate; is not arachnophobic, pretty confident around spiders
- ❖ Tobias Hartley: head scientist overseeing the research facility
- ❖ Dave Withers: scientist in the molecular alteration department; he develops/works with the growth ray that will end up zapping the tarantula
- ❖ Jenny Morgan: spider-loving scientist who owns a pet tarantula
- ❖ 2 news anchors

SCENE 1 - APARTMENT - MORNING

[GREG sits on the couch looking at his phone when HANNAH's scream is heard from another room. CHARLIE looks up in surprise and concern]

H: *[Still from the other room]* GREG! HELP ME!

[GREG stands up and rushes into the bathroom (camera changes with him as the scene moves to the bathroom).]

G: What? What is it? Are you ok?

H: No I am most certainly not ok! I almost died!

G: Died? How?

H: Look!

[HANNAH points to the bathtub/shower and moves behind GREG as he moves closer to see what she is pointing at.]

G: I don't see anything.

H: Look harder.

G: Hannah, I'm telling ya', whatever you are trying to get me to see, it's not there.

H: What? [*Hesitantly moves closer to see for herself.*] It was right here. But now- [*becomes even more panicked*] it's disappeared, hiding, waiting to strike.

G: What did you see?

H: It was huge! And gross and black and hairy and gross and-

G: What was?

H: The spider! It was nasty. With all it's legs... [*shudders*]

G: Yeah, spiders have eight legs, so what?

H: It's unnatural! The way they move, it's disturbing!

G: They're just little bugs-

H: Ooooh... you can tell me that when you are totally vulnerable and you step into the shower, just to look down and see a massive spider sitting there waiting for you. Which is actually what happened to me. Luckily I was just turning on the water, and I wasn't about to actually step into the shower... that would have been... [*shudders again*]

G: I didn't know you were so afraid of spiders.

H: I've told you that I am arachnophobic before, and for good reason!

G: They're harmless.

H: They're evil!

G: [*Chuckling*] If you say so. Well I'll leave you to your shower.

H: No you can't leave me! Not while it's still here, lurking in the shadows.

G: You're kidding me.

H: I am definitely not kidding. The moment you leave it will crawl back out and attack.

G: So then when you see it just squish it with some toilet paper.

H: No, they're crafty, they can smell fear. You have to kill him.

G: Are you serious? This seems like an awfully big deal to make about a spider. Don't you have a new job you have to get to?

H: Exactly! So if you don't kill the spider then I can't take a shower and I'll be late for my first day. Oh please Greg..

G: *[Annoyed]* Fine. I mean he can't have gone far. *[Sees the spider on the shower head]* Ah see, there the little guy is.

H: Little guy? He's huge!

[Charlie grabs a bit of toilet paper and squishes the spider.]

G: There.

H: Even when they're dead, they're nasty. Thanks Greg.

SCENE 2 - HARTLEY TECH RESEARCH FACILITY - HOUR AFTER SCENE 1

[HANNAH is seen walking through a door into a lab room. TOBIAS HARTLEY and DAVE WITHERS are present.]

T: Why hello there. Who might you be?

H: Hannah Drevor the new intern sir. The secretary told me I should start in here.

T: Well Hannah Drevor the new intern, welcome. I'm Tobias Hartley, the founder here at Hartley Tech.

H: Nice to meet you.

T: You as well. And this *[gestures to DAVE]* is Dave Withers. He's one of our leading scientists here at the facility.

D: Nice to meet you.

H: Nice to meet you.

T: Well Dave, as I was just saying Jenny wanted me to get back to helping her with all of the paperwork on that tarantula case. So I assume you can handle this?

D: Yeah I can show Hannah around and have her help input some of that overdue data stacked up on my to-do list.

T: Great. Well I'll leave you to it. Welcome again, Hannah.

[TOBIAS HARTLEY exits.]

H: Did he say tarantula?

D: They're just working on this behavioral analysis of some lady's pet spider. Why? You don't like spiders?

H: Not a big fan of them.

D: Hm. I understand that. Anyways, if you could just log some of the data on the papers there by the computer, that would be great. The program's already running so it should be pretty easy.

H: Okay then.

D: Thanks.

[HANNAH moves to the computer and starts said task. DAVE moves over to a large machine over to the side of the room. A light change / just a brief pause indicates a small amount of time has passed.]

H: *[While continuing to work]* What are you working on?

D: *[Continuing to tinker with the contraption.]* It's a laser that can modify a target's molecular structure. The target absorbs the matter around it and with the effects of the laser will change the molecular composition to match the target's, adding to its mass.

[HANNAH looks slightly confused.]

D: In essence, it makes stuff bigger.

H: Ah well that's pretty cool.

D: Yeah, I've spent the last few years perfecting it. But lucky for you, you will probably get to see it in action since I'm just about done with it.

H: What do you have to finish?

D: I have to put some sort of regulatory feature on it because as of right now if the laser was to fire on something, that target would just continue to grow and grow. You can imagine how potentially catastrophic that could be.

H: You mean it would just continue to grow- forever?

D: I'm not totally sure about that. Theoretically yes but I don't know if that is practically true.

H: *[Getting up from her desk and handing papers to DAVE]* Well I finished inputting those logs. Is there anything else you-

[Suddenly JENNY MORGAN bursts into the room.]

J: Charlie! Charlie! Are you in here?

D: Jenny? What's wrong?

J: Charlie's disappeared. The security cameras saw him coming down this hallway. Have you seen him?

D: No sorry.

H: Who's Charlie?

J: Charlie's my pet. I love him so much. I don't know what I'd do without him.

H: What kind of pet is Charlie?

J: A tarantula.

H: Wait, you're the one with the pet tarantula?

J: Yep. And a handsome one too.

D: Hannah doesn't like spiders.

J: What's there not to like? Well I guess there are spider people and there are dog people. Would you help me look for him?

D: For sure.

[The three start scouring the room (HANNAH hesitantly)]

H: So let me get this straight, there's a tarantula just crawling around here somewhere? *[Muttering under her breath]* Of course it's spiders on my first day.

J: Charlie!?

[JENNY bends over abruptly, looking under a table, bumping into the controls for the laser which then fires.]

D: Oh no! *[Checks the laser controls]* Ok, it's alright. Everything's under control.

H: The laser didn't fire on anything?

D: No, I'm not concerned about that. It's set up to fire inside of a mirror chamber so that if it ever did get fired then the beam would be reflected until it fades away. I just wanted to make sure that the controls were still intact.

[Camera shows the spider crawling out of the laser.]

J: Sorry about that Dave.

D: Don't worry about it. Ay there he is. Under the exhaust port.

J: Charlie! Thanks Dave. Well I'll be getting back to work then. Hannah.

D: Quite the eventful first hour here. A missing tarantula and a laser misfire.

H: Yeah, quite. *[Laughs hesitantly, clearly not genuinely amused].*

[Camera changes to inside of JENNY's lab room.]

J: You silly spider. Why'd you run off like that?

[JENNY places the tarantula in a glass box habitat and closes the lid.]

J: No more escaping ya' hear? Now where was I?

[JENNY moves off to work on something in the room. The spider crawls around a bit and then as if something inside him, a flash of purple courses through him. The spider then grows to be much larger than he was before. Not massive but still a very big size for even a tarantula. As he grows the contents of the habitat seem to melt/disappear (as this is where he is

getting the extra matter to grow). JENNY crosses the room and sees that Charlie is much bigger.]

J: Charlie!? Incredible. How are- how'd you get to be this big? Fascinating. Well I must log this!

[JENNY rushes back over to her desk. Charlie grows again, now breaking his container and growing to the size of a medium-sized dog. JENNY turns around and at this moment her excitement starts to turn to fear.]

J: Charlie! What-

[Charlie continues to grow, "melting" the ground around him. As he grows to such a size that he fills up the room, he knocks over a large filing cabinet, blocking the door. JENNY rushes to try and pry them open but to no avail. Turning around, back pressed to the wall, JENNY screams as Charlie becomes so large he fills the entire room and presses up against the ceiling. It is implied that he crushes JENNY.]

SCENE 3 - HARTLEY TECH RESEARCH FACILITY - IMMEDIATELY AFTER
PREVIOUS

[The audience now comes back to HANNAH and DAVE.]

D: Could you hand me that needle?

[HANNAH crosses to DAVE.]

H: Needle? Like a sewing needle?

D: Yeah, there should be one on-

[The fire alarm sounds and both characters share a worried look.]

D: Unplug that computer! Grab the harddrive and let's get out of here.

[DAVE scrambles to grab papers while HANNAH does as she's told. Camera changes to see them running out the front doors and to the crowd amassing from those evacuating.]

H: Do you see any smoke? Dave?

[DAVE has dropped his papers and is staring not at the facility, but at the city in the distance. At this moment HANNAH turns to see what he's looking

at and her face is instantly void of color. Charlie, now the size of a large building is seen lumbering toward the city, leaving a wake of destruction.]

H: *[Putting her hand to her forehead and bending over]* I might faint.

D: I- Wha-

H: Why does it have to be a spider?! Why does it always have to be spiders?!

D: *[Searching for words]* Where did it- even- come from?

[DAVE runs around the building to get a better look at the side where Charlie came from. The entire side of the building is cracked and melted.]

D: Holy- Hannah... that's, that's Charlie!

H: What? No... no, no no it's not. Charlie was tiny. Well certainly not tiny, but I think I'd remember if Jenny said she owned a spider the size of an apartment building!

D: *[Muttering under his breath]* The laser...

H: What?

D: The laser! When it misfired... it must have hit Charlie!

H: But no- you said that it was firing in a mirror chamber so it didn't hit anything.

D: He must've crawled in there without us noticing. Lord... that means-

H: Dave? What? What does that mean?

D: Without any regulator he'll continue to grow, absorbing the matter around him... I guess we're going to find out whether the theoretical outcome is the practical one...

H: But what does that mean? He's going to grow endlessly? He'll crush the city.

D: He'll crush more than that.

H: Seems pretty irresponsible to leave such a potentially dangerous laser in a state where it can fire by accident!

D: Yeah I messed up ok?! But that's not important right now. What's important is figuring out what to do!

H: But what can we do?! Dave! Dave? What can we do?

D: I- I'm not sure.

H: But you're the one who designed the laser- you know how to reverse it right? Right?!

D: No, I don't know how to reverse it!

H: Can't you just modify the laser or something!?

D: I spent years making that thing! It's not something that you just flip a switch on.

[Charlie causes a large crashing noise in the distance as he reaches the city. This catches the attention of HANNAH and DAVE. Charlie is now larger than several city blocks.]

H: Greg! No, no, no...

[HANNAH whips out her phone and dials a number. As it rings she stares at the distant city.]

H: Pick up, pick up...

[GREG answers the phone.]

G: Hannah aren't you at-

H: Greg! You have to get out of the apartment now!

G: What? Why?

H: There's a spider! A huge-

G: Hannah not this again. Just grab something to squish it.

H: No Greg you don't understand-

G: Hannah, you're an adult, you don't have to-

[At this moment Charlie takes a step crushing the apartment building and the line goes dead.]

H: Greg?! Greg!

D: I'm sorry.

[Military helicopters fly overhead and fire explosives at Charlie who remains oblivious to this fact. Charlie grows again, destroying the helicopters and the entire city. HANNAH and DAVE look on helplessly.]

"SCENE" 4 - NEWS STATION - FOLLOWING PREVIOUS EVENTS

NA1: We come to you with breaking news this afternoon. A tarantula, the size of a city is making its way around the state and is growing larger every few minutes or so.

NA2: We do not have an explanation of where this gargantuan spider came from or how it's so big but we advise everyone to try to evacuate to the south as it seems the spider is travelling north.

NA1: The military is currently trying to handle the situation but currently no success is being made. Stay tuned to hear updates about this situation and for guidance to-

[At this moment the studio is crushed by Charlie as he grows to the size of a state, his legs creating massive craters in the earth. Camera cuts back to DAVE.]

D: Nothing can stop him now... he'll soon become the size of the planet, the planet will be gone... we can only pray that we find a way to survive... heaven help us...

[Camera cuts a final shot of Charlie (from space, showing how large he is) as he causes destruction on a global scale. Camera cuts to black.]

THE END