

“To Dr Vlad Milovic, for your caring and skillful contribution to confidence and grace.” – Gina
“For my mother who taught me to embrace all things nature with love and respect.” – Nandina



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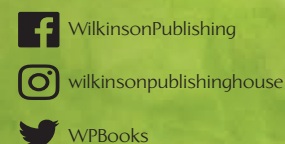
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SPIDER WARS

Gina Newton
Nandina Vines



Once, the Paddock was paradise for spiders.



On the south side, Wolf Spiders lived in dark underground burrows.



On the north side, Peacock Spiders lived on crunchy leaves and snappy twigs.

But lately, paradise was troubled by the Spider Wars.

Gangs of Wolf Spiders and Peacock Spiders fought over Middle Ground Hill...

...the only way to the other side of the Paddock.

All the spiders just *knew* that...



the best dirt...



the dewiest grass...

the snappiest twigs...



and the tastiest bugs...



were on the other side of that hill.

Middle Ground Hill was the highest point in the Paddock.



It was the best place for Wolf spiderlings to 'balloon' from their mothers.



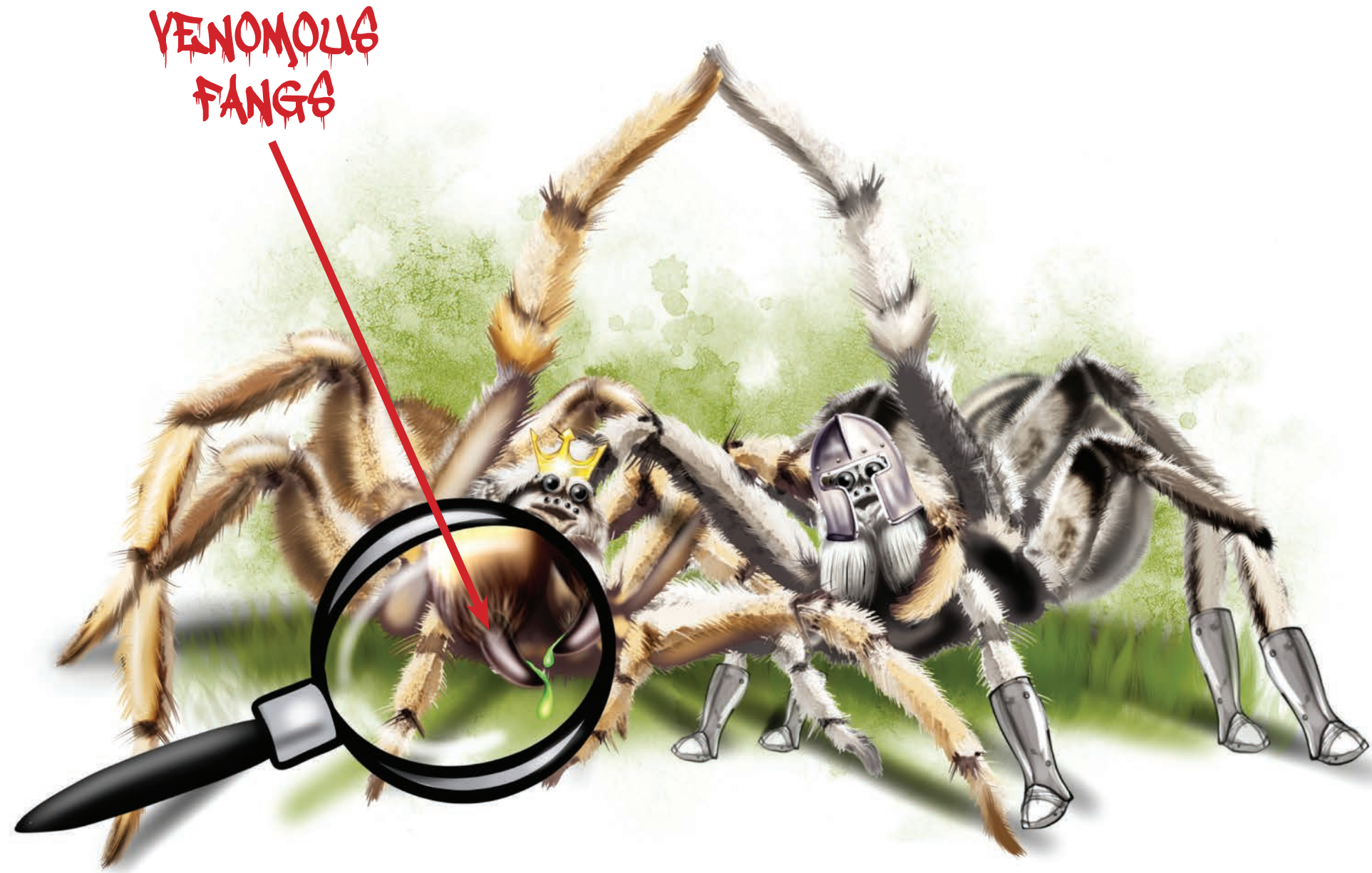
It was also the best place for male Peacock Spiders to dance and show off their fancy butts.

During the Spider Wars, spider gangs
would squabble and scrap,
and scuffle and spar.



Sometimes, they even got hurt.

The Wolf Spider gang was led by the Wolfman and his bodyguard, Fangs.



Their weapon of choice was—you guessed it—**VENOMOUS FANGS**.

The Peacock Spider gang was led by Skeletorus and his bodyguard, Owlface. Their weapon of choice was dazzling the enemy with hypnotic dance moves.



And it worked—they hardly ever got fanged!