

DEADLY TEMPTATIONS

Part One

Hmm, she looks nice. Very tasty, you might say. What about those legs! They go all the way up and then all the way back down again. I shall begin my approach shortly, but first I'll just try to attract her attention while circling for a while. I believe that is the generally accepted strategy.

I have lived a sheltered life – so far anyway. My mother always warned me about girls. Kept on quoting Kipling at me: *'the female of the species is deadlier than the male'* and all that.

I wonder if I should ask this girl to dance. She is a lovely mover.

Hang on! I seem to have caught her eye – or one of them at least. I'm sure she was looking at me then. Ah well, summon up the blood; here goes. Who can deny the demands of Fate? To win or lose all on the single throw of a dice: that is my destiny. This must be love.

Gradually, I make my move towards her. I tread cautiously yet determinedly. Turning back is already out of the question.

"Hello gorgeous," I make my opening gambit. "Can I interest you in a meal?"

"Mmm, lovely," she replies warmly. "But first, let's get to know each other."

I give in willingly to the magic of her sexuality. I never knew it could be like this.

"Go on then," I urge her. "Give us a kiss."

Part Two

She struck her victim down within moments of coition. He had no possibility of escape; no choice; it was his destiny.

She rolled him up into a conveniently shaped silken container and propelled him, as gently as was practical, to join the rest of her food store under the refrigerator. She had discovered through trial and error that this was an excellent place for a larder. Humans had many irritating habits but, happily, cleaning under their fridges was not one of them.

What to do now, while her supper matured? She scuttled to the edge of her domain to have a look around in the light and see what the sensitive hairs on her legs picked up. The humans were indoors this evening and there was a good deal of vibration coming from the room next door which seemed to be their nest, judging by how long they spent frowsting in there.

The vibration did not seem to be caused by human movement, however. She suspected it emanated from one of the boxes which seemed to hypnotise the humans into a state of semi-hibernation. She decided to investigate.

The spider scurried to the doorway to the living-room, keeping close to the skirting-board wherever possible. Once there, she could see that the family was watching the third part of the *'Lord of the Rings'* trilogy, with the full benefit of surround sound.

'I recognise this bit,' she said to herself. 'My favourite.' And she settled down on the threshold for a good view of Shelob menacing Frodo Baggins.

Unfortunately, the girl human found the depiction of Shelob just too frightening. Pausing briefly to let out a piercing scream, she tore out of the room at breakneck speed. The spider never knew what hit her.