

Huge

By Heather Westropp

It was huge. I mean, seriously huge. She lay on the couch and stared at it in disbelief. *How could it be that large?* she thought. It wasn't that she hadn't seen big ones before, but this one trumped them all by a long shot.

Her boyfriend looked down at it and smiled proudly in a typically boyish way. Though they had been dating for almost a month, it was the first time that she had invited him into her apartment. After all, she wanted to take it slow this time. But now that they were lying on the couch together and she was looking straight at *it*, she knew that it had not been a mistake to ask him to come in.

Before anything more could happen though, she removed herself from his arms and sat up.

"You know what? I think I need a minute... I'll be right back." She winked at him, and then got up and walked around the corner into her bedroom, shutting the door gently behind her.

Her heart was racing, and she needed to calm down. After all, this was nothing she couldn't handle. She'd done it before, and this time was no different. It was just a little bigger than most. After taking a few deep breaths, she rummaged around her room until she found what she needed, and walked back out to the living room with the necessary tools in hand.

"I got something for you," she called teasingly. "It's extra large. I've never really had the occasion to use it before now, but this situation certainly fits the bill." She smiled lightly and tossed it to him.

As she plopped back down onto the couch, she couldn't help but eye it again. It was so out there and exposed, just waiting for her to pounce. She looked at it with fascination and it seemed to wink at her mockingly. *Come and get me*, it practically called.

"Alright, let's do this." She reached over and patted his shoulder reassuringly. He sat up, slipped on his gear, and assumed the position.

Crunch went the big, hairy spider as his boot came down on top of it.

She handed her boyfriend the wad of paper towels, which he used to clean off the extra-large boot.

"That's my 'spider-stomping' boot," she laughed. "I spotted the pair at a thrift store a couple of years ago and bought them for this exact purpose. You never know when a huge, nasty spider is going to crawl into your house and you'll need something heavy duty to take care of it."

"Pretty useful!" he laughed. "Aren't you glad I was here to help?"

"Definitely," she nodded vigorously. "I *hate* spiders. And that one was particularly monstrous!"

They laughed for moment before going back to cuddling on the couch and watching the movie. *I think this one's a keeper*, she thought, snuggling into his neck.