

I won't be bacon for anybody!

(HOMER, LURVY and EDITH enter breathlessly. The ANIMALS quickly let go of WILBUR whose bravado disappears quickly as he cowers.)

HOMER. Well, you certainly gave us a run for our —

LURVY. Mr. Zuckerman. Mrs. Zuckerman. Look! This is what I wanted to show you. (He points to the web. ALL stare at it for a moment. WILBUR and the ANIMALS look, too.)

HOMER (amazed). A miracle has happened on this farm. LURVY. A miracle.

EDITH. I don't believe it! "Some Pig." (WILBUR begins to regain his confidence.)

HOMER. It is clear we have no ordinary pig.

EDITH. It seems to me we have no ordinary spider.

HOMER. Oh, no, it's the pig that's unusual. Edith, call the minister and tell him about the miracle. Then call the Arabes. Hurry. (EDITH exits as WILBUR rises and sits happily on a barrel or box near the web.) You know, Lurvy, I've thought all along that pig of ours was an extra good one.

LURVY. He's quite a pig.

HOMER. I'd say he's . . . "some pig." (He and LURVY laugh.) Well, let's hurry and get the chores done. I'm sure we'll have lots of visitors when word of this leaks out. (He and LURVY exit. The ANIMALS cheer, applaud, and congratulate CHARLOTTE.)

WILBUR (himself again). Oh, Charlotte. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

CHARLOTTE. It seems to have worked. At least for the present. But if we are to save Wilbur's life, I will have to write more words in the web. And I need new ideas. Any suggestions?

LAMB. How about "Pig Supreme?"

CHARLOTTE. No good. It sounds like a rich dessert.

GOOSE. How about "terrific, terrific, terrific?"

CHARLOTTE. Cut that down to one "terrific" and it will do very nicely. I think it might impress Zuckerman. Does anybody here know how to spell "terrific?"

GANDER. I think it's tee, double ee, double rr, double rr, double eye, double ff, double eye, double see, see, see, see.

CHARLOTTE. What kind of acrobat do you think I am?

GANDER. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

CHARLOTTE. I'll spell the word the best way I can.

SHEEP (glancing offstage R). Look, here comes Templeton. Maybe he can help with this project.

(TEMPLETON enters R.)

TEMPLETON. Templeton only helps himself. What's up?

SHEEP. Did you see the message in the web?

TEMPLETON. It was there when I went out this morning. It's no big deal.

SHEEP. It was a big deal to Zuckerman. And now Charlotte needs new ideas. When you go to the dump, bring back a clipping from a magazine. Charlotte can copy the words. It will help save Wilbur's life.

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TEMPLETON. Let him die. I should worry.

SHEEP. You'll worry next winter when Wilbur is dead and nobody comes down here with a nice pail of slops.

TEMPLETON (after a pause). I'll bring back a magazine clipping.

CHARLOTTE. Thanks. The meeting is adjourned. (The ANIMALS begin to exit, bidding each other farewell as they go.) Tonight, I will tear my web apart and write "terrific." Now go out into the yard and lie in the sun, Wilbur. I need a little rest. I was up all night.

WILBUR (as he exits). Thank you, Charlotte. You're the best friend a pig ever had. (He exits.)

CHARLOTTE (smiling to herself). Some pig. *Some pig.* (The lights fade.)

(The CHORUS enters.)

END

FIRST MEMBER. As the day went on, the news about the words in Charlotte's web began to spread throughout the county.

SECOND MEMBER. People came from miles around to see the words on Charlotte's web.

THIRD MEMBER. News of the wonderful pig spread clear up into the hills where the farmers talked about the miraculous animal on Zuckerman's farm.

FIRST MEMBER. Charlotte knew there would be even more visitors the next day.

SECOND MEMBER. So that night, while the other creatures slept, she began to work on her web.

CHARLOTTE. Swing spinnetets. Let out the thread. The longer it gets, the better it's read. (She begins to "write.")

THIRD MEMBER. Spinning and weaving, she began to form the new letters.

FIRST MEMBER. Again, she talked to herself as though to cheer herself on.

CHARLOTTE. Descend. Pay out line. Whoa, girl. Steady. Now for the R.

SECOND MEMBER. On through the night the spider worked at her difficult task. It was nearly morning when she finally finished.

CHARLOTTE. The message is spun. I've come to the end. The job that I've done is all for my friend.

THIRD MEMBER. She then ate a small bug she was saving.

And, after that . . .

CHORUS (softly). She fell asleep. (They exit. A light comes up on the web to reveal the word "Terrific.")

(A moment later, WILBUR enters yawning.)

WILBUR. I can't believe I spent the entire day *and* night outside sleeping. Oh, well. It's very refreshing. Especially in the summer.

(LURVY enters with a bucket.)

LURVY. I'm afraid to look. I know it can't happen again. (He looks over at the web.) I don't believe my eyes. "Terrific." It did! It did happen again! "Terrific." Another miracle! Mr. Zuckerman! Come quick! It's another miracle! (He exits.)

WILBUR (looking at the web). It's beautiful.

(FERN enters.)