

Lesson 9  
READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

## Exotic Pet

I bet you'd impress your colleagues if your houseguest was an exotic pet, like a tarantula.

If you're squeamish, a tarantula may not be the best bet. Some people think they're intimidating because of their large size, hairy legs, and eight eyes. But my pet tarantula, Marguerite, is quite distinguished looking.

It's easy to take care of her. She doesn't bark, meow, or create a fuss. She doesn't need a collar or a license. She never requires the services of a veterinarian. I have to clean her house only once a year. If I treat her properly, she may live for fifteen years.

It doesn't cost much to feed Marguerite. She only eats once a week. Can you guess what she eats? She loves live crickets. In fact, I now raise crickets just for her.

You might find it intriguing to observe her when she tries to discard her skin or when she weaves her silk web.

But all of her good qualities cannot disguise the fact that Marguerite can bite. If you are not hypersensitive, her bite will sting but it won't harm you. But if you want to avoid being bitten, let me give you some guidance before you handle her.