News flash! Two locals have been missing for five days now. Local architect; Nathaniel Whithers, aged 27, had been working that day at his work site. He was seen leaving his house early Tuesday morning at 5 am. He drove a White Ute with mud splashes on the back window and on the side doors. He drove through the local McDonalds drive through on Beastleys Road. He was last seen by his work mates leaving the work site in a white target T-shirt and a pair of light denim jeans with holes in the knees. Nathaniel was also wearing a pair of Sunglasses and Doc Martians. Nathaniel has light brown hair and tanned skin, green eyes and a slightly large nose. Nathaniel was also seen with Kathy Frend.

Hospital cook; Kathy Frend, aged 26, had been also working that day in the hospital. Kathy was seen leaving her house at 4 am Tuesday morning also. Kathy walked a short distance to the hospital. She was last seen by her work mates leaving the hospital at 4 pm. Kathy was wearing dark denim skinny jeans, a gray long sleeved t-shirt, trainers, a red jacket and a Sandy colored scarf. Kathy was also wearing hoop earrings. Kathy has blonde hair, brown eyes and a thin figure.

Kathy and Nathaniel were seen on Spring Street, Perth, Western Australia. They were seen arguing. All of a sudden the earth opened up into a sink hole. Kathy and Nathaniel fell in. Unfortunately the ground, mysteriously closed up before forces came. No one else was harmed in this event of mysterious matters. Unfortunately though, a small unstable building collapsed. Luckily no one was inside. Forces are trying to uncover what might have happened.

If you know or have seen anything about this hectic and curious matter please call:

1800 455 672-
Chapter 2

5 days earlier

I walked home from work with the beautiful sun shining on my face and my head held high. As music played through my headphones I think back to my day, it started like any other but ended with Trent the man I have been admiring for over 3 years asking me on a date tonight, I couldn’t be happier.

I walk across town, and notice a familiar face as I walk past a construction site. I stared at this familiar face, his tan skin complementing his green eyes, his wide nose looked too big for his face. I watched as he walked towards me, the way that he strutted looked so familiar. The face was now close enough for me to make close eye contact with him. He stared back at me, I wanted to look away but I couldn’t, the intensity of his eyes were captivating. As we pass he bumps into me and I trip over a crack in the ground landing on my behind, I look up at him and he stops.

“Sorry” he says to me as he puts a hand out for me to take, I gasp at the sight of him I know who this is, I think to myself, “This is Nathaniel Whithers.” I reject his offer as I realize this is the boy who bullied me for my whole high school life. I get to my feet and dust my clothes off.

“Are you ok” Nathaniel asked.

“No I’m not, get away from me” I reply with anger bursting from me. I look to the ground and see my purse and a dollar on the ground. I lean to pick it up as Nathaniel went to do so too. He bumped me as he picked up the dollar, my last dollar I had in my purse. He went to give it to me and he dropped it. I leant to grab it but it fell through the crack I tripped over.

“Nice one, I’ll get my own stuff thank-you.” I muttered. I went to reach through the small crack to get the dollar, but it was too deep.

“Are you sure you’re okay? You seem upset at something.” I laughed uncomfortably, noticing that he didn’t remember me what so ever. Which if I think about it is strange. I watched his face as it grew to recognize my own. His eyes grow wide and a gasp almost escapes his throat. He goes to say something but then I feel a sudden shake on the ground, then sounds of thunder came from the crack. All of a sudden the crack opened up, we plummeted through a gorge in the earth.
Chapter 3

I opened my eyes, but my vision was blocked by a huge cloud of dust. Disorientated and nauseous I tried lifting my arms. I was restrained by what seemed to be a web, covered in centuries of gathering dust and dirt. I looked around in panic to see my body stuck to a huge web cast just above the floor of the gorge. “What the hell just happened?” I screamed at Nathaniel. He still seemed disorientated, but lifted his head to speak.

“Is this a web?” He asked.

“What else could it be, idiot. This is your fault, you bloody opened a sinkhole when you dropped my last dollar through the crack” I bitterly told Nathaniel.

“How is this my fault, it doesn’t matter, we gotta get out of here.” Nathaniel said.

We both looked around, I ripped my right arm off the web, then the rest of my limbs. The web seemed ancient, it wasn’t as sticky as it probably once used to be. I tumbled off the side of the web, Nathaniel did the same. “What kind of a spider could spin a web this big? A million spiders must have spun this” I exclaimed. Nathaniel shrugged, which only made me even more furious.

We looked up to the blue sky through the crack opening entrapping us. All of a sudden rocks fell from the sides of the crack, plummeting above our heads. I quickly looked around and saw a series of 4 different caves. I ran to the closest one, with Nathaniel following just as fast. We made it into a tunnel cave just in time, we watched the rocks fall over our only way out. The light gradually darkened as the rocks sealed the gorge. Nathaniel pulled a torch out of his tool belt.

“Thank-god” I murmured. The cave tunnel stretched for hundreds of meters, maybe even a couple kilometers. I couldn’t see an end.

I ran my hand across the cave wall. There were green, luminous slithers of some type of mineral along the rocks. Nathaniel examined with his torch.

“This must be the shutdown mine. Don’t touch that, they’re deposits of radium. You’ll get radiation poisoning. This was shut down in 1876 after most of the long term miners died of cancers and illnesses due to the overexposure to the radiation. If you don’t touch it you’ll be fine.”

I sighed in relief, finally some sort of explanation behind these caves. “Ok, so do you know any way out of here?”

“Not a clue, I guess just follow this cave until we find a way out, there must be other exits to this mine.” Nathaniel told me with faith.

“You’d better hope to god there is, cause if were stuck here without food for days you know just who I’m eating” I said.

“It sort of scares me how I can’t tell if your joking or not.”

We continued walking down the cave. “So, you ready to apologize for all the years of bullying you did to me? Or do you want to still pretend you can’t remember?” I fumed cantankerously.
“I’m sorry ok, I was pressured by a-lot of kids back then and I was going through a rough time” He replied.

“A simple apologies not enough, no excuse gives you the right to do what you did to me. Let’s just get out of here” I yelled.

We walked for what seemed about half an hour. Continuously walking through the cave with no change. We finally came to an end, a wall of rocks and boulders ceiled the other end. I swore in anger.

“I did not just walk all this way to be trapped.” I yelled. Anger filled my lungs as adrenalin rushed through my body. I pulled down each rock one by one, a long process, but Nathaniel helped.

We pulled down half the wall, now struggling to lift the larger rocks. I went to lift another, I placed my hand on something hairy.

“OH MY GOD! WHAT IS THAT?” I screamed, jumping away to the far wall.

“What’s what? Stop being a sook.” Nathaniel strided over to the rock wall after fiddling with his tool belt. He stared at the long black stick, then placed his hand along it. His eyes went wide with fear and a scream rattled out of his throat.

“It looks like a spider leg, be quiet.” He whispered.

“A spider leg? Look at the size of it! How…” My sentence was cut short. All of a sudden the wall collapsed and a spider 3 meters tall presented itself in front of us. No words can explain the horror I experienced. My heart stopped, I ran back through the cave tunnel with Nathaniel, but it was too late. The spider didn’t even have to move to catch us. It extended its arm and caught us both with its stretched arms. I looked past the spider, and saw a colony of huge spiders behind it. The cave ceiling where the spiders were, stretched meters higher than the tunnel we came through. Hills of rocks stuck together with web created a city for the spiders, the site was fascinating, yet scary. The spider wrapped our bodies both up in web, I fell unconscious.
Chapter 4

News Flash!

It has been 8 days since the mysterious disappearance of Nathaniel Whithers and Kathy Frend.

Somehow more people are disappearing without a word. All across Australia more and more people are missing. The disappearing rate is going up about 25% of a large city per day. Families and friends are worrying about their loved ones. No one understands why this is happening or how. We have Dylan Hargotten here at the scene.

“Hello Dylan,”

“Hello Peter. Yes this is a very mysterious event indeed. All over Australia people are disappearing frequently and in large numbers. Family and friends are crying, grieving for their loved ones. No one understands why this is happening. It appears that gorges and sink holes are opening up all over the country, causing hundreds of people, young and old, to fall into the darkness of the pit. I stand here next to the first sink hole which caused two young people to fall into the gorge without warning. Forces have been trying to uncover the sink hole but is getting nothing. The procedure has been stopped because of danger. I have here a witness of one incident that happened in Sydney 4 days ago. Hi can you tell us in detail what happened?”

“Yes, um, well I was unpacking my shopping into my house. Now next door was having a party outside and there was a lot of people, about maybe 250 people. They had the music up loud when I felt the ground shake and the people screaming next door. I ran out to check if they were okay. The ground started cracking and opening up. People ran and screamed but the ground ripped open before they could go any further. Then I ran towards the house. Out of my window I saw the ground cover up with the fallen rocks and stones. I ran forward out of my house again, not sure of how deep the hole was, but I yelled for them and tried to uncover the first layers, but it was no use. Haven’t seen them or heard them since.”

“Thank you sir. Strange, about what time did this happen?”

“Around 7 pm.”

“Well thank you for your information. Army forces are trying to gage when the next one will happen but are unsuccessful so far in this procedure. Try to stay safe in this dilemma. If you know any information please call the news network or your local police station. Over to you Peter.”

“Thank you Dylan. Tragedy that so many people are missing. We will try to get this sorted as soon as we can so that loved ones can reunite with their family and friends. What will happen next? And when will it strike again?”
Chapter 5

I woke up in a cold dark room, it was almost pitch black and the only light I could see was the glow from the Radium on the cave walls. My body was enwrapped in a web cast by the monstrous spider that captured us. Surprisingly, it was thin and I could break through. I looked around and saw that Nathaniel was still unconscious. I walked around and noticed we were in a huge room in the rock hill colony of spiders. The exit was blocked by a web, I ran back to Nathaniel and quickly woke him. I shook him in panic and explained what happened. I broke the web off Nathaniel’s body as he drifted into consciousness. We discussed the situation and plans to escape as we peered through the web door.

“How can spiders be this big?” I asked him.

“The radium deposits must have mutated a spider that came through the mine, but for something to mutate on this scale would take decades. These spiders must have came here just as the mine was founded, then gradually mutated as they bred, each generation becoming larger and larger.” Nathaniel explained.

“Ok, do you think they’ll eat us?” I asked.

“It’s not the nature for spiders to kill unless they feel threatened or need food, like most animals.” Nathaniel told me.

We waited until any spiders were away from the door, then Nathaniel pushed his arm into the web to break it, but the web was much thicker. He struggled releasing his arm from the sticky web, but eventually ripped his arm off the web with my help.

“What next?” I questioned. But before I could answer a spider crept to the web entrance and sliced it in half. It entered with its huge legs, I backed up to the corner of the room. About 50 spiders one after the other carrying 2 or more humans entered, the spiders left and sealed the door, as the people screamed in horror. They all were enwrapped in webs, Nathaniel and I helped get them out of them. They were all confused as were we, so we explained what was happening.

“We all need to calm down, we’re going to be ok, just listen to us please” I yelled, as everyone quietened. I looked at Nathaniel to continue.

“These spiders have been mutated by the radium deposits on the cave walls, this used to be a mine until it was shut down in 1876. If the spiders just captured you then there’s an opening somewhere in through the caves.” Nathan described. His face all of a sudden looked surprised.

“I’ve got a Stanley knife, I can cut through the web and get us out of here.” Nathaniel reached into his tool belt and pulled out the Stanley knife.

“Ok, wait until the spiders are away from the door, then we’ll make our escape.” I settled. “As Nathaniel told me, it’s not in the nature for spiders to kill unless they feel threatened, so don’t harm any spider.”

Everyone gathered around the door, finally no spiders were near and we cut through the door. We all charged towards the cave tunnel we came in through. A few spiders noticed us and picked our group off slowly, webbing them then placing them back into to the room in the hill colony. We made it into the tunnel, at the point only had about 20 people left in our group. We all quietly jogged through the tunnel, trying not to arouse the attention of any spiders going to collect a human on the surface. A spider turned back at the noise of one group falling. Its large, intense 8 eyes starred straight at Nathaniel, then changed direction and charged towards him.
“Nathaniel, move!” I spoke, trying not to be too loud. But it was too late, the spider grabbed him and tugged him back.

“Good luck” Nathaniel whispered.

“I’ll come back for you” I said, confused about how much I cared about him. Our group was only of 10 now, we were all tired but persistently kept jogging. We made it to the opening of the gorge, which we fell through. It was now open again, the spiders must have cleared the rocks. I expected the light from the opening at the top to be brighter. I saw hundreds, if not thousands of spiders carrying 10 humans each, then rushing through the tunnel to trap in the cave. A thought stuck.

“Ok, as ridiculous as this sounds, we need to ride the spiders to the top, we can’t climb that height. The spiders are carrying 10 or more humans from the top each, so they might not even feel us on their back if we jump on. I’ll go first.” I said valiantly.

I saw a spider crawling through the tunnel, soon to go up the gorge to collect its human victims. I scaled a diagonal steep at the bottom of the gorge, then jumped on the back of the spider. I took shallow breaths as I filled with anxiety of getting caught. Luckily it didn’t notice. The spider climbed to the top of the gorge as I took in a deep breath of fresh air at the top. Although, the air wasn’t fresh at all. I couldn’t believe what my eyes were showing in front of me, how such a thing could ever happen. I looked around and saw buildings in the city collapsing, fire alighting the undeveloped grasslands near the city, cyclones enwrapped in fire destroying everything in its path. I pinched myself, hoping this wasn’t real. But this was reality, an apocalypse destroying the entire city, leaving humans to run in panic.

I examined the spiders collecting the humans in the midst of all the disasters around the city, then the penny dropped. The spiders weren’t harming the humans, they were in fact saving them from their certain death.
Chapter 6

News flash!

Buildings, bridges and houses are collapsing after massive gorges and sink holes are appearing and shaking the ground to a point of a 6.0 earthquake. Most of Australia’s population has disappeared and are nowhere to be seen. Army forces still don’t have an idea of when then next one will strike. 75% of Australia’s population has gone missing.

Only this morning the Sydney harbor bridge collapsed, sending hundreds of motor vehicles flying out into the darkness of the open pit below. Everything was normal until the ground below started to shake. The bridge started to groan and squeak under the pressure. I have a witness here who escaped falling into the pit. Hello, what was it like on the bridge?

“I was driving up the bridge, on my way to work this morning. I was fully aware that another sink hole may occur at any time. Then all of a sudden, out of the blue the ground started to shake again, but this time fiercer than ever. The ground shook and grumbled, buildings were swaying and slowly falling to pieces. The bridge also started to sway and shake, squeak. You could hear the metal underneath snapping, bending. The wires snapped and flung across the gateway, smashing car screen windows. A groan came out from beneath the bridge and the bridge finally snapped in two sending hundreds of cars toward the fairly large pit below. All you could hear was screaming and the loud groan and moan coming from the bridge. I braked even though I was at the start of the bridge. It was terrifying. You could hear and feel the pit closing up under you.”

“Thank you. Also here is an earth scientist, here to explain his theory about what is happening around Australia. Hello William.”

“Hello Peter. Yes I am here to explain my theory about what is happening today. In my theory of earth science, I believe that earth’s continents are ready to move and break apart. Using Australia as an example, I believe that it could break apart and form another plate. Also it could form another country entirely. Either that or a lot of volcanoes could appear and start to erupt. A whole lot of molten lava could erupt from the volcanoes and destroy a lot of homes, buildings and bridges. If either of them could or would happen, Australia would be a massive crime scene. Millions of lives would be lost in the making of this whole thing. Unfortunately no one could stop either of my theories. No matter how much technology we have or how smart and intelligent we are, none of these things could stop this global disaster from happening and ruining our daily lives today. Thank you Peter for having me on the news and letting me share my theory.”

“Thank you William for sharing that news and your theory with Australia this evening. Well there you go Australia, keep safe and enjoy your time on the beautiful beaches of Australia.”
Chapter 7

Huge bolts of lightning sparked about 20 meters away from me. I clutched the hairs on the spiders back, holding on as the spiders collected the people in danger. I glanced around and noticed that there weren’t many humans around at all, the spiders must have saved most of the city, or even the country if this disaster effected our nation too.

I rode the spider back into the gorge, sitting next to the struggling people wrapped in web next to me.

We went back down the gorge. Then I realized if my family would be ok, but they live further out in the country, hopefully they’ll be safe. I travelled back through the tunnel and reach the cave, then was set in the room. There was thousands of people now, all shaking in confusion and fear. I looked for Nathaniel, then spotted him out talking to a few of his work mates. I tapped him on the back.

“Hey, I’m back, and I’ve got big news.” I expelled.

“Cool, apparently the people from the surface are saying there’s natural disasters all over the city, even a fire tornado or something” Nathaniel yelled, as everyone else was speaking.

“Yeah, the spiders are trying to save us, there’s every natural disaster you can think of happening in the city.” I said fearfully. Hundreds more people were being dispatched by the spiders every 5 minutes.

“We have to explain to everyone what’s happening, and that they’re safe” I said.

Nathan stood on a rock and yelled to get everyone’s attention. He explained the disaster striking the city, and the spiders trying to save us. “We are all safe, the spiders must have knew this catastrophe was going to happen, and saved us. No-one is to harm any spider, they are our friends, and I assume they will let us go once the disaster over the city has passed. For the time being, everyone remain calm.

The hours past as everyone accompanied each other. More and more people flowed into the room with the spiders, some now covered in wounds. A young girl, probably 5 years old had an arm bleeding and singed with burns. She was screaming, then one of the spiders cast a web over her arm to stop the blood.

Days had past, and the spiders brought us little food and water. The spiders began to bring all of us back to the surface, gradually. We owe them our lives, as without them we would have perished.
“Hello Australia! I am Peter Cruise. Well the mysterious disappearing of all of Australia’s population has finally been solved. While we were worrying about gorges opening up from the ground and swallowing millions of people, Australia was oblivious to the fact that we were going to perish in a storm of fire tornados, cyclones, earthquakes, floods, thunder and lightning storms. If we weren’t saved by those good hearted mutated spiders, we could have died and Australia would have no living population at all.

“Despite their appearance and former reputation, the Mutated spiders saved us from hell and the most destructive natural disasters the world has ever seen. The destructive natural disasters flattened, burned and flooded most of Australia. The most disastrous of them all, the rarely seen Fire Tornado. It begins when a large fire starts and a tornado occurs. When the two collide, it creates something deadly powerful. The earth quakes were also powerful, up to 8 on the Richter scale. Here we have a witness, one the first people to be swallowed up into the ground and one of the first to discover the kindness of the spiders. Hello Kathy, what was experience underground like?”

“Hello Peter. It was scary at first, actually all the way through. It was dark and all the different caves. It was like this massive labyrinth. We were entangled in a web by the spider, not able to get as soon as we would have liked to. But as soon as we found out that they weren’t going to harm us in any way, we were relieved. And when I had a peek of the world above us, I was so thankful to the Spiders for saving us. I mean I owe them my life. It was like an out of body experience. I couldn’t be happier.”

“Thank you Kathy for that. Yes, we do owe the spiders our lives. It was a deception. They are not as harmful as we thought they were. Thank you and good night.”

- The End.

By Taylor Nearn, Abbey Fedley, John McQuaid, Dylan McQuaid & Elijah Powell

- The Kids Who Care.
Blurb

After the unexplained disappearances of more and more civilians of Perth, the public become increasingly worried. Sink holes were opening everywhere around Australia, then mysteriously closing up. Hospital Cook Kathy and Architect Nathaniel fall beneath the earth’s crust through a sink hole, then become trapped in a labyrinth. Dark monsters lurk in the series of caves, capturing humans by the millions. What kind of evil is behind this? Will Australia survive?