

From 10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine

By Don Zolidis

ANNA, *who is locked in quarantine in her room, looking out the window.*

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I never thought she was going to make it. It was impossible. The tree branch is probably twenty feet from my window. There are simply limits to what can be done. And this was... this was beyond.

She moves to the window.

I was standing here when I saw her. She was getting ready. And I was like, 'YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT! TURN BACK! FOR PETE'S SAKE, STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING! THIS IS MADNESS!' She didn't listen. Probably because she doesn't speak English. Or hear things maybe I don't know.

There's no way a medium-sized spider can make a web twenty feet across.

Shouts out the window

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO CATCH, IDIOT?! *BIRDS?!*

But I tell you something: people out there... She leapt from that branch with a filament of silk coming out her backside and she caught the breeze just *so* and... *soared* to my window. She. Made. It. I was still skeptical. Sure you make it across once, but a web requires you to make many, many trips so there's no way you're going to be able to make it back to the tree! Give up! You're doomed! You'll never make it!

Friends?

She launched herself AGAIN – and AGAIN she made it to the tree. I was stunned. Was this the greatest spider athlete in the history of the world? Am I watching the Michael Jordan of spiders? Is she not bound by the laws of physics?!

And yeah I realize I'm using female pronouns here for this spider but I'm pretty sure she was a lady since all the boys get eaten immediately after mating. You learned something.

I watched for seven hours as that spider beat the odds. Strand after strand after strand.

And I thought to myself: She didn't listen to the naysayers. She didn't care what the crowd was saying. She knew what she was capable of. And that's a lesson to all of us out there. Don't let yourself be afraid. If you can dream it, you can do it. If you believe you can build a deadly trap two thousand times your body length and murder as much as life as possible, you can do that.

Then later a bird flew through it and destroyed the whole thing. So I'm not sure what that means.