

ANANCY'S FAMILY REUNION



Eva Adenike Greene Wilson

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FAMILY
REUNION

A New Anancy Tale

Written by Eva Adenike Greene Wilson

Illustrations by Charles Metz III

Granted Publishing
Washington, DC

Anancy's Family Reunion

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ISBN 978-0-9894041-1-2

In Anancy's Family Reunion, Anancy has been up to his old tricks, but a visit from family will change everything – or will it? This new and imaginative take on Anancy folklore will reintroduce a new generation of children to a character deeply rooted in African and Caribbean oral tradition. Anancy's Family Reunion is appropriate for all ages. Children with reading abilities at the third grade (US) or year four (UK) level can read the book independently. Adults will enjoy a return to their childhood, while they share a new story with their children about a character from their youth.

Published by Granted Publishing, Washington, D.C.

CHAPTER FOUR

“Tantie!” shouted Carlton.
“Tantie Ina, I need your help!”

“What is it boy? And why are you shouting through my door? Come inside, have some tea, and we can talk,” said Tantie Ina.

Carlton came in, washed his hands and face, and sat for tea in Tantie Ina’s parlor. Tantie Ina had come from Trinidad to help take care of Carlton, while his parents were traveling.

“Tantie, I only have six legs. I need TWO more legs. How can I get two more legs in just five days?”

“You can’t, Carlton. You are an ant. Just like me. Ants only have six legs. If you had two more, that would give you eight. That would make you a spider.”

“Exactly, Tantie Ina!” said Carlton with excitement. “That’s what I need. I need to be a spider in just five days. Can you help me do that?”

“I’m sorry Carlton, but you were born an ant, and an ant you will stay,” sighed Tantie Ina.

“Not even for ten thousand dollars?” asked Carlton, looking over the rim of his tea cup at Tantie Ina.

“Not even for... wait... what did you say?”

“If you can help me look like a spider, then we can get ten thousand dollars,” explained Carlton.

“Go on,” said Tantie Ina. She was interested now. Carlton was such a silly boy most of the time, that she didn’t have high expectations for his explanation. Nevertheless, it was nice to be entertained over tea.

“If you can make me look like Anancy, his grandfather will give me ten thousand dollars.”

“Why would you want to look like such a dreadful character?” asked Tantie Ina. “He has brought shame to his family, and has been banished from the country. Did you forget that?”

“I didn’t forget. That is why my plan is perfect!” said Carlton. “You see, Tantie Ina, if I convince the old spider that I am Anancy, he will give me his inheritance on the spot. Then I will take my fortune, come home, remove my two extra legs,

and live out the rest of my days as an ant - a six legged, rich, ant.”

“I see,” said Tantie Ina. “What happens if you are found out? What then? Surely there has to be some punishment for deceiving the old spider.”

“If my plan doesn’t work, and he doesn’t believe me to be Anancy, I will have to give him one hundred dollars for my deceit.”

Tantie Ina looked around her parlor. It could use new chairs and wall paper – maybe even a skylight to let in some sun. She looked at Carlton, and saw a way to restore her parlor to its former beauty.

“Alright, Carlton,” said Tantie Ina. “I’ll help you. I will need \$5,000 of the money for myself to make repairs to my parlor. Carlton agreed, and Tantie Ina sent him to gather the materials she would need to make him two brand new legs.

Five days later, Tantie Ina had fitted Carlton with a most impressive spider costume. It had a sleeve made of an old sock that would cover his thorax and abdomen so that he appeared to only have a head and an abdomen like a spider.



She made a wig of locks to cover the sparse hair on his head. He was finally ready to be Anancy just long enough to fool the old spider, and collect the inheritance.

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About the Author

Eva Greene Wilson is the editor and owner of SocaMom.com, an award winning website for Caribbean parents. Eva graduated from North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in Marketing. She has been writing and telling stories since she was a child and has been using her talent as a storyteller to entertain and educate the readers of her blog since 2011.

This busy wife and mother of three has been honored with two Black Weblog Awards, Best New Blog and Best Parenting Blog. She sponsors offline groups for Caribbean parents and has hosted the annual Anancy Festival in Washington, D.C. Eva's writing has been featured in several publications, in print and online.

About the Illustrator

Charles Metze III is a gifted illustrator. He earned a Master's degree in Fine Arts from Howard University in May 2013. He uses his unique sense of humor to present memorable 2D and 3D characters with personality, charm, and wit. Visit his website for more information - the3dcharles.com.