

How Lion Got His Mane

By

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Now Old Man Nancy was sitting on the subway bench waiting for the A train, and he was bored. He try everything to entertain himself but nothing work. The city was loud and crowded and nobody had time to listen to Old Man Nancy's stories no more. The world was loud and crowded and everybody was listening on their iPhones and didn't like to talk to no body no more.

So Anansi was bored and cold and hungry. So he shiver and pull his gloves tight and wait for the A Train.

Then he see something though, long long ways away on the end of the platform he see Br'er Lion looking just as bored and just as hungry as Nancy was. Long time ago Nancy and all his friends decide that stories and rum were more filling than any hamburger could be, so they make stories their bread and butter. Now though, nobody want to listen to stories and so everybody hungry.

Old Man Nancy see that Br'er Lion still got on his fine fur coat and Anansi think that he might be warm if he had that coat.

So Anansi start spinning himself a coat of his own, made of sticky fine spider silk and he wrap it round him like the finest robes a man could buy. And he strut on over to Br'er Lion like he the king of all New York and say "Oh! Br'er Lion I didn't see you there, how you getting on these days you mangy cat?"

"Bout as fine as you, you old spider!" Br'er Lion say, looking at Anansi coat with a jealous eye. "Where you get such a coat in such a time as this?"

"Oh this?" Anansi say, grabbing at the coat and smoothing it like it was Hugo Boss, "It special made, Mr. Lion, special made for Anansi, and don't you go trying to trick me out of it."

Anansi start to shiver and sit next to Br'er Lion and say "Man, but it's chilly here! This coat ain't nothing against the wind up here. Eh, Br'er Lion, you're big and fat and I'm small and hungry, loan an Old Man your coat for a little while."

But Br'er Lion knew Anansi well, and say "Oh no, you tricky spider! You just tryin' to steal my coat."

Now, Old Man Nancy been at this game for a while now, and he knew all the tricks in the world, and so he shiver even harder and make his breath cloudy and rise up to the ceiling.

To anyone else, Old Man Nancy was a tiny Old Man that was freezing to death while this fat man watched him. People gather round and start berating Br'er Lion, say "How dare you!" and "No respect for the elderly!" and "You old fat cat gonna get what's coming to you."

And Br'er Lion love attention, he love having folks talk about him and giving him love. But if there's one thing Br'er Lion hates, it's people calling him disrespectful, for Br'er Lion's the proudest of all the people in the world. So he take off his coat and give it to Anansi, who brighten right up and offer Br'er Lion some rum as thanks.

Br'er Lion take it and think that Old Man Nancy not such a badman after all, and Nancy sit all warm and toasty until the A train come. Br'er Lion and Compe Anansi be drinking their rum and having a grand time, but every time Lion drink the rum, he get real warm then real real cold. So he drink more and get warmer, but then get cold cold down to his bones. Now Br'er Lion, he start to shiver now that his coat is gone, and he think to ask Old Man Nancy for his coat back, but the people still watch him, saying that he selfish and disrespectful. So Br'er Lion wait long long long time for the A Train to get there, and when it does, he say to Anansi with his teeth a-chattering: "Now, Anansi, give me back my coat and let me go on with my day." He pull on his coat to take it off Anansi, but find that the coat won't move. "What you do now Anansi?!" Br'er Lion roar, and Anansi moan and cry and suck on his teeth and say:

"Oh, Br'er Lion! My coat! It's stuck to me and stuck to your fine furs! Oh help me get it off, pull here on the collar!" So Br'er Lion pull hard on the collar as the train doors open, and then Anansi smile

and run fast as anything into the train. Then there was a big RIP and Lion's fur collar came off clean a lightning. And before Lion knew what happen, Nancy sit down on the train and it ride off to his apartment. And ever since then spiders have had thick coats when it gets cold, and Lion only have a big furry collar.