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**Neil:** Hello and welcome to On the Town, I'm Neil.

**Helen:** And I am Helen.

**Neil:** Hmm... This is Helen who is wearing a very nice silk blouse, by the way ... oh, yes, very nice indeed...

**Helen:** Oh, thank you. And it's very delicate... 这是我从杭州买回来的真丝衬衫，漂亮吧？  
It's my favourite top!

**Neil:** And it's very appropriate for this programme. We are going to talk about a cape and a 4-metre long scarf that are on display at the Victoria and Albert museum here in London. They are made from the silk of more than one million female golden orb-weaver spiders!

**Helen:** 啊！由蜘蛛 spiders 吐的丝做成的披风和围巾？ I'm terrified of spiders. 我都不知道蜘蛛能吐丝，而且是 1 百万只蜘蛛的丝 one million spiders!!!

**Neil:** Yeah, a lot of them! One of the two creators of the cape and scarf, Simon Peers, explained in an interview to a BBC reporter how it's done. He talks about the threads used to make the cape that is the colour of gold.

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*Simon Peers: This is the natural colour of the silk that comes from the golden orb spider that we collect in Madagascar and we extract the threads from the spider and then... the process is lengthy, as you can imagine, but to get eventually to produce this, which is an extraordinary cape.*

**Neil:** Simon Peers says that the process is lengthy.

**Helen:** Lengthy 漫长的。要做成这么一件披风的确是很费工夫，a lengthy process. 因为蜘蛛的丝 the threads from the spider 很细 very thin. 要提取 extract 也很不容易。我们都知道蜘蛛网 spider web 一碰就破了。

**Neil:** And the spiders are very small. The BBC reporter Rebecca Jones was interested to know if the spiders were hurt during the process. Listen out for the way she asks Simon Peers this question that has often appeared about movies where we see animals on screen.

**Helen:** Yes, 在电影里我们经常看到：没有任何动物在影片制作过程中受到伤害。英国人对动物保护 animal welfare 很重视。

Neil: Let's hear what Rebecca asks the co-creator of the spider silk cape.

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*Rebecca Jones: Obviously I've got to ask this question: were any spiders harmed in the making of this cape?*

*Simon Peers: We've avoided ... we've totally ... we do everything to avoid harming the spiders.*

Neil: So what did she ask?

Helen: 记者采访是问 **were any spiders harmed in the making of this cape?** 有没有蜘蛛在制作过程中受伤害，艺术家回答没有。

Neil: They did everything to avoid harming the spiders...

Helen: 那么工作人员有没有受到保护? **Were people harmed by the spiders?**

Neil: Well, that's a fair question and one that the BBC reporter put to Nick Godley, who also worked on the cape ... And tell me afterwards if people were harmed.

**Insert**

*Rebecca Jones: Given you work with spiders, what advice would you give to people who are rather frightened of them?*

*Nick Godley: I'm still frightened of spiders.*

*Rebecca Jones: You're frightened of them?!*

*Nick Godley: Of course.*

*Rebecca Jones: But you've taught yourself to handle them and catch them.*

*Nick Godley: Well, you do and you get bitten and you survive and you learn to appreciate that they're an incredible creature of nature as well.*

Helen: Yes, they were! Nick Godley, 是披风制作人之一，他可怕蜘蛛了 **frightened of the spiders.**

Neil: ... frightened because he got bitten...

Helen: ...被咬过...

Neil: But he said that you learn to appreciate ...

Helen: ...你慢慢学会珍惜...

Neil: ... that they're an incredible creature of nature...

Helen: ...自然界中神奇的动物... **Not for me. I'm still frightened of them!**

Neil: Helen, I have to agree with the creator of this cape and say that spiders are incredible. They produce this thread that's so special. The creator of this cape asked the reporter to close her eyes and put a bit of thread on one of her hands to see if she could feel how heavy it was. Have a listen and you will find out just how heavy the thread extracted from the spiders is.

## Insert

*Nick Godley: Put both your hands out...*

*Rebecca Jones: Okay.*

*Nick Godley: ... and shut your eyes. I'm gonna lower some silk into one of your hands. You're going to tell me which hand...*

*Rebecca Jones: I've got absolutely no idea because I can't feel anything at all. Oh, it's in my left hand. Gosh, it's completely weightless. So the silk is, well, as light as a feather.*

**Neil:** So, Helen, how heavy is the thread produced by the spiders that make this amazing cape?

**Helen:** Hmmm. The thread is weightless! 没有分量的。艺术家让记者闭上眼，然后放了几根蜘蛛丝在她手上，结果根本感觉不到重量。像羽毛那样轻！ **Light as a feather. That's how heavy it is!**

**Neil:** Well, maybe a feather is heavier than the threads but that's the expression we use in English for things that are very light: As light as a feather. And to prove to you that a spider is an incredible creature and that it's as light as a feather, like its thread, I have one here in a match box in my pocket and I am just going to lower it onto one of your hands...

**Helen:** What?! 你要把蜘蛛放我手上来证明 it's an incredible creature and 比羽毛还要轻?! 你在兜里揣着蜘蛛，你竟然不告诉我！ **I am getting the hell out of here! I am frightened of spiders, Neil! Bye.**

**Neil:** Hey, wait! No! I'm joking! I'm joking! I have no spider here! I'd better go after her. Goodbye!