

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

Richard Forester is the author of six collections of poetry and lives in Cape Neddick. In his poem he observes the work of an orbweaver, finding it a source of wonder and admiration.

### Garden Spider

*by Richard Foerster*

*Argiope bruennichi*

An orbweaver, adrift among  
the hosta's spent stalks, black  
and brilliant-banded gold, dead-

center in a mist of silks and two  
zigzag vertical rays strung as luminous  
warning to any flying bird, hovered

last evening, head earthward, her legs  
poised to set the web trembling to a blur  
each time I crouched to watch, spell-

bound and snared with the thought  
that here's the perfect fretwork  
to grace a backyard garden. Now

this morning I see she's consumed  
each filament, digested the indispensable  
proteins to respin the entire design

somewhere away from my quisitive gaze.  
What must I admire, left with empty  
space: an unbending mind

fixed on private workings, or the way  
the very fabric of a world  
can be chewed up for weaving again?

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