This is Little Red.

Today she is going to be gobbled up by a lion.

This Lion.

Well, that's what he thinks is going to happen...

A classic fairy tale with a safari twist from award winner Alex T. Smith.
This is Little Red and today she is going to be gobbled up by a lion.

This Lion. Well, that's what he thinks is going to happen anyway...
One hot morning Auntie Rosie woke up covered in spots.

There was only one thing for it.

RING! RING! RING! RING! RING!

“Oh dear! Oh dear!” said Little Red when she heard the news. “I'll come right away!”

So she packed her basket, waved goodbye to her daddy and set off.
It was a long way to Auntie Rosie’s house...

Little Red walked under the giraffes...

...over the sleepy crocodiles...

...and dashed past the chattering monkeys...
...and wiggled her way around the hippos and warthogs...

...and waved hello to the meerkats.
Then she sat down for a rest in the shade of a shady tree.

And that's when the Lion arrived.

The Very Hungry Lion.
“Oh hello,” purred the Lion, “Where are you going?”

“To visit my auntie who is covered in spots,” said Little Red.

And in the time it took for his tummy to rumble, the Very Hungry Lion had cooked up a

Very

Naughty Plan...

And he rushed off to put his plan into action.
First, the Very Hungry Lion plonked Auntie Rosie in a cupboard and locked the door.

Then he squeezed himself into one of her nighties and covered himself all over in spots.

Of course when Little Red arrived, she realised straight away it wasn’t Auntie Rosie sitting in the bed. She quickly looked around and spotted her auntie peeking through a gap in the cupboard.

Then Little Red decided that she was going to teach the naughty Lion a lesson!
“Ooh Auntie!” cried Little Red, “What tatty hair you have!”

And before the Very Hungry Lion could even lick his lips, Little Red...

...had brushed

and combed...

...and twisted

and braided

until the Lion had a lovely new look.

This had not been in the Lion’s plan.

So...
"Blimey!"

*tutted Little Red.

"What grubby, grotty teeth you have, Auntie!"
And Little Red made the Very Hungry Lion brush, brush, brush, his teeth until they sparkled.

“Oh Auntie!” sighed Little Red, “What an old nightie you are wearing!”

And before the Very Hungry Lion knew it, Little Red had found him a much prettier frock to wear.

This had not been in the Lion’s plan either...
STOP!
yelled the Lion.

“I am a Very Hungry Lion
and my tummy is grumbly!”
Then the three of them munched through a basketful of doughnuts together.

(The lion had five.)

Soon it was beginning to get dark, so the Lion walked all the way back home with Little Red on his very best behaviour, and he promised to never, ever, ever try to eat another auntie or any children.

Little Red wagged a finger.

“Well, trying to gobble up children and poorly aunts is VERY naughty. If your tummy was rumbly, all you had to do was ask nicely for some food.”
But he might be tempted to eat a Daddy!

NO!
Bad Kitty!