

Mze Kidogo

There was once a little old lady called Mze Kidogo who was all skinny and bony. One day her daughter got married and went to live on the other side of the forest. The little old lady wanted to visit her daughter but she knew that in the forest lived a lion called Simba, a leopard called Chui and a bear called Dubu. The little old lady cooked a kuku, a chicken, cut it up into three pieces, put it in her basket and set off through the forest.

It wasn't long before Simba the lion saw her walking through the forest.

"Nane, nane, nane kuja mtini?" Simba called. "Who's that walking through my forest?"

"Mze Kidogo," called the old lady.

'I'm going to eat you!' Simba roared.

"You don't want to eat me now," said the old lady. "You want to eat me when I come back from my daughter's house. Then, I won't be a little old lady any more. I'll be a mze kubwa with a great big wowowo! The biggest bottom you ever saw!"

Simba licked his lips. "Do you promise to come back?" he asked. "Oh yes," said the little old lady and she gave him a piece of chicken.

It wasn't long before Chui the leopard saw her walking through the forest.

"Nane, nane, nane kuja mtini?"...[repeat]

She was almost at her daughter's house when Dubu the bear saw her coming.

"Nane, nane, nane kuja mtini?"...[repeat]

The little old lady got to her daughter's new house and they celebrated for three months with the little old lady getting bigger and fatter until she really was a mze kubwa with a big wowowo. When it was time to go home the little old lady remembered the animals who wanted to eat her and decided to get crafty. She bribed a snake called Nyoka with eggs, and a tarantula called Buibui with flies to help her and then noticed the wadudu, the fleas, on a mouldy old bit of chicken in her basket. "They'll do," she thought. She headed for home, waddling.

It wasn't long before Dubu saw her coming.

"Nane, nane, nane kuja mtini?" Dubu called. "Who's that walking through my forest?"

"Mze Kubwa," cried the old lady. "The big old lady with the big wowowo!"

"I'm going to eat you!" Dubu cried.

The little old lady took the snake, Nyoka, and went "Ku-lee-a!" (Go kill!) Nyoka spat poison into the Dubu's eye and the little old lady went waddling by.

It wasn't long before Chui heard her coming. *"Nane, nane, nane kuja mtini?"... [repeat]*

The little old lady took Buibui... *[repeat]*

The little old lady was almost home when Simba saw her coming. *"Nane, nane, nane kuja mtini?"...[repeat]*

The little old lady threw the wadudu into Simba's mane. *[repeat]*

The little old lady got home safely. They say she lives there still but nobody ever visits her because her house is infested with nyoka, buibui and wadudu.

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