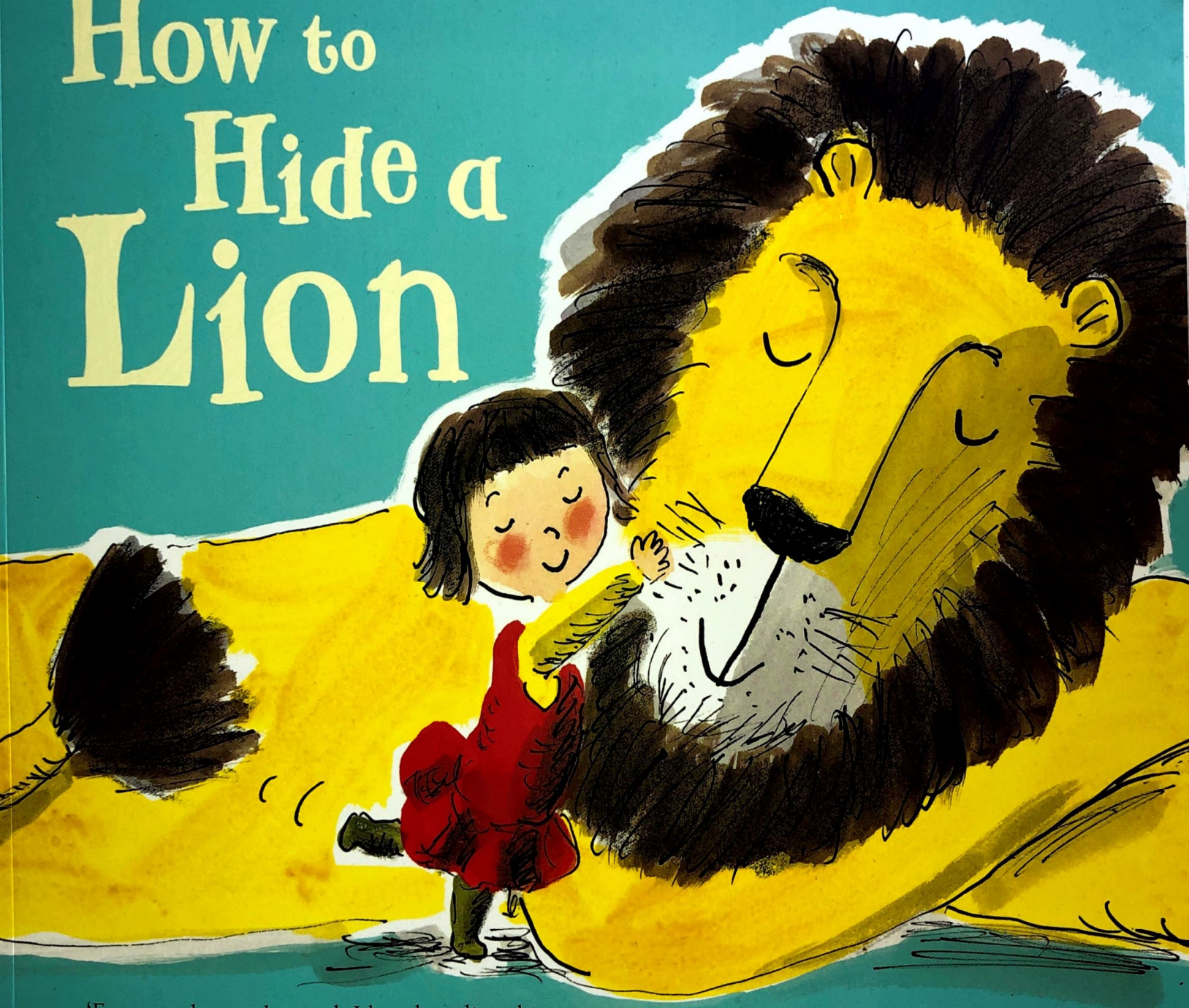


# How to Hide a Lion



'Funny and warm-hearted. I loved reading this  
with my daughter' Axel Scheffler, illustrator of *The Gruffalo*

Helen Stephens



One hot day,  
a lion strolled  
into a market square  
to buy a hat.

The Hat Sh

But the townspeople were scared of lions,



so he ran away.





He ran as fast and as far as he could . . .

... and hid in a house in a garden. It was a play house,  
and it belonged to a small girl called Iris.  
"You can't hide there," said Iris, who wasn't scared of lions.  
"That house is too small for you."



They went inside, so Iris could hide the lion properly. They had to be quiet, as mums and dads can be funny about having a lion in the house.



The lion let Iris pull the  
leaves out of his mane . . .



. . . and he showed her his  
paw where he had stepped  
on something sharp.  
“I’ll put a plaster on that,” said Iris.



It wasn't easy hiding a lion.

He was just too big . . .



too fluffy . . .





and too heavy, especially  
when he was asleep.  
And lions sleep a lot.

But when no one was looking,  
the lion could come out to play.





They just had to be careful  
not to be too noisy.

One evening, Iris's dad said, "They still haven't found that lion."

"I bet he's a kind lion," said Iris, from behind the sofa.

"There's no such thing as a kind lion," said her mum. "All lions will eat you."



The lion was worried,  
but Iris comforted him.



Then she read him his favourite story. It was about a tiger who came to tea. He fell asleep halfway through, because lions sleep a lot.



And that was how everything went wrong.

Iris heard her mum coming up the stairs,



but it's hard to wake  
a sleeping lion.



However, most lions will wake up  
if a mum screams at them.



AARCH!





The lion raced out of the house . . .



The  
Angel  
Inns



... and found a hiding place where he could still see Iris whenever she came into town.



Nobody noticed him.

Not the townspeople. Not even Iris.

And certainly not the two burglars, who broke into the Town Hall  
and stole every single one of the Lord Mayor's candlesticks.

But the lion noticed them.





With a huge

**ROARR!**

he leapt off his pedestal...



... and stood on both the burglars  
till the police came.





All the townspeople were amazed – except for Iris, who said, “I told you he was a kind lion.”

And that surprised everyone.



Now the lion was a hero. He didn't have to hide any more.  
The townspeople held a special parade for him.  
The Mayor said he could have anything he wanted.





The lion thought for a moment.  
Then he asked for ...





... a hat!

Which was all he'd come to town for in the first place.



"It really suits you," said Iris.