

## ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS: WOLF IN THE WARDROBE by Joe Kisch

FINN, his DAD and PAM are watching a circus performance of CACKLES THE CLOWN as he puts Lupus and Lupa, his two wolves, through their routine. Finn makes everyone know he didn't like how Cackles treated the wolves. Back at his mum's house, we meet MUM – a doctor – and NANA, who has Alzheimer's. We learn that one of the wolves from the circus has been put down for savaging Cackles. We also meet Finn's friends, ANDY and JULIA.

Finn rescues an injured dog after being hit by a car but discovers it is Lupa, the circus wolf. He takes her to the vet where she is bandaged. Finn then takes Lupa home and hides her in his wardrobe, out of the prying eyes of Mum and Nana. But Nana finds out anyway. Finn swears her to secrecy; but Nana hides Lupa's collar.

Finn tells Andy and Julia about Lupa and that he may not have enough money to keep feeding her. Cackles goes to the vet's and quizzes her about his missing dog. She admits a boy brought in a large dog but doesn't give him any details. So Cackles breaks into the clinic after hours and finds out it was Finn. But there's no address. He sees a poster from the city dog catcher appealing to the public about stray dogs so rings the number. The next morning while Finn walks Lupa, the dog catcher sees them and gives chase but loses sight of them. He tells Cackles he may have seen his missing dog. Cackles says he'll reward him if he finds his 'dog'.

Dog catcher knocks on Finn's door. Although Finn fobs him off, Finn is worried Lupa's safety is compromised. Lupa is seen by people at the footy park Finn is playing at, including the dog catcher; but Finn's teammates rescue Finn and he gets away with Lupa. But when Finn gets home with Lupa, Mum sees them. Finn confesses he's been protecting Lupa, but doesn't say she's a wolf. Mum wants to send Lupa to the pound in the morning but overnight Nana goes missing. Finn convinces Mum Lupa will find her, which she does. Mum then changes her mind. Lupa can stay.

Dad and Pam pick Finn and Lupa up and they go to the farm where Pam reveals she knows Lupa is a circus wolf and that she is pregnant and must find her sanctuary. But Finn says he's been investigating just that: there's a Dr Shapiro at Yellowstone National Park who will take her. They contact Dr Shapiro.

Dr Shapiro tells Finn that Lupa has to be sent to him at Yellowstone in the next 2 weeks or else risk the unborn pups future safety with the wolf pack. He tells his Mum and Dad that Lupa is indeed a wolf and is pregnant and tells them his intention of send her to America. He just needs a bit of extra money; but his parents just don't have it. The next morning, Cackles watches TV showing a viral video of a boy with what looks to be a wolf seen in a suburban area. He then recognises Finn then picks up a phone book and searches for Finn's name that he got from the vet's office.

After school, Finn returns home to find it has been burgled. He calls Dad who comes and picks Lupa and Finn up and takes them to the farm. But Cackles follows them. The next morning, Finn takes Lupa to play with him in the bush but Cackles finds them and threatens Finn to return the collar studded with precious stones. Finn

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and Lupa escape and set a trap for Cackles to fall in a pit. But that trap is foiled when Cackles discover the covered pit. Despite that, Finn and Lupa work together and eventually push Cackles in the pit. Dad arrives and calls the cops who arrest Cackles.

The threat now believed over, Finn finds the collar Nana hid and gets it valued. But the cops ring to tell him Cackles was released for lack of evidence. At school, he meets with Andy and Julia to discuss a strategy of swapping the real stones for fake ones. Finn returns home to find Lupa missing and a message from Cackles that he will swap her for the jewels. Finn swaps the real stones with the fake ones and sets out to do the exchange at the circus. At first lying in wait, Finn seizes an opportunity to release Lupa when Cackles leaves her alone. But Cackles returns and in an ensuing struggle with Finn, a lantern is overturned and starts a fire that traps both Finn and Cackles. Lupa saves Finn and, with Finn's coaxing, saves Cackles as well.

Seeing the error of his ways, Cackles thanks Finn and then attempts to help him by warning him that the circus' owner is coming. Finn escapes with Lupa but is caught by a circus worker and delivered to the owner for punishment for stealing his wolf. Lupa comes to the rescue and finally subdues owner as the police arrive and arrest him and Cackles. The owner of the jewels gives Finn a reward: money for the airfare and costs of returning Lupa to the wolf sanctuary in Yellowstone.

Finn goes to Yellowstone and helps release Lupa and her pups into the wild. When he returns home, his parents give him a present: it's a puppy.