



***The Wolf in the Wardrobe* - Susan Brocker**

Published by HarperCollins, RRP \$19.99

When a large dog bounds across the road in front of Finn's bike, it sets off a startling chain of events. The animal collides with a car and runs off into the bush.

Finn finds the injured animal and is shocked to recognise it as Lupa, a she-wolf he'd seen in a visiting circus. He'd suspected the wolf's trainer, Cackles the Clown, of mistreating it. He decides to hide Lupa and care for him, even though he knows he'll be in trouble if his mother finds out.

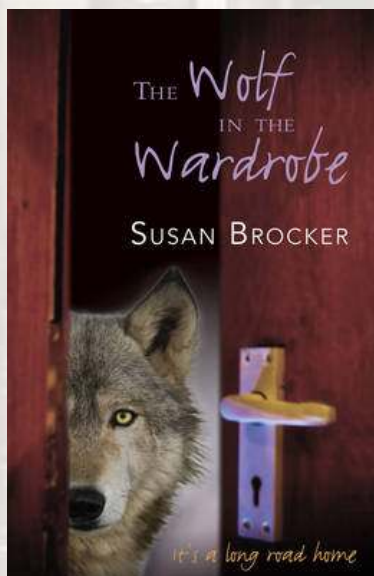
Finn is a likeable, kind-hearted thirteen-year-old. He shares a special relationship with his Nana who is in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and lives with Finn and his mother. Nana is a delight, she's often forgetful and given to wearing odd clothes. Yet, she's still a sharp judge of character and not afraid to voice her opinions. She plays a pivotal and believable role in the shelter of Lupa.

Finn's mother works hard to care for him and Nana. Finn tries to help financially with his paper round, plus he keeps a watch on his grandmother. But when Lupa is added to the mix, the household spirals out of control.

The drama deepens when Cackles the Clown discovers that Finn is hiding Lupa. He's determined to get the wolf back. The tension increases as the sinister clown threatens the family's safety.

Each of the characters play a vital part in the unfolding mystery. Lupa is a fascinating animal and retains her natural instincts. This well-written, fast-paced adventure is a real page turner.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.