

CITY OF THIEVES OUTLINE

4/17/09

ACT ONE

1. While wandering around Ooo, Finn and Jake find themselves outside the gates of the City of Thieves.
2. Outside the city, they meet a GREEN CREATURE who asks for help. Someone stole the green creature's socks then ran inside the City of Thieves with them. Can Finn get them back?
3. Finn swears on his honor he'll return the socks. Suddenly from the shadows an old blond HAG steps forth. She warns Finn that everyone who goes inside ends up being corrupted and becomes a thief himself.
4. Finn is cocky and confident. He is sure that this warning does not apply to him. He and Jake are too GOOD and RIGHTEOUS to be corrupted and become thieves. Convinced of their honesty and virtue, Finn and Jake ignore the hag, and walk through the city gates.

ACT TWO

5. Finn walks through the city streets until he sees a BLUE CREATURE holding socks that exactly fit the green creature's description. Finn confronts the blue creature, who immediately fesses up he stole the socks, and gives them to Finn. He hugs Finn, thanking him for teaching the blue creature the error of his ways.
6. Feeling a little cocky, Finn exits the city, and returns the socks to the green creature. GREEN CREATURE: "Thanks for the socks... and your backpack! Hahahahaha!" Finn: "What?!" Finn realizes the blue creature stole his backpack when he gave him that hug. The green and blue guys were in cahoots, and the whole thing was a set up! The green creature runs back inside the city and high-fives the blue creature. They toss the backpack happily back and forth to each other.
7. Finn is furious! That backpack has sentimental value. Jake made it from scratch. Jake says, "It's no big deal, man. I'll make you a new one. Just hand me the needle and thread from your backpack--- arrrrrrgh!"
8. Finn and Jake run back in the City of Thieves, and find the green and blue creatures. They challenge them to a duel. The green and blue creatures accept, but they don't have swords. Finn loans them swords for the duel and they run away. Now they've got his backpack and his swords. Finn is madder than ever.
9. Finn and Jake chase the green and blue creature. During the chase, the creatures steal a five-year-old girl's basket. The girl cries. Finn, in good conscience, stops to console the girl and lets the green and blue creatures go. They disappear into a marketplace.
10. The five-year-old girl introduces herself as LAIKA. She lives in the City of Thieves, and so she's used to getting stolen from. But that basket has sentimental value. It was the basket she was born in. Finn commiserates. That's just like his backpack! He and Laika agree that some things just can't be replaced.

11. Finn says, “let’s go get my backpack and your basket from those guys.” Before Laika can argue, Finn scoops Laika up and puts her on his shoulders. Jake follows as his buddy runs through a crowd. As they run, the audience sees Laika’s basket and Finn’s backpack being stolen and re-stolen over and over by a variety of thieves.
12. Finally, Finn sees his backpack go by. FINN: “Hey, that’s my backpack! LAIKA: “That’s what I was trying to tell you. They don’t have our stuff anymore. Everyone steals from everyone in this town. It’s a twenty-four hour steal-fest.”
13. Finn looks around, and sees the city for what it really is for the first time. For example, instead of stores, people simply put out their wares and dare people to steal them.
14. Jake interrupts, “I don’t mean to speak off-quest or anything, but I think this place is rubbing off on me. I really want to steal those fashionable velvet boots.” Jake points to some really classy boots in a nearby “store”. Worried for his friend’s soul, Finn ties bells around Jake’s hands. That way, whenever Jake tries to steal, the victim hears his bells ringing and foils Jake’s attempt. Laika rolls her eyes at his goody-two-shoes-ness.
15. Back on quest again, Finn doesn’t know where to start to find his backpack again. Laika explains that all items eventually end up in the King of Thieves castle. Again, Finn scoops her up, and yells, “let’s go!” they take off running.
16. Outside the castle, there is a force field that stops anyone who is a thief from entering. That’s how the King of Thieves is able to stop his loot from being stolen. Laika can’t go inside, but Finn can because he has not allowed himself to be corrupted by the city. Laika explains that his backpack and her basket (which are rightfully theirs) is inside a crate inside the castle. Jake says he would go with Finn, but he’s still got bells tied to his hands, and he’d blow his cover.
17. Confident, Finn easily passes through the force field. To his surprise, Finn finds the castle deserted. Finn reads a note on the kitchen table. It says: “Hey Judy, you left dirty dishes in the sink again. I’m not your maid. They better be put away when I get home at seven. Also, Beth called for you. Love, King of Thieves.” Finn makes a face and checks the clock. It’s almost seven! He picks up the nearby dusty, dirty crate, and is about to leave, but stops. He quickly puts away the dishes in the sink for Marlene, then grabs the crate again, and goes.
18. Outside the castle, Finn gives the dusty, dirty to Laika. She picks the lock, and reveals that it is full of GOLD. Finn is confused. Where is his backpack and her basket? Laika cracks up laughing. This crate never had any of that stuff. Laika only told Finn that to trick him into stealing the King of Thieves gold for her.
19. Finn is pissed. He snatches the dirty crate back and marches towards the castle, but the force field stops him. Finn realizes it’s because he’s been corrupted. He is now a thief. Finn collapses on the ground and stares at his hands, which are filthy. He tries to wipe the dirt off his hands, but can’t. He has the hands of a thief now. Laika runs off with the gold, her cruel laughter echoing in Finn’s ears.

ACT THREE

20. Finn stares at his dirty hands, and is consumed with a new dark anger. He vows

- to get revenge on Laika, if it's the last thing he does. Jake vows to be right there with him. He shakes off the bells on his hands, and puts on shades. JAKE: "Sure, man, let's be avengers."
21. Finn and Jake become vigilantes, taking the law into their own hands. They rough up various thieves Spawn-style, in order to find Laika's whereabouts.
 22. Eventually, Jake and Finn corner Laika in an alley. Finn is dark and filled with rage. He grabs Laika and it looks like Finn will tear her limb from limb. Maybe, deep down, Finn is not righteous and virtuous. Maybe, deep down, he is capable of horrible acts. A tense beat as Finn holds Laika... then some part of him reawakens. He remembers he IS a good person. At the last moment, the goodness in Finn triumphs. He pulls out soap on a rope from his backpack. He scrubs her face clean, yelling: "You're just a little girl! You're too young to be a thief! It breaks my heart to see you like this. I am going to cleanse you!"
 23. Furious, Laika squirms and tries to wriggle away, but Finn refuses to let her go. Finn finally finishes cleaning her face, and shows Laika a mirror. Laika stops squirming. She is amazed to see a sweet, beautiful, sparkling face staring back at her. Laika says, "Thank you, Finn, for showing me I'm not a thief. I'm just a little girl."
 24. Jake dramatically removes his shades, and points at Finn's hands. JAKE: "Finn, look..." In the midst of cleansing the little girl, Finn got soap on his dirty hands, and washed them clean, too.
 25. Finn has found a way to redeem himself. He rubs soap all over his body, and undoes his hair. Soon, he is a white, shimmering, beautiful, flowing creature. Angels sing.
 26. Laika thanks Finn for saving her, and for saving himself. As thanks, she offers him his backpack back. LAIKA: "It was inside you the whole time." Close on Finn's head, as Laika reaches behind his ear, and removes his backpack like a magician removing a coin. She places the straps around Finn's shoulders.
 27. Content, Finn and Jake leaves the City of Thieves. Pull out to reveal that while Laika gave Finn his backpack back, she surreptitiously took all his clothes in the process. Finn walks away, wearing only his backpack and underwear.

THE END