

OUTFOXED

by

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ESSIE (PRE-LAP)  
You're really gonna shoot him?

EXT. CREEKSIDE GROVE - DAY

Determination set in his jaw, a long hunting rifle over his shoulder, DAVID (15) marches alongside the water.

DAVID  
I'll make sure he never bothers you  
and your gramps again.

ESSIE (15) tries to catch up as collie GEM fights her leash.

ESSIE  
Maybe you can just scare him off?

She nearly trips over David when he stops and drops to his stomach, raises his gun...

Essie looks where he aims at a thicket where a fox sleeps.

Two little ears pop up behind the fox.

ESSIE  
She's got a pup! Davey, you can't--

BANG! David shoots--

Essie shrieks in protest.

Gem barks and breaks loose. She sprints for the thicket.

ESSIE  
David Manhardt, how could you shoot  
an innocent--

The unharmed fox and cub sprint away and Gem gives chase.

David leads Essie to a snake, its head blown off.

DAVID  
You said to scare 'em--

Gem squeals then returns, sheepish, a scratch on her nose.

David picks her up and looks to Essie for her praise...

ESSIE  
Aw, poor Gem!

Essie pets Gem as if she's the hero, to David's exasperation.

FADE OUT.