

Beat Sheet of  
*The Little People*  
A Contemporary Thriller  
Original Screenplay by Bruce Macintyre  
January 1, 2014

### Opening Image (1)

- A small plane, circa 1945, lands at a remote mountain airstrip where a group of men are waiting.
- The men give the Nazi salute as they greet the pregnant woman who gets off, calling her Fraulein Braun and she reminds them she is now FRAU HITLER but they'll never use those names again.

### Set-Up (1-3)

- In a modest California apartment, fourteen-year-old DANIELLE "DANI" SHAWN watches a video of the Nazi regime for a paper she's doing on Anne Frank.
- Dani is appalled at what she's watching, asking her mother TERESA why they did these horrible things.
- Dani's mother explains a bit, but they're late and hurries them out.

### Theme (3)

- Dani's mother is enthralled by her daughter's beautiful singing as they drive.

### Catalyst (3-6)

- Distracted by Dani's singing, her mother doesn't see the red light and slams on the brakes, sliding into the intersection.
- As a truck barrels towards her side of their car, Teresa tries to protect her daughter.
- All turns to black as there is the sound of a tremendous crash.
- From darkness, Dani hears murmurs and opens her eyes to find her anxious father, JAMIE, standing by her hospital bed with her step-mother, LIZ.
- They're surprised she remembers the accident, and when she asks about her mother, their expressions tell her the bad news and she breaks down.

### Debate (6-21)

- She stares out the car window listlessly as she drives with her parents on the roads of her new home, the Big Island of Hawaii.
- Concerned about Dani's depression, they talk of her room being just as it was when she last visited them and she can fix it up just the way she likes. Liz tells her about a talent competition at the resort her father is building, suggesting she sing in it.
- Dani says she's never going to sing again as her singing killed her mother.
- Her parents say she shouldn't feel that way, but she does.
- Her father has to go check on his construction site at the new resort and Dani reveals her bitterness about his always going off to work. Actually, she's bitter about him divorcing her mother and moving away from them when she was little.
- They make a reluctant Dani go off with them the next day and reveal they're taking her to a dog breeder's where she can pick out a pet that she's never been able to have in her apartment. Dani perks up but wants to rescue a dog from the pound and her parents are touched. She gets a little dog she names Teri after her mother.
- Watching Dani play in the back yard against the thick forest, her parents are hopeful she's healing.
- Dani rides with her father on his motorcycle, Teri in Dani's backpack, as they go to the resort he's just finishing building, environmentalists on the road protesting its impact.
- She meets the resort's owner, an older, imperious man named WULF THILER.
- As her father checks on things, she and Teri go along the beach and find a mysterious plant ringed by a high fence and protected by armed guards, alarming her. Her father tells her it's a water-treatment plant Thiler owns that uses secret new technology.
- She tells him how hurt and angry she is over the divorce and he apologizes as best as he can.

### Break Into Two (Choosing Act Two) (21-33)

- Thiler in his office gets a call from his MANAGER telling him of Dani approaching the plant, but Thiler tells him that they should be concerned about the environmentalists who may have to be taken care of.

- Teri leads Dani into the forest behind her house and she finds a lovely refuge with a small waterfall and pond. She talks to her mother about her guilt and how she believes her mother wouldn't want her to stop singing. She sings again.
- From across the pond, an unseen person listens to her singing and with an Irish brogue proclaims to himself, "A living angel."
- Aly and her parents visit the Kilauea volcano visitor's center and hear about the volcano's geologic history, including the mega-tsunami that came when the western side slid in the ocean in prehistoric times. If the eastern side slid now, the wave could reach over a half-mile in height.
- On the way down, they stop where the environmentalists and a Washington bigwig have been killed by a small freak eruption.
- Thiler and his manager watch the scene through binoculars from their plant, voicing satisfaction at the deaths from their trial run.
- Having dinner at the resort, Dani is still uncertain about entering the singing competition.
- When Thiler hears that Dani is a singer he says that music is one of his passions, and pretends to know nothing of the environmentalist's deaths, smiling to himself as he leaves them to their meal.

#### B-Story (33-40)

- Dani and Teri return to the waterfall and she sings again.
- The unseen Irish man and a woman discuss the beauty of Dani's singing and as Dani approaches the pond, the Irish man tells the woman that the girl's singing shows her heart is pure and insists they reveal themselves to her though his wife is reluctant.
- Dani is startled when two little people suddenly appear, a small Irish man and a lovely small Hawaiian woman, introducing themselves as SEAMUS SHAWN and his wife, PRINCESS ILLANI. They tell her how much they love her singing and Seamus is delighted to find they have the same last name.
- Seamus tells Dani that he knows her heart is pure and they're safe revealing themselves to her, explaining that they're The Little People, asking Dani if she believes in magic. Seamus and Illani then show what they are by popping into and out of visibility. Seamus explains that he's a leprechaun and Illani is a princess of the Menehune.

- Dani wonders if she's dreaming and Illani warns she must never tell anyone of them. Seamus pleads with her to sing a song of the old country, and Dani sings *Danny Boy* to his rapture.

### The Promise of the Promise (41-61)

- Dani tells her parents she wants to sing in the talent competition and Liz takes her to sign up.
- Jamie buys them all dirtbikes so they can explore the countryside that Dani is so taken with.
- Dani returns to the pond and her singing brings Seamus quickly. She gives him a ride on the dirtbike to his delight. He tells Dani, "Ah, if I wasn't married already..." She laughs and tells him she might have trouble getting her parent's permission.
- Seamus has to go invisible as Dani's father comes up on his dirtbike. Jamie tells Dani that Maestro Belotti who's running the competition at the resort is set for a meeting and that Dani's mom – he stops himself and corrects it to "step-mother – will take her to the meeting. Dani says, "No, my mom. I love her, too. And she's here now." Her father is touched.
- Seamus pops back into sight behind Jamie's back and blows Dani a kiss as she and her father head home.
- The condescending Maestro Belotti is surprised when Dani tells him she wants to sing *Ombra Mai Fu* for the competition. He's stunned when she sings it, promising to get together at least a small orchestra which is the least she deserves.
- She and Liz grow closer.
- At the waterfall, Seamus makes Dani sing while he goes down with Teri to listen by the pond, and after she sings a song he springs his surprise as the Menehune community pops into visibility applauding her. She sings more for them and tells Teri on the way home how lucky they are to know that magic is real.

### Midpoint (61-72)

- She and her father and mother go snorkeling and Dani finds a pipe from the water-treatment plant into the ocean where soil is being dumped. Armed guards in a speedboat drive them off.
- Thiler again gets a report, but he shrugs it off saying the time is near, it can't be stopped by anything now. His manager starts to give him the Nazi salute, but Thiler

stops him, the manager nearly tearful when he says he wishes Thiler's mother could have seen this. Thiler says, "She does. They both do."

- After giving Seamus another ride, Dani says she has to leave to go to the talent competition being held that evening, and Seamus persuades her to let him sneak into their car and see her sing, keeping invisible the entire time.

#### Bad Guys Close In (72-86)

- At the competition, Thiler and his manager stand in the wings and are struck by the beauty of Dani's singing. Thiler voices regret that she'll die along with all the others.
- Seamus has been next to them and overheard, and when he tells Dani they think Thiler must be planning something with that secret plant of his. Seamus insists he'll use his invisibility to sneak in the plant and look around.
- Seamus gets in the plant while Dani watches from the hillside above. He finds that from one of the buildings an excavation tunnel runs up into the side of the volcano.

#### All Is Lost (86-96)

- Dani is caught by guards and brought into the plant. Seamus sees her being taken and goes back to try to rescue her.
- Thiler confronts Dani and reveals that he's Adolph Hitler's son, bitter about the world having made his father into the devil. He locks up Dani in a closet where she'll die as his plan of destruction is beginning.
- A knock on the closet door says, "Room Service," Dani relieved to find Seamus freeing her. When she hears what Seamus found, she realizes that Thiler's plan is to pump sea-water into the volcano's magma chamber to cause a massive eruption that will blow off the side of the mountain and create the giant mega-tsunami.

#### Break Into Three (Choosing Act Three) (96-106)

- They use Seamus's invisibility to get away up the tunnel where Dani ruptures the water pipe carrying water to the magma chamber and they're blown out an access pipe onto the hillside.
- They retrieve Aly's dirtbike, but guards from the plant on dirtbikes are coming for them and they'll not be able to get away.
- Seamus tells Aly to head for the waterfall and sing. She questions this, but Seamus tells her Illani will hear her singing and read her soul and know what to do.

- They reach the waterfall with the guards right behind them.
- The invisible Menehune knock the guards from their dirtbikes and subdue them. But Thiler races up in his truck that the Menehune can't stop, Dani and Seamus fleeing on the dirtbike which breaks down so that Thiler catches them.

#### Finale (107-108)

- Dani hides behind a tree, Seamus invisible, as Thiler stops and threatens Dani with a gun.
- Thiler charges Dani's hiding place but goes sprawling over an unseen obstacle, Seamus, losing his gun which to his disbelief magically raises into the air and points itself at him.
- He turns too late to stop Dani from knocking him out with a right-hook while saying, "For Anne Frank!"

#### Final Image (108-109)

- Aly is in a beautiful gown singing at the talent competition finals, her image shown on a big screen to one side.
- When she concludes to rapturous applause, an unseen Seamus next to her says he's pretending they're applauding him and it's wonderful.
- Her proud parents watch in puzzlement as Dani bends and seems to kiss the air next to her. But she's the savior of the world and can do as she wants.
- Seamus says, "Soulmates for life," and Dani responds "Forever."

The End