(The First 2 Pages of...)

THE DANDELION IS ALSO A FLOWER

Hank Isaac

DARKNESS -- A YOUNG GIRL'S VOICE

JULIE (V.O.)
They called it the Blitz. It means something like "surprise war." Since when was war ever a surprise?

FADE IN:

EXT. SMALL TOWN -- A SIDEWALK -- PRESENT DAY -- DAY

Deserted. Silent in the blue and gray tones of first light -- as if every building is holding its breath.

JULIE (V.O.)
So there's this movie, right? It takes place a long time ago over in England. So one morning this girl... Her name is Natalie Bryant. Natalie wakes up because all these bombs are falling.

EXT. THE CURB -- ON THE PAVEMENT

The sound of an expensive car as it pulls up. Door opens. Closes. Drives away.

JULIE (V.O.)
Get this, the fireplace in the upstairs sitting room -- the whole thing -- comes right through her ceiling and lands on her little sleeping baby brother. Right there. Right in front of her.

Slapping sounds as a pair of lightweight shoes approach from behind.

JULIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Then she thinks she hears her parents' screams, but the bombs are just too loud. So she puts her hands over her ears just as this glass filled with little yellow flowers flies off the dresser and explodes into her face. She dies right then, just one second before her whole house comes down on top of her. But I think she was lucky. She didn't cry. Same as me. She was very brave. Same as me. She was eleven years old.

The sounds stop for an instant.

JULIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Same as me.

A petite preteen GIRL leaps overhead and races away across the street. The girl wears a short party dress and clutches a small box that hangs close at her side from a shoulder strap. Her shiny shoes barely graze the pavement as she flies along and streaks down...

EXT. ANOTHER SIDEWALK

The rhythmic tapping of her shoes. Her labored breathing -- apparent as she rounds...

EXT. A CORNER

She rolls along a store front then flattens herself against the bricks. This is JULIE AMBLER and she's scared -- can barely catch her breath. Her hair is tousled and lipstick is heavy and smeared all around her mouth. She wipes the back of her hand across her lips and stares at the red smudges on it.

She looks to one side -- right into the ear of a wooden CIGAR STORE INDIAN. She's startled but she's so exhausted she doesn't care. She leans on the Indian's shoulder. Tries to calm down.

But suddenly Julie thinks she hears something. She takes off running again past a row of dormant stores then ducks into a...

EXT. VACANT LOT

...and slices diagonally across it. She looks back for an instant then crashes headlong into a forest of discarded STORE MANNEQUINS. She falls. Flails around. Tries to free herself from the tangle of wooden bodies. Just as she does, a police car passes by on...

EXT. THE STREET

It cruises slowly -- nearly the end of the night shift.

JULIE

...peeks out from among all the grotesque broken and filthy mannequin faces.

THE POLICE CAR

...radio shouts excited instructions and the car spins around and slingshots back the way it came.