



Krawitz, J. (2004).

**Big Enough (video).**

Boston, MA: Fanlight Productions (4196 Washington Street, Suite #2, (02131, telephone [800] 937-4113, FAX [617] 469-3379, outside U.S. call [617] 469-4999, e-mail fanlight@fanlight.com, web www.fanlight.com; ISBN 1-57295-424-8; video 53-minutes, \$229.00 purchase, \$60.00 rental/day, plus \$9.00 shipping and handling; also available on DVD, ISBN 1-57295-804-9; \$249.00 purchase plus shipping and handling).

Unique perspectives—perceptions, feelings, attitudes, comfort levels, family relationships, everyday problems, compensations, independence, adjustments—are presented about a proud and active community—little people/dwarfs—many people only know from cultural stereotypes. Physical and emotional challenges are confronted with occasional frustrations, anger, and sadness—but, most of the time with determination, humor, and grace.

Mark and Anu, Karla and John, Len and Lenette, and Sharon and Ron are four couples leading characteristic American lives, pursuing typical middle-class careers, and living in the suburbs with their children. Yet, they have grown up facing challenges that are anything but usual. All but one are dwarfs, though they prefer to be called *little people*.

In 2000 Jan Krawitz set out to revisit many of the people she had profiled in the award-winning 1981 film, *Little People*, to find out how the past 20 years had treated their hopes, aspirations, expectations, and fears. Did spunky 11-year old Mark retain his confidence and optimism as an adult? Did 16-year old Karla marry a little person as she had hoped? Would 31-year old Len, a comedian with an angry edge find a way to be proud of being a dwarf? Did the second generation dwarf children of Ron and Sharon have easier times growing up because of having dwarf parents? How have their own, and their communities' views of dwarfism changed over two decades? What does the future hold now, that many genetic conditions, including dwarfism, may be diagnosed?

Mark found his wife, Anu, at a national convention of little people; they have built a good life together, despite obstacles. Karla married John, who is average-sized, and struggles with the decision of whether to have a child. Len announces he had “retired from being a dwarf,” but for all his hard-earned peace, he cannot spare his daughter Joelle the physical and social pains of being a dwarf in an averaged-sized world. Ron and Sharon were newly married when Krawitz met them; they now have dwarf teenagers, Alicia and Andrew, who are wondering about their own futures as they approach adulthood.

Among topics discussed are types of dwarfism, surgeries and medical issues, being teased, dating, marriage, having children, and maturity in using ones environment. They learn how to deal with being a little person in a big world, as each expressed the positive outlook and philosophy, “Do as much as possible for yourself.”