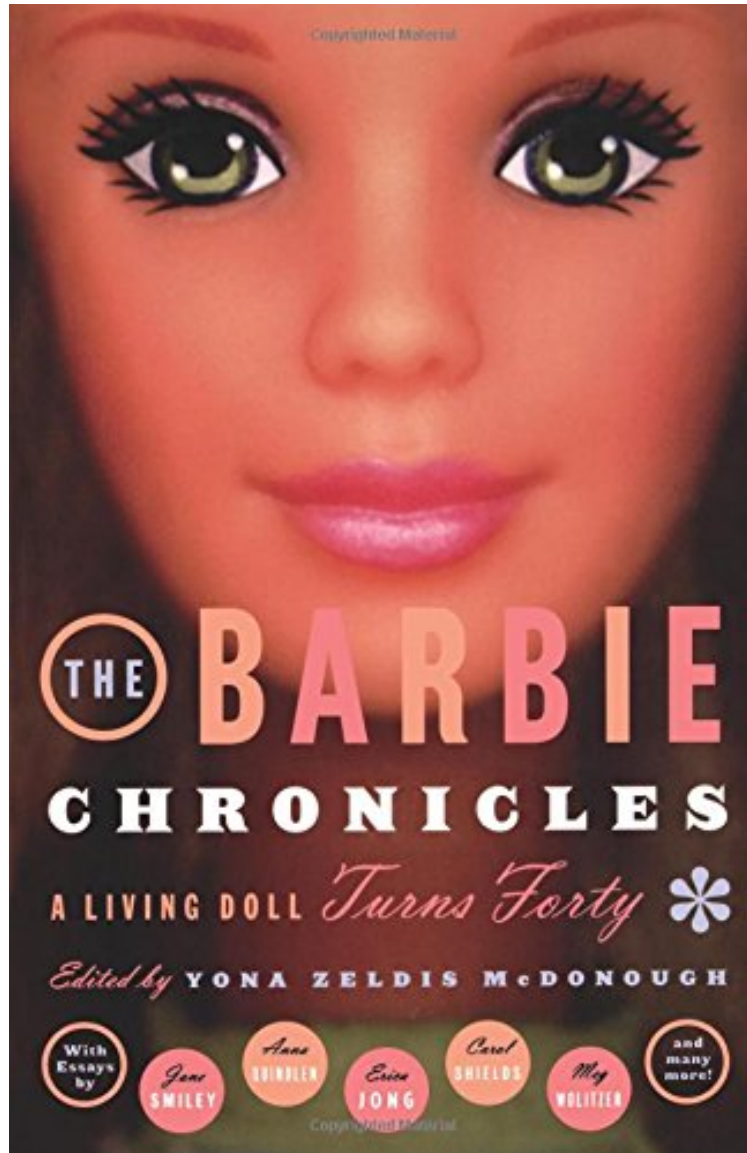


(Download ebook) The Barbie Chronicles: A Living Doll Turns Forty

The Barbie Chronicles: A Living Doll Turns Forty

From Yona Zeldis McDonough
DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1749533 in Books Yona Zeldis McDonough 1999-10-08 1999-10-08 Original language: English PDF # 1
8.44 x .70 x 5.50l, .75 #File Name: 0684862751240 pages ISBN13: 9780684862750 Condition: New Notes:
BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy
with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 77.Mb

From Yona Zeldis McDonough : **The Barbie Chronicles: A Living Doll Turns Forty** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Barbie Chronicles: A Living Doll Turns Forty:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting book By Terri This book presents a wonderful blend of creative discussions of Barbies. It blends poetry with personal essays to provide an educational overview of the

different conversations surrounding Barbie. Unlike many books, this one presents essays on both sides of the debate for a nice well-rounded discussion. 16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Great concept, nice execution, but runs out of steam.

By A Customer
The concept of this anthology is simple: collect high-quality commentary pieces on Barbie, that lightning rod of controversy, and put them in a book. This book comprises both anti- and pro-Barbie writings, and the authors find original issues to analyze (e.g., the lack of adults or old people in Barbie-land, the race issue, baby dolls vs Barbie dolls, etc.). The essays included are well-reasoned and entertaining. However, there are some problems. First, most of the included works are either opinion pieces or introspective pieces. It seems ludicrous that the forms used to analyze a world based on fantasy and imagination are limited to these two tried-and-true alternatives. Only Denise Duhamel's wildly imaginative poetry gives us a glimpse as to the untouched analytical forms that are thought-provoking and incisive (Only 3 of her poems were included; you can read her entire Barbie work in the book *Kinky*--an incredible piece of work). Also, the op ed pieces suffer because of the lack of hard data. No real studies exist on the effect of Barbie on kids. Admittedly, such study would be difficult to execute, but interpreting the Arizona study to be such study is a stretch. Accordingly, we end up with op ed pieces either demonizing or adoring Barbie that rely mostly on opinion rather than fact. Furthermore, the authors end up making the same points over and over: the comma-shaped feet, the torpedo breasts, the unnatural waist, etc. Good or bad? Each author has an opinion. But is this all we can criticize of Barbie? The introspective pieces are nice (and some of them very funny), but you can only read about somebody's experiences growing up (or old) with Barbie so many times. Because of this limited palette of format and content, this collection runs out of steam too early. I would have included more works talking about the effect of Barbie on Mattel, the toy industry, etc. How about excerpts of the court decision of the case Mattel brought against Aqua for their "Barbie World" song? The court discusses Mattel's portrayal of Barbie and what Mattel hopes Barbie represents. How about including that song's lyrics? Not only were the lyrics funny, they also provided enough fodder for Mattel to file a multi-million dollar lawsuit. In the end, while the quality of each included piece is high, they only discuss a small portion of that cultural icon named Barbie.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Morgan's Review
By Morgan Smith
The Barbie Chronicles was an interesting book to read but keep in mind that it is all about Barbie. There is a good amount of information on her, such as when she was first put on the market, the reaction from the consumers, and the major conflicts Barbie caused. It is incredible to see how much a doll can impact a culture. Barbie caused feminists to become angered at the way they (women) were being inappropriately portrayed. The major dislike of Barbie was her unrealistic look. She was and is very skinny, busty, blond, blue eyed, and at the beginning only white. This sent shock waves through the country. Some parents really had no problem with Barbie, and others wanted to burn her. It was considered a controversial doll to many. The way in which *The Barbie Chronicles* was written kept my attention because it was unique. Or it was at least unique to me because it was all in essay form. When reading this book you get all different degrees of attachment to Barbie. You get the impression that there are people out there that absolutely love Barbie and seem to almost dedicate their lives to collecting her and then there is the complete opposite. By the complete opposite I mean that there are people that despise Barbie so much they wouldn't even allow the thought of her in their house. The people that do this are almost always parents and they give an array of different excuses for not allowing Barbie into their homes. All the various excuses come down to the same thing, Barbie's figure. If anyone has a qualm with Barbie it is usually due to the fact that she is deathly skinny and no one wants their kids, especially their daughters around that. Personally I don't think that playing with Barbie will automatically make you a person consumed by the materialistic nature demonstrated by Barbie. When I was younger I remember playing with Barbie and having a blast but it wasn't like that was the only toy I owned. I enjoyed playing with Barbie's and when I had to part with them it didn't leave me emotionally scared or anything. So I enjoyed *The Barbie Chronicles* but I don't think it is for everyone because all the essays in one way or another directly relate to Barbie. When I first embarked upon reading *The Barbie Chronicles* I had all intentions of using it in order to illustrate that Barbie was a tool used by men to exploit and objectify women but when I completed it I wasn't so sure anymore. Yes, it is true that Barbie doesn't exactly seem like she would make women happy about being themselves since she is "perfect," but reading about how it impacted many people changes that. This book explores many things like why women feel the way they do. Many times throughout the book the possibility of there being other contributing factors that cause women to feel inadequate are displayed.

A Thoroughly Grown-Up Look At A Twentieth-Century Muse Of Outstanding Proportions To some she's a collectible, to others she's trash. In *The Barbie Chronicles*, twenty-three writers join together to scrutinize Barbie's forty years of hateful, lovely disastrous, glorious influence on us all. No other tiny shoulders have ever, had to carry the weight of such affection and derision and no other book has ever paid this notorious little place of plastic her due. Whether you adore her or abhor her, *The Barbie Chronicles* will have you looking at her in ways you never imagined.

From Publishers Weekly Since her birth at the hands of Ruth and Elliot Handler in 1959, Barbie has been decried for her bad influence on girls' self-esteem and become the object of praise for her ability to elevate girls' play beyond baby dolls and kitchen sets. Though she's only a molded hunk of plastic, Barbie has wielded a curious amount of power over

the last 40 years. McDonough (*Tying the Knot*) attempts to present differing points of view about Barbie, but the overall tone is one of admiration, even from the doll's critics. Anna Quindlen wistfully imagines driving a silver lam? stake between Barbie's perfect breasts, while Ann duCille discusses issues of race and conformity, positioning Barbie at the center of what's wrong with the doll section of toy stores. Other essayists strike a gentler tone: Jane Smiley, Erica Jong, Carol Shields and Steve Dubin see the dark side of what the doll could represent to young girls, but recapture the original, guilty delight they felt when posing, defacing and, predominantly, undressing her. This well-chosen group of writers artfully explores the world that created Barbie, the childhood selves the authors remember and the meaning behind one of our era's most controversial pieces of plastic. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* No longer just a child's plaything, "Barbie has become an icon and a fetish. To some angelic, to others depraved." In honor of Barbie's 40th birthday, McDonough (*Tying the Knot*) has collected 20 stories and five poems in one volume: Steven Dubin's essay on Barbie's origins as a German pornographic doll; Jane Smiley on Barbie's "genius," which took girls from big hairdos and pink jeans to women's self-knowledge and rights; Anna Quindlen on her desire to "drive a stake through Barbie's plastic heart"; and a lots of essays with priceless titles ("Barbie Does Yom Kippor" and "Sex and the Single Doll"). Speaking largely to today's 30- to 45-year-olds, the varying intellectual and emotional perspectives here make for an engaging blend of idiosyncratic remarks and in-depth social commentary. Comparable in its irreverent style to *Adios, Barbie: Young Women Write About Body Images and Identity* (Seal Pr.-Feminist, 1998); recommended for public and academic libraries. A Kay Meredith Dusheck, Univ. of Iowa, Anamosa Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Kirkus* sA collection of essays, and some poems, about the posable plastic icon at the 40th anniversary of her creation. Everyone has an opinion about the Barbie doll. Created in 1959 by the founders of Mattel (and named for their daughter Barbara), she was the first American-made doll to represent the world beyond the nursery, and if her proportions are unreal, her influence on millions of little girls, as well as on popular culture, is indisputable. McDonough, whose 1997 essay in the *New York Times Magazine* was the jumping off point for this book (and who is a former *Kirkus* contributor), has herein gathered a diverse and mostly talented group of writers to celebrate, denigrate, and otherwise explain what Barbie has come to stand for in American society. Exemplifying as it did the conflicted mores of the late 1950s, with her body that, while obviously sexual, lacks nipples or genitals, the creation of the Barbie doll also coincided with the second wave of feminism and the surge of the civil rights movement. The best essays in this collection discuss Barbie as seen through the lenses of sexuality, gender, and race. In "Barbie Meets Bouguereau," Carol Ockman places Barbies body in context of other idealized notions of feminine beauty. In "Black Like Me," Ann duCille explores the Mattel companys many attempts to create Barbie dolls of color and realizes that the message of their packaging, meant to convey black pride, "is clearly tied to bountiful hair, lavish and exotic clothes, and other external signs of beauty, wealth, and success." Sherrie Inness points out that Barbie alone, in contrast to other dolls on the market, represents independent single women and their diverse career options. Good, bad, or indifferent, theres obviously still fun to be had in playing with Barbie dolls. (8 pages bw photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1999, *Kirkus Associates, LP*. All rights reserved.