



# The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us

By Tanya Lee Stone

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During her unparalleled fifty-year history, Barbie has been the doll that some people love-and some people love to hate. There's no question she's influenced generations, but to what end? Acclaimed nonfiction author Tanya Lee Stone takes an unbiased look at how Barbie became the icon that she is, and at the impact that she's had on our culture (and vice versa). Featuring passionate anecdotes and memories from a range of girls and women, a foreword by Meg Cabot, and original color photographs, this book explores the Barbie phenomenon in a brand-new light.

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up—In the prologue, Meg Cabot describes her desire for a Barbie and her mother's reluctance to purchase one, basically summing up the conflict surrounding the doll since its introduction in 1959. Readers learn about Mattel Toys and the background behind Barbie's concept and development, how it was a solution for girls who wanted to imagine adult roles rather than just play mother, and details about inventor Ruth Handler. But more than that, Stone reveals the pathos behind so many relationships of girls with Barbie: those who cherished her and those who were negatively influenced. Was she a destructive role model or just a toy? Experts disagree. In this balanced overview, both sides of the quandary are addressed. Barbie's different roles, graduating from nurse to surgeon, stewardess to pilot, and always a woman of her own means, reflect societal changes over the past 50 years as well. Numerous black-and-white photos feature the doll in her various incarnations, while eight center pages deliver color versions as well as images of Barbie-inspired art. Inset quotes appear on a Barbie handbag icon. The author maintains her signature research style and accessible informational voice and includes extensive source notes and bibliographical information. *Janet S. Thompson, Chicago Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** Everyone knows Barbie. And almost everyone has an opinion of her. Stone has done her homework and offers a particularly well-researched read. But she has also gotten many women (and men) to reminisce, comment, and argue about Barbie, and these voices add sparkle. Stone starts things off on a biographical note as she introduces Ruth Handler, Barbie's creator and a shrewd businesswoman who instinctively understood the Barbie concept would be a success even as detractors, mostly male, told her it wouldn't. The focus then moves to Barbie herself, in all her vast and varied incarnations. Much of Barbie's story is one of evolution, and readers will find it particularly fascinating to read that although Barbie was a leader in diversity, cloned into various roles and cultures, some customers still didn't find her ethnic enough, most often lamenting that no matter her color, Barbie usually had "good" hair. Near the end of the book, just when one wonders if Stone will mention what went on under Barbie's clothes, she goes there in a chapter called, "Banning, Bashing, and in the Buff." Closing on a higher plane, the book concludes with "Barbie as Art." Source notes, a bibliography, and lots of images, including an inset of color photos, add to an offering that pleases and intrigues. Grades 7-10. --Ilene Cooper

Review

### Winner of the Golden Kite Award

"History writers don't get better than Tanya Lee Stone. *The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie* is balanced, funny, provocative—and most of all, important for anyone wanting to understand girlhood in America."—E. Lockhart, *New York Times* bestselling author of *We Were Liars*

"This is no mere Barbie book. This is a how-to manual about being a girl: a strong, sparky, awesome girl, with Barbie in hand *or* in the nearest dumpster!"—Lauren Myracle, *New York Times* bestselling author

\* "Stone has done her homework and offers a particularly well-researched read. But she has also gotten many women (and men) to reminisce, comment, and argue about Barbie, and these voices add

sparkle.”—[Booklist](#), starred review

\* “Stone reveals the pathos behind so many relationships of girls with Barbie: those who cherished her and those who were negatively influenced...In this balanced overview, both sides of the quandary are addressed... Accessible...and includes extensive source notes and bibliographical information.”—[School Library Journal](#), starred review

\* "Stone tantalizes with her intriguing survey of Barbie, indicating an audience of teens and adults rather than children. The striking cover, open design with numerous photographs and collegial voice will appeal to younger readers.”—[Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review

"Stone calmly covers Barbie's creation by Ruth Handler, the formation of Mattel, and the doll's unpromising launch among sexpot-resistant buyers at a national toy fair. From there on, though, the gloves come off, and Stone allows the voices of women and teens, scholars and collectors, lovers and haters to thrash out whether Barbie has single-handedly set an unattainable standard of female beauty, joined forces with manipulative media to trash adolescent self-esteem, acted as the progressive model for girls to envision gender barrier-crashing careers, or reigned as-duh-just a really cool doll with really pretty clothes...Notes, index, and an extensive bibliography may lure report writers into unconsidered territory, and teen book clubs might want to nominate this as a fiery nonfiction selection.”—[BCCB](#)

“Stone takes an unapologetic look at Barbie's life, documenting the changes in Barbie through the years, her impact on society and the numerous controversies surrounding her existence.”—[Children's Literature](#)

“Stone's evenhanded, eye-opening cultural history examines [Barbie] quoting a myriad of sources to reveal the devotion and loathing generated by a fifty-plus-year-old hunk of molded plastic.”—[The Horn Book](#)

“Filled with photographs of Barbie dolls past and present as well as quotes about her from nationally known figures and children alike, Stone's fascinating and balanced account reveals a toy of almost unmatched influence.”—[Publishers Weekly](#)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Robert Qualls:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Matthew Armstrong:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster

you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

**Rene Pina:**

This The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us is completely new way for you who has fascination to look for some information as it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books produce itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in guide form make them feel tired even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book type for your better life along with knowledge.

**Gary Jensen:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got pupils? We believe that that concern was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person like reading or as studying become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update with regards to something by book. Amount types of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is niagra The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us.

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