

From: I am an

EMOTIONAL CREATURE

The Secret Life of
Girls Around the
World (Villard
Books, 2011)

FEB
14

2013



V-DAY

GIRL FACT

Barbie was based on a German doll called Lilli that was sold as a sexy novelty for men.

FREE BARBIE

Kwai Yong, China

Hello, my name is Chang Ying. I wish I could write you a proper letter, but I'm in a factory and I work twelve hours a day and if I'm late or I complain they will throw me out. Even thinking these thoughts could get me in trouble 'cause I could mess up and get my hand caught in the machine.

They hate it when we hurt the machines. They hate it when anything happens to us 'cause it slows everything down. That's how LiJuan died. There was a fire one day and she was scared to leave her station 'cause she needed the job to feed her family and she was burned too badly.

But I can't lie, I couldn't really write you a letter 'cause I can't read. I'm thirteen and I have been working since I was a kid. I speak good Chinese, I just can't write it or read it.

But I have a lot to say and I think I can help you.

You may not think some poor girl who only makes a few cents an hour has anything to teach you. But I know a lot about

Author:

82 EVE ENSLER

Barbie. I am one of the people who makes her head. I actually see what goes into it.

As you can tell by now I have found a way to get this message to you. It isn't a letter or Internet or phone. It's what I call *Head Send*. Can you feel it? It is very strong. I started doing it when I was five. You have to think a thought very very intensely and then you have to imagine someone receiving the thought and then you close your eyes and concentrate and your head sends it.

Because I make Barbie's head I *Head Send* my thoughts into each one of her brains. So whatever girl gets her will hear my thoughts.

I have made many, many heads so my message is in a lot of places. If you listen very closely to your Barbie—put her head to your ear like a shell—you will hear what I have to say.

Many, many of us girls are needed to make Barbie because three Barbies are sold every second. They told us this the first day of the job. They said girls like me were working in a lot of countries to make Barbie perfect. Her body comes from Taiwan. Her hair gets stuck on in Japan. Then she comes to China to get clothes and get her head put on her body. They said that 23,000 trucks a day go back and forth to the harbor crammed with Barbies so they can all sail to America and get packaged in pink and sent out.

They told us what we did here in China was the most important part and that we had to do it fast or we would not keep up and then little girls couldn't get their Barbies.

At the beginning I used to worry about this and I would always be very nervous. I cut my hand a few times in the machine.