

Then I saw a picture of Barbie's dream house and it made me start thinking about where I live. I live in a nightmare house. It's not even a house, a dormitory. It's like prison Barbie, all us girls shoved into one ugly place. I started thinking about how one Barbie costs 200 yuan, but I work here where it is so hot, all day, six days a week, and I don't make that much in a whole week.

I have never been anywhere else but I do not think anyone really looks like Barbie. She is so skinny, I heard she can't even get her period. And my cousin who lives in America told me that Barbie makes the girls who own her stop eating because they try and look like her.

I started thinking about how it's actually hard to love Barbie the way she is now. She is very tough, so much plastic. She's not cuddly at all. She can't even put her arms around you. You have to do things for her: worship her, dress her, buy her things. She wants everything. She is very greedy and needy. That's how they get you to spend more money.

Listen, it's not Barbie's fault, she doesn't even have a chance. So many people control her—from the first plastic mold to her final accessory. In many ways she has less freedom than even me. She has no ability to walk away. Her legs probably wouldn't hold her up anyway. So many people abuse her. You know, there is a whole group of Barbies—here at the factory we secretly call them the unfortunate ones—they get sent to Barbie headquarters in Los Angeles and a room of Barbie experts throw them and kick them and bite them to see if they can take it.

My cousin also told me that many girls love their Barbie at the beginning and then when they get older they turn on her.

They cut off all her hair or even her head or put her in the microwave oven.

The people who are in charge make her say really stupid things. They put words in her mouth:

Will we ever have enough clothes?

I want to go shopping.

Math is hard.

I know Barbie doesn't really want to say any of this 'cause I know what's going on in her head. She talks to me. She's really angry. She's really hurting. She is really guilty. She hates shopping and feels bad about all the girls who are starved to make her and are starving to be like her. She's actually very messy and surprisingly loud. She is not at all polite and she hates being shoved into really tight clothes and pointy high uncomfortable shoes.

Barbie isn't who you think she is. She's so much smarter than they will let her be. She's got great powers and is kind of a genius.

There are more than a billion Barbies in the world. Imagine if we freed them. Imagine if they came alive in all the villages and cities and bedrooms and landfills and dream houses. Imagine if they went from makeover to takeover. Imagine if they started saying what they really felt.

Let Barbie speak.

Head Send:

Free Barbie!

Head Send:

Free Barbie!

Free Barbie!

Free Barbie!

Ow! I just got my hand

caught! It hurts. It's bleeding. They are going to be very angry.

Head Send:

Free Chang Ying!

Head Send:

Free Chang Ying!

Let her out of this dirty sweaty factor

Head Send:

Please.

FREE BARBIE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever played with a Barbie? Has she influenced your life?
- What message does Chang Ying want to share?
- What do you think about Chang Ying's comparison between Barbie's dream house and her "nightmare house"?
- What do you think "free" Barbie would say or do? Would she look different?
- Does this monologue make you think differently about Barbie?