

= Doll (manga) =

Doll (Japanese : ドール , Hepburn : Dōru) is a science fiction josei (targeted towards women) manga by Mitsukazu Mihara . Appearing as a serial in the Japanese manga magazine Feel Young from 1998 to 2002 , the thirty @-@ three chapters of Doll were collected into six bound volumes by Shodensha and published from August 2000 to August 2002 . Taking place in the future , the plot focuses on relationships between people and the eponymous androids ; the series has an overarching plot that follows an illegal reprogrammer of Dolls and his revenge against the corporation which creates them . One of the characters , the corporation that manufactures the Dolls , and the concept of the Dolls appeared earlier in Mihara 's short manga " The Sunflower Quality Of An Integrated Circuit " (?????????) (1995) , later collected in IC in a Sunflower (1997) .

In 2003 , Tokyopop licensed the series for an English @-@ language translations in North America and the United Kingdom , publishing the series from August 2004 to October 2005 . The series has received several positive reviews from English @-@ language critics , and the first volume placed in ICv2 's list of the top 100 best @-@ selling graphic novels for July 2004 . In 2011 , Tokyopop 's North American branch stopped publication and returned its manga licenses .

= = Plot = =

Set in the future , Doll centers around relationships between humans and the eponymous androids ? created by Kaoru and Motohiko Kirishima and manufactured by SG Corporation . During the development of the " Sterol @-@ 2 " Doll , Kaoru 's mental condition begins to deteriorate ; after attempting to retain a copy of her mind and memories in a prototype of a Doll , Motohiko realizes his mistake of trying to replace his wife . Retiring from the corporation to care for her , he leaves behind eight other prototypes , which are seen throughout the series : a nameless male Doll , who was the constant companion for a woman and cremated with her by her greedy stepson ; Chocolat , a maid who was discovered in a trash heap by an elderly farming community ; Honey , a secretary loyal to the SG Corporation president ; Cherry , the maid to an award @-@ winning , bulimic writer ; Vanilla , a maid to an elderly man and his unfaithful , younger wife ; the sexaroid Veronica , one of two Dolls built for sexual intercourse , and her unnamed partner ; and S , who hunts down illegally reprogrammed Dolls for SG Corporation .

Doll also focuses on Ichiro , a reprogrammer of Dolls who was abused by his stepmother and stepsiblings . Chosen to become the next president of SG Corporation , he was castrated by his beloved Doll on the orders of his jealous relatives . His Doll , the only one who had shown him kindness , was then destroyed . No longer the successor , Ichiro studied all the aspects of the Doll business . At eighteen years old , he left and began to reprogram Dolls illegally , seeking revenge on SG Corporation . Years later , Ichiro finds the unnamed sexaroid , after Veronica is destroyed by a sadistic owner . Ichiro reprograms the sexaroid to mimic human emotions , and the sexaroid becomes Ichiro 's companion .

They eventually find and purchase Vanilla , who acts as if she suffers from psychological trauma . While on a date with the sexaroid , Vanilla recovers her memories of having been ordered to bury her master 's corpse by her mistress . Meanwhile , Ichiro is captured by agents of the SG Corporation . Learning of this , the sexaroid leaves to rescue him , against the wishes of another reprogrammer , Psycho Candy . Captured , tagged for destruction , and reunited with Ichiro , the sexaroid finds himself ordered by Ichiro to switch places with him and escape . Ichiro then gives the sexaroid a name , Itsuki . With Itsuki 's tag for destruction , Ichiro is killed at the moment his father finally recognizes him . Doll concludes with SG Corporation 's scandal and subsequent bankruptcy , as Motohiko and his wife are content with knowing that they left Dolls in the world , while Vanilla and Itsuki live together in a house purchased by Ichiro .

= = Development = =

The character Vanilla , the concept of the Dolls , and SG Corporation first appeared in manga artist

Mitsukazu Mihara 's earlier short manga " The Sunflower Quality Of An Integrated Circuit " (?????????) (1995) , later collected in IC in a Sunflower (1997) . Doll began as " the simple notion of humans vs. robots " . Although she often uses Lolita fashion ? a clothing style influenced by the Rococo style and the Victorian and Edwardian eras ? in her character designs as a way to convey the duality of her characters , she felt that the fashion failed to give the manga depth . She then centered the plots on the psychological aspects . As Mihara has expressed an interest in exploring the impact of the childhood environment on a person , especially his or her relationships with parents , the stories in Doll involve the eponymous androids and family life . Each short story contains an independent theme ; " A Maid Servant " , for example , takes its inspiration from a book about aging fears , and " miseducation " serves as the theme for a story about cram school , inspired by a book about the inadequacy of solely teaching theories .

The overarching plot of Doll started with the second volume ; she envisioned a prodigy burdened by " parental pressure " and a Doll to heal the psychological pain . She explained that while her flaws may appear in the human characters , her " hopes for perfection " may appear in the Dolls . The Dolls , however , never developed consciousness , with the remodeled Dolls only capable of mimicking human emotion ? in contrast to the typical progression of other stories in the genre . Mihara never considered making the androids capable of emotion , wishing for the narrative to center on the human characters .

= = Release = =

Written and illustrated by Mitsukazu Mihara , the thirty @-@ three chapters of Doll appeared as a serial in the Japanese josei (targeted towards women) manga magazine Feel Young , from 1998 to 2002 . The chapters were collected into six bound volumes by Shodensha and published from August 10 , 2000 , to August 8 , 2002 .

In 2003 , Tokyopop licensed Doll for an English @-@ language translation in North America and the United Kingdom . The series was published from August 10 , 2004 , to October 11 , 2005 ; the first volume was also published as a limited @-@ edition hardcover on May 11 , 2004 . Tokyopop 's North American branch stopped publishing on May 31 , 2011 , with its manga licenses returned . Doll has also been translated into German by Tokyopop Germany .

= = = Volume list = = =

= = Reception = =

The first volume of Doll debuted at the 73rd spot on ICv2 's list of the top 100 best @-@ selling graphic novels for July 2004 with an estimated 1 @, @ 394 copies sold .

Doll has received several positive reviews from English @-@ language critics . About.com 's Deb Aoki placed it on her list of recommended horror manga . According to Aoki , Mihara 's stories proved to be haunting , despite not following the traditional model of gory horror stories . While finding Mihara 's art well @-@ done , yet " not especially memorable " , Patrick King of Animefringe wrote that Mihara 's focus on the social effects of the Dolls and their environments greatly contributed to the appeal of the series . Sequential Tart 's Sheena McNeil wrote that Doll examines the relationships between androids and people on " a much more serious and realistic level " than Clamp 's Chobits . In follow @-@ up reviews , she wrote that the series conveyed " a sense of reality that is unsettling and the stories are harsh reads ? being violent and / or tragic . " According to her , Doll simultaneously examines the meaning of humanity and modern @-@ day fears surrounding the possibility of such androids . She also wrote that Mihara 's " jaw @-@ dropping beautiful " artwork contrasted well with the characters ' misery . Jason Thompson , in Manga : The Complete Guide , wrote that childbirth and family served as the manga 's themes . According to him , Mihara 's character designs and artwork complemented the stories nicely . Conversely , Anime News Network 's Liann Cooper reviewed the hardcover edition of Doll with mixed feelings :

according to her , the stories mostly lacked entertainment value , and had artwork that failed to catch the reader 's eye , but she praised the presentation . She concluded that the hardcover edition would only appeal to " avid collectors " .