

## The Real-life Human Barbie Doll

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Like millions of little girls around the world, Valeria Lukyanova was crazy about Barbie dolls. She and her friends loved the pretty plastic doll, but unlike her friends, she never grew out of it. Since her teens, this Ukrainian woman has dedicated herself to becoming a real-life, 'human Barbie doll.' And she's not stopping until she's a perfect copy of the doll. But what happened to turn a childhood dream into an obsession, and how did she become the first human Barbie? Read on ...



### An ordinary little girl

Born in 1985 in the Moldovian USSR, Valeria Lukyanova moved with her family to Odessa, Ukraine as a baby. There she spent her childhood and most of her adult life. As the picture shows, Valeria was a pretty, perfectly ordinary little girl. Like many others, when she reached her teens, she started experimenting with makeup. She took her inspiration from her Mattel Barbie doll and enjoyed playing with cosmetics. But when did she develop an addiction to looking 'perfect,' and what caused her Barbie obsession?



### BB: Before Barbie

It's plain to see that Valeria was naturally a pretty young girl before beginning her journey to Barbiedom. While her teenage look was more Goth than Barbie, an unhealthy obsession over looking what she was starting to see as 'perfect' was developing. However, at this stage, it's not clear what caused her unhealthy obsession with body image. Like many girls of her age, she probably began to critique her body in comparison with popular images of supermodels and other unrealistic images ... like Barbie.