

Gaby Wood

Writer - Non-fiction

Gaby Wood is Head of Books at the *Daily Telegraph*. Her first book, *THE SMALLEST OF ALL PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE RECORDS OF LITTLENESS*, originally appeared in the *London Review of Books* before being published by Profile Books. *LIVING DOLLS: A MAGICAL HISTORY OF THE QUEST FOR ARTIFICIAL LIFE* was published by Faber and Knopf to excellent reviews, and was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award in the US. She is currently working on a 'cultural biography' of the movie star Lana Turner.



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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details Notes

LIVING DOLLS: A MAGICAL HISTORY OF THE QUEST FOR MECHANICAL LIFE 2002 UK: Faber; US: Knopf; Japanese: Seidosha	Ever since Pygmalion fashioned Galatea out of stone, men (and it is usually men, though the author of <i>FRANKENSTEIN</i> was of course a woman) have dreamed of creating artificial or mechanical life. In this fascinating book, Gaby Wood examines the pre-history of what we think of as a very modern idea: the 18th century flute-playing android of Vaucanson; the Automaton Chess Player of von Kempelen; Thomas Edison's creepy mechanical doll; and Melies' late 19th century experiments with moving images. A final chapter inverts the theme: Wood meets the sole survivor of the Doll family, who achieved fame in the 1930s as midgets with the Ringling Brothers Circus and as 'Munchkins' in <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> . <i>LIVING DOLLS</i> is a book about anxiety, ambition, and about what it is we believe makes us human.
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