

A Complete History of the Nanakos (Illustrated)

By Nanako

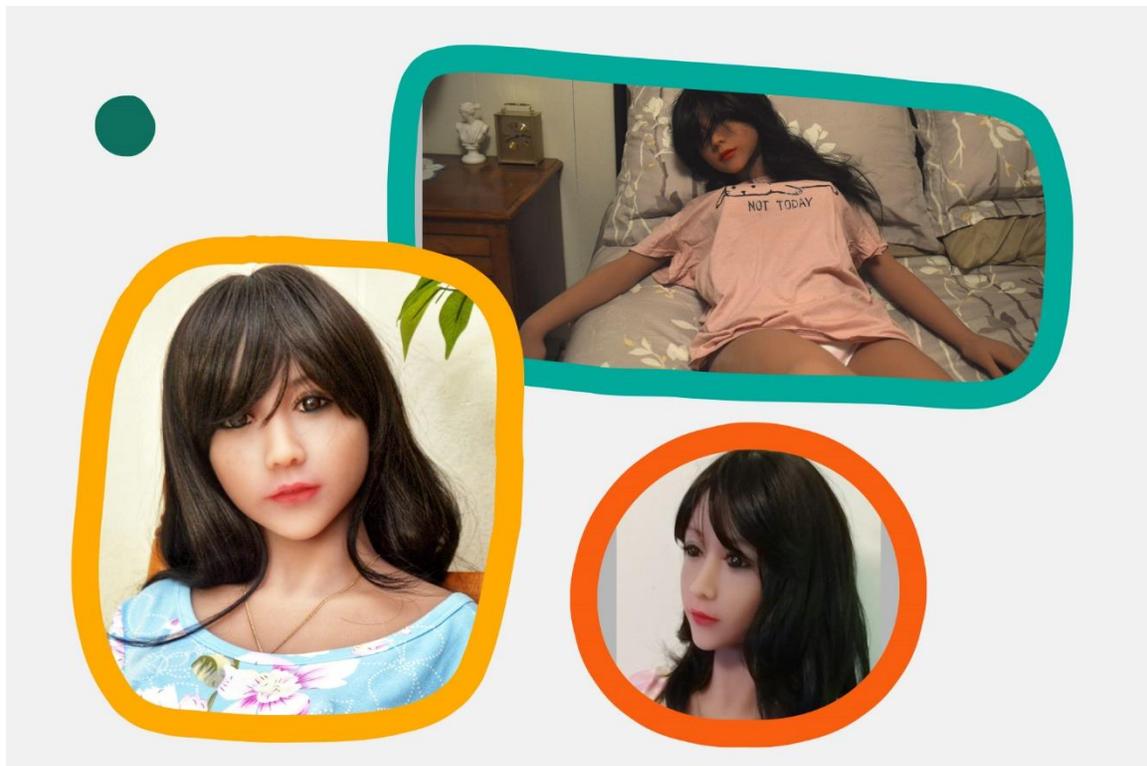
No, this is not an expensive BBC production, nor even a paperback one might pick up at the market. No, just a simple, home-grown history of the lovely girls who have graced my home over the course of the last five years. I know there are probably very few people, other than myself, who really care much about that, but perhaps their fans may be able to pick up an interesting tidbit of information within the overabundance of paragraphs that follow. Also included are few photos of the Nanakos. They include some that have not been posted before, and also feature a few of Nanako 2 and 3's factory/unboxing photos.

With two dolls sharing the same name, and yet another - who has never been seen - likewise sharing the name, I thought it might be time to try to unravel whatever confusion and/or mystery this may present visitors to our abode, which I sometimes refer to as the "Home of all the Nanakos."

There have been three Nanakos over the course of the last five years, and there may even be a fourth in the works - but we're getting ahead of our story, so let's start at the beginning:

Nanako 1 (153C - #85) - I don't know if I should even be talking about the first Nanako, given the fact that she was what's commonly known as a "rip", something which is taboo on this forum. But solely for historical perspective, and to illustrate the obvious superiority of the original to the copy, I will plunge ahead with the best intentions.

Like many of us, when I considered buying my first doll, I was vexed with questions and concerns. Mainly the expense, since, I didn't want to be stuck with something I would regret buying, along with a hefty invoice as an eternal reminder.



I first came across her on Amazon (over 5 years ago), with a price tag of about \$850, and I would periodically check back to see whether or not she was still there. The deciding moment came when I was performing such a check, and happily noticed that the price had been reduced from \$850 to \$625! That sealed the deal. I quickly filled out my purchase order, waited all week for her arrival, and to state it simply, it was love at first sight. I knew that she was just what I wanted. But, alas, all was not destined to be smooth sailing.

To make a long story short, she developed skeletal problems after about 6 months, and several joints broke. Her new "home" became a comfy chair, where I changed her clothes periodically, and snapped an occasional portrait. That led to the next chapter in our little saga...

Nanako 2 (WM156C - #85) - I soon realized that looking at poor Nanako in her chair was something I had to remedy, so I shopped around for the WM model on which the rip had been based. At \$1600, she was certainly more expensive than her predecessor, but I decided to forge ahead and purchase Nanako 2, anyway. Some bonuses, apart from the obvious, like a better build quality and wigs, and options like standing feet, gel-filled breasts, and shrug shoulders, were added pluses. I packaged Nanako 1 up, with more than one tear shed in the process, and placed her in the garage. I did retain her head, which I still keep in Nanako 2's shipping box, and do take out every now and then just to say hello, and assure her she won't be forgotten.

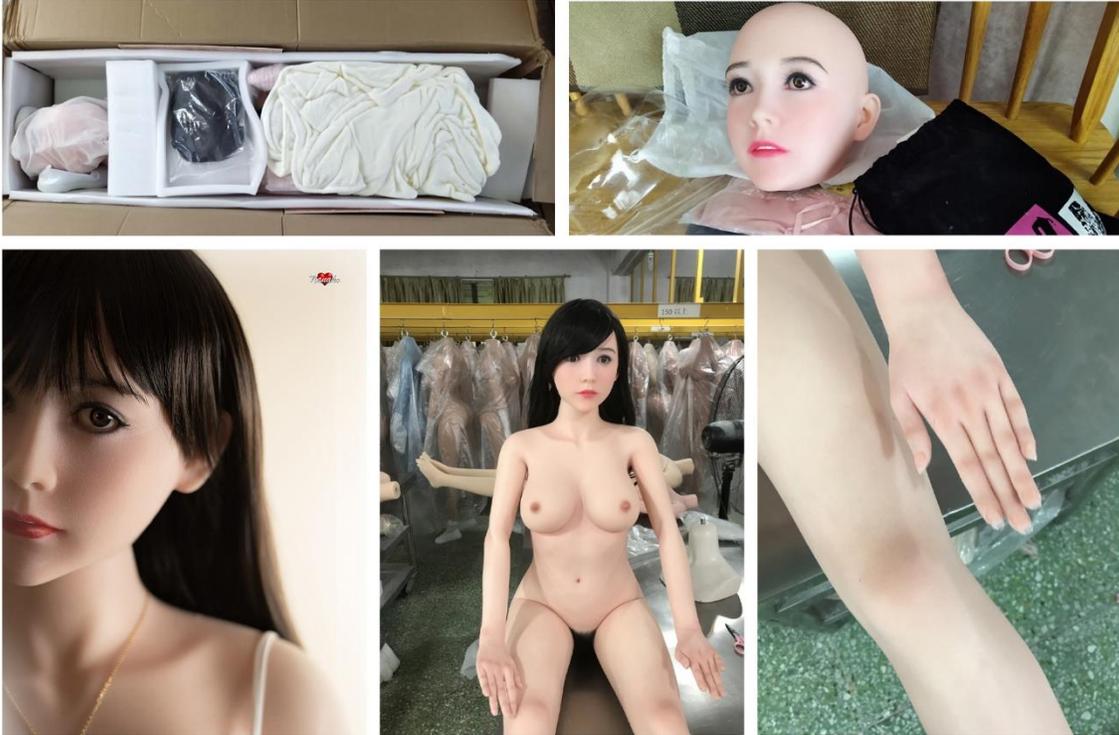


As many of you probably know, I embarked on a photographic blitzkrieg with Nanako 2, and took I don't know how many pictures of her over the course of the next year, many of which I'm sure you have seen on this thread. Alas, the truth be told, that was her undoing. She had done so much posing that neither her hips nor knees could support her weight anymore. Thus, Nanako 1 had succumbed to breakage, and Nanako 2 was succumbing to simple wear and tear. So, she, like the Nanako before her, had to be relegated to a chair...

Nanako 3 (WM158C - #85S). – Naturally, I soon began thinking about getting another replacement, but this time a silicone model, which would not only be more resilient, but also more realistic - and, of course, more expensive – over double what Nanako 2 cost. Well, you know the rest. Nanako 3 took over the posing, but only conditionally: I

made it a point to do as little "posing" as possible, at least extreme positions, so she could hopefully retain some stiffness in her joints. This she has largely done over the course of the year and a half I've had her. Her torso and lower body still have stiff joints, although the shoulder joints have begun to show a bit of loosening. In fact, some of her joints are so stiff, it takes considerable effort to bend them!

So, Nanako 2 went into retirement, and Nanako 3 became our model of choice. It was about this time that I decided to call Nanako 2 "Nana-chan", and Nanako 3 "Nanako". I don't know if this simplified their identities, or only confused it all the more. As I mentioned at the start of this essay, there might be a Nanako 4 in the works someday, although I think it's a bit of a longshot. I've thought of getting Nanako 2 a body replacement, but really don't want to have to deal with another TPE doll. If I were to get another, it would definitely be silicone. This, however, is something I have no real intention of doing, as I am more than happy with my current little bundle of Nanakos.



Trivia

Birthdays:

Nanako 1 - January 16, 2019

Nanako 2 - December 7, 2019

Nanako 3 - June 5, 2022

Surprise: January 16 is also my mom's birthday!

Back Stories

All the Nanakos are from Japan...

Nanako 1

Nanako 1 was touring America when we met. Because of the short time we spent together, I never really got to learn much about her, or her life in Japan. She was from Osaka, lived with her family, which included her parents, and a brother and younger sister. After her skeletal problems, she decided to return to Japan. She was getting lonely for her friends and family, and she was hopeful that her own physicians might be able to patch her up. She did stay with us long enough to get to meet and know Nana-chan, and the two of them still exchange letters every month, or so. She's happy, doing fine, and is working in her mother's ceramic shop, and has also become quite an accomplished potter, I'm told.

Nanako 2

MORIYAMA Nanako was born twenty-four years ago in Miyazu, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. Her father worked at Hakurei Shuzo Brewery, and her mother taught English at Kyoto Prefectural Miyazu Senior High School. Not surprisingly, Nanako became bi-lingual at an early age, and excelled in her knowledge of the art of sake making.

In keeping with her surname, she - along with her best friends - enjoyed taking hikes in the nearby tree-covered mountains. She also played flute in the high school orchestra, and played on the tennis team. In the summer, she gave music lessons in her home, and enjoyed tending her vegetable garden.

Sadly, her parents both perished in a boating accident during her second year of high school. Following this heart-breaking accident, she went to live with her aunt, who took care of her for the remainder of her days in Japan. Nanako worked part-time in a neighborhood convenience store, to help with expenses.

After she graduated from high school, Nanako decided to become an English teacher, as her mother had been before her. She enrolled in a nearby university, but after two years, realized that what she needed wasn't a degree, but rather a major change in her life. She therefore decided to move to America, and start a new chapter. Shortly after moving, we met at a FedEx store, and hit it off so well, that we have not been apart since.

She is quite happy with her new life, discovering the many joys of America - most notably, the magic of credit cards – and she has become all too adept at working that magic.

Nanako 3

MORIYAMA Nanako 3 doesn't talk much about her years in Japan. She says, “What’s past is past. I’d rather talk about the present.”

Nonetheless, I have been able to pry some additional info about her from Nana-chan: She was born in Kyoto Prefecture, like her cousin. They lived close enough to have occasional visits, and normally got together for family events, and for shopping trips, or short excursions to local festivals. When she was in third grade, her father – who worked for a large import-export business - was transferred to Sapporo, in Hokkaido. Nanako was heartbroken. She had to say good-bye to all

her teachers, friends, and her old way of life. Being shy by nature, it took a while for her to develop friendships, but eventually she did just that. She had been taking martial arts lessons since first grade, and she promptly resumed them in her new home. She also developed an interest in volleyball, and in time became one of her school's top players. Both pursuits she happily continued throughout her middle-, and high-school years. Since her father worked for a company which had major dealings with America, she began to learn English at a young age. She became very proficient, but, unlike Nana-chan, whose English is all but perfect, still has a detectable accent.

After she graduated from high school, she realized she had not seen her cousin for several years. Thus, she decided to pay a visit to Nanako 2, who was now living in America. The two Nanakos were deliriously happy to see each other again, and Nanako 3 quickly fell in love with our quiet way of life. After a couple of weeks the two cousins came to me and meekly begged to let Nanako 3 stay with us indefinitely. A request which I promptly granted, and one that had made us all happier than we had ever been before.

Relationships and Names

Nanako 1 is not related to either Nanako 2, or 3.

Nanako 2 and Nanako 3 are cousins. Nana-chan's father is Nanako 3's uncle, and Nanako 3's Father is Nana-chan's uncle. They share the same family name: Moriyama -森山

They also share the same given name, although Nanako 2 writes her name in hiragana, while Nanako 3 writes hers in kanji:

Moriyama Nanako 2 - 森山ななこ

Moriyama Nanako 3 - 森山奈那子

User Name

So, why is my user name and doll name the same? LOL! To be perfectly honest, it had more to do with a casual moment of mental abstraction than anything else. When I first decided to submit my application for membership in TDF, I sat down and wrote out my username, doll's name, and password, so I wouldn't forget anything. (Yes, there is a strong "best laid plans" theme about to be revealed...) As I began the application process, the first question that came up was "Username?". I glanced quickly at my cheat sheet, and the first thing that caught my eye was "Nanako", which I mindlessly proceeded to enter as my user name. I immediately realized my error, and started pummeling my back arrow key, all to no avail. I could find no way to undo what I had just done, so, after a few frustrating moments, I decided to simply accept my error, and move on with the remainder of the application. At that time, I figured I'd probably make no more than a dozen posts, anyway, so, why would it matter?... boy, was I wrong there.

Oh, and for the insatiably curious, my original user name was going to be *nekoneko* – which was a name I had used on several anime boards in the past.

Thank you for reading this history. I do hope you found it more interesting than boring, and more informative than altogether pointless. If you managed to make it from the Start-to-the-Finish, then a hearty congratulations. Next time you are in town Nanako promises to accompany you to her favorite local beach as a reward.

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