WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE OF DEATH

Heiress created perfect mini replicas of CRIME SCENES to help cops

A corpse in the kitchen

Bloodstains and an overturned motor - whodunit?


The Dark Bathroom diorama has a dead girl in the tub

The cigarette buds are a vital clue to this scene

*STEPS* into Barbie's worst nightmare! A Chicago heiress spared no expense at creating 16 dollhouse rooms in the 24x24 baks, each scene depicting a real murder with corpses and hidden clues as a teaching tool for detectives.


The mini-murder scenes are painstakingly packed with broken, mauled and poisoned mini-corpuses, along with meticulously created miniature props, like canned foods, furniture, bottles, burned cigarettes and the Simon of mayhem, like bloodstains, bullet holes and lipstick smudges. All these amazingly realistic rooms are still used today to give would-be detectives a model with which to solve.

"People take them as seriously as they would any other crime scene," says Dr. David H. Frazier, Maryland's chief medical examiner. "I've never seen anybody make jokes because of the degree of intricacy and detail."

"Hand-made props" "The quality is stunning. I have never seen any computer-generated programs that even come close."

A divorced mom of three, Lee set up her Nutshell Laboratories on her sprawling 1,000-acre estate in Bethesda, Md., after being enthralled by the work of Harvard-trained medical examiner George Burgess MacGraith. Basing her rooms on real cases with names changed, the pint-size depictions are filled with hand-made props.

In one scene, half-peeled potatoes sit by a sink. Bits turn in locks, tiny pencils actually write and a few whiskles can actually be blown. The collection resides at the Maryland state medical examiner's office in Baltimore.

One big fan of the often blood-splashed scenes is current movie director John Waters.

"When I saw these miniature crime scenes I felt breathless over the devotion that went into their creation."

"Even the most depraved Barbie Doll collector couldn't top this."