

# MOM'S JOY ROOM

2964 Fairmont Road, Morgantown, WV 26501 | (304) 282-3671

## CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

*Pair of Vintage American Character "Tiny Tears" Dolls — Real Caracul Hair — Priced Individually*



### MARKET VALUE

**\$40–90 each**

*Realistic quick-sale price per doll, private/shop market*

### ESTIMATED WORTH

**\$100–200 each**

*Ceiling for early caracul Tiny Tears specialty collectors*



*Two vintage American Character "Tiny Tears" dolls  
Real caracul (baby lambskin) hair — reddish-brown curls  
One in white lace christening gown & bonnet  
One in pink gown with lace trim  
Each sold individually*

### American Character "Tiny Tears" — Pair

*American Character Doll Co., USA — c.early–mid 1950s — Real Caracul Hair*

### HISTORY

"Tiny Tears" was introduced by the American Character Doll Company in 1950 and became one of the most celebrated baby dolls of the entire decade — beloved by children for her remarkably lifelike features and genuinely innovative engineering. She was the first mass-market baby doll to cry actual tears through tiny holes near her eyes when squeezed, and her "drink and wet" feature (a rubber squeeze bottle fed into the doll's mouth) added another layer of realistic baby-play that no other doll of her era could match. These two elements — the tears and the bottle — gave her her name and made her an instant cultural phenomenon.

The dolls in this collection represent the earliest and most desirable production period: the **real caracul hair** examples. Caracul — genuine baby lambskin, prized since antiquity for its exceptionally soft, tightly coiled natural curl — was used on the first Tiny Tears dolls beginning in 1950 before American Character transitioned to less costly synthetic saran rooted

wigs in later years. A caracul-haired Tiny Tears is instantly recognizable by the dense, springy natural curl of the hairpiece and its warm reddish-brown color, and it is this combination of early-production status and real-fur hair that makes these dolls the most sought-after variant among Tiny Tears collectors today.

Both dolls are dressed in lace-trimmed baby outfits appropriate to the era: one in a white lace christening-style gown with a full ruffled bonnet, the other in a soft pink gown with lace detail — costumes that complement their gentle, sweetly sculpted faces and the delicate character of their caracul hair beautifully.

◆ *Real caracul lambskin hair is a hallmark of the earliest, most desirable Tiny Tears dolls — produced only in the early 1950s before later synthetic wigs replaced it.* ◆

#### NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Maker: American Character Doll Company, USA
- ◆ Model: "Tiny Tears" — c.early–mid 1950s (caracul hair production window)
- ◆ Hair: Genuine caracul (baby lambskin), reddish-brown, tightly curled — not synthetic
- ◆ Eyes: Sleep eyes (open/close mechanism)
- ◆ Features: Signature "drink and wet" and crying-tears mechanisms
- ◆ Costumes: White lace christening gown + bonnet / pink lace-trim gown
- ◆ Priced and sold individually — each doll available separately

**Collector's note:** Caracul-haired Tiny Tears dolls are a meaningfully distinct tier above the standard synthetic-wig examples in the collector marketplace — the real lambskin hair, combined with original outfits and intact sleep-eye mechanisms, places these solidly in the early-production category that Tiny Tears specialists seek out. Market Value reflects realistic shop/private-sale pricing per doll; Estimated Worth reflects what a dedicated Tiny Tears or mid-century baby doll specialist might pay for an authenticated real-caracul example in complete, presentable condition.

*"Real curls, real tears — two little ones from the very first years, dressed up and ready to be loved all over again."*

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Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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