= Elaine Marley =

Elaine Marley ? Threepwood is a fictional character in the Monkey Island series of graphic adventure video games . Created by Ron Gilbert for LucasArts , the character first appears in The Secret of Monkey Island and is one of the core characters in the franchise . Originally conceived as a ruthless island governor , the character evolved during development into the protagonist 's love interest . While the first two games in the series did not feature voice acting , Elaine was voiced by Alexandra Boyd in The Curse of Monkey Island and by Charity James in Escape from Monkey Island ; Boyd would reprise the role for later entries in the franchise .

Elaine is the governor of the Tri @-@ Island Area , a fictional group of pirate islands in the Caribbean . She is loved by the undead pirate LeChuck , who never ceases to pursue her affections and attempts to turn her into his undead bride , but Elaine instead falls in love with hapless protagonist Guybrush Threepwood . Elaine is consistently kidnapped by LeChuck , prompting Guybrush to attempt a rescue , although Elaine is usually more than capable of escaping predicaments by herself . She eventually marries Guybrush and relinquishes her gubernatorial responsibilities to her grandfather , travelling with Guybrush to the fictional Gulf of Melange to cure the outbreak of a voodoo @-@ empowered pox .

The character has enjoyed positive critical reception . Several sources commended Elaine 's aberration of the damsel in distress stereotype . Elaine has been ranked on a number of lists regarding the best female characters in the video game industry , and has received praise for her visual design and resilient personality . Critics have also complimented Boyd 's and James ' voice acting for the character in the later installments of the series , though some expressed disappointment at the character 's reduced lines in The Curse of Monkey Island .

= = Character design = =

The original script for The Secret of Monkey Island called for a character simply named " the Governor " ; Monkey Island creator Ron Gilbert had envisioned her as a far more ruthless character . The name " Elaine " was created later in development by Dave Grossman , who wrote the final scenes of the game in which protagonist Guybrush Threepwood disrupts the wedding of antagonist LeChuck and the governor . One of Grossman 's options for gatecrashing the wedding is having Guybrush scream " Elaine ! " in a parody of a similar scene in the 1967 film The Graduate ; Gilbert appreciated the reference , so Elaine was adopted as the governor 's name . As development on the game further progressed , the character evolved from being a ruthless governor to the player character 's love interest .

When the player talks to a number of characters in The Secret of Monkey Island , a close @-@ up portrait of the character is shown . Elaine 's appearance in this portrait was based on Avril Harrison , an artist working at LucasArts . Gilbert always felt bothered by these close @-@ up portraits , stating that " while they were great art , I never felt they matched the style of the rest of the game " . In the 2009 Special Edition , these close @-@ ups were redone in the same stylized artwork featured in the rest of the game .

In The Curse of Monkey Island , Elaine realises that Guybrush is her true love , and marries him . However , Ron Gilbert did not intend for the relationship between the characters to develop in this way , stating that Elaine " never really liked Guybrush and thought of him as more of a little brother " . Gilbert was not involved in the production of The Curse of Monkey Island ; while thinking that the new development team " did a pretty good job of capturing what Monkey Island was about " , the relationship between Elaine and Guybrush " was the thing that bugged [Gilbert] the most about The Curse of Monkey Island " .

The Curse of Monkey Island was the first Monkey Island game to feature voice acting ; in it , the part of Elaine Marley was given to British actress Alexandra Boyd . Boyd explains that she got the part of Elaine as she had worked with voice director Darragh O 'Farrell previously ; O 'Farrell brought Boyd in to read for the part . Boyd joked that " I figured I got the part because I have red hair like her " . Boyd was not contacted to return as the character for Escape from Monkey Island ;

Elaine was instead voiced by American actress Charity James . Nevertheless , Boyd reprised the role for Telltale Games ' Tales of Monkey Island and the later enhanced remakes of the first two games . Boyd was glad to return , stating that the character " is very well written and it ? s fun doing all that shouting at LeChuck and Guybrush ! Exhausting but fun " . Rather than travelling to Telltale 's studio in San Rafael , Boyd instead recorded her lines for Tales of Monkey Island in London , communicating with the director remotely with Skype . The development of Elaine 's character was one of Gilbert 's aims for Tales of Monkey Island ; Gilbert wanted Elaine to " be better informed and more capable than most of the other characters " .

= = = Attributes and depiction = = =

Intelligent and highly resourceful , Elaine is depicted as a caring and kind person . She is usually more than capable of taking care of herself ; on the multiple occasions that she is kidnapped by LeChuck , she is usually able to escape at her own volition and formulate plans to defeat her adversaries . In addition , Elaine is proficient in personal combat and displays an understanding of strategy in battle , reinforced by calm personality that allows Elaine to use common sense and stay composed despite dire situations . While attracted to piracy , Elaine is initially wary of pursuing a relationship with pirates due to a bad liaison with LeChuck while the pirate captain was still alive . Nevertheless , Elaine falls in love with Guybrush , seeing past his faults in favor of his kind personality and sharp wit . While Elaine is the dominant partner in their relationship , she still has faith in his abilities regardless of Guybrush 's hapless disposition .
Elaine is usually depicted as a beautiful woman with long red hair and with green eyes . She wears a variety of pirate clothing consistent with the game 's Golden Age of Piracy setting ; her outfit usually consists of pantaloons , a blouse worn under a lightweight tunic , a sash , boots and a headscarf . Elaine usually wears gold earrings , though by Tales of Monkey Island , she wears her diamond engagement ring as an earring until Chapter 2 . Her appearances in The Secret of Monkey Island and Monkey Island 2 : LeChuck 's Revenge are in the form of pixel art , with appearances slightly differing between the EGA , Amiga and VGA versions of the games . By The Curse of Monkey Island , Elaine is rendered in a cartoon art style by LucasArts artists Larry Ahern and Bill Tiller , although the character 's choice of clothing remains consistent . Escape from Monkey Island translated Ahern and Tiller 's depiction into 3D graphics , while the later special editions and Tales of Monkey Island produced a more stylized art form for the character . While under LeChuck 's influence as his demon bride in Tales of Monkey Island , Elaine is dressed in a Gothic wedding dress and a tiara , her eyes are pupiless and her skin is given a green hue .

= = Appearances = =

Elaine Marley debuts in the The Secret of Monkey Island as the governor of Mêlée Island , on which hapless protagonist Guybrush Threepwood is striving to become a pirate . As governor , she attracts many suitors , one of these being the pirate captain LeChuck . Although Elaine rebukes LeChuck 's advances , he nevertheless pursues her love and aims to impress her by discovering the secret of Monkey Island . The exhibition ultimately costs LeChuck his life , but he returns as a ghost still intent on marrying Elaine . LeChuck 's ambitions for Elaine 's hand in marriage ? whether given willingly or not ? form a major part of the franchise 's plot . Elaine first encounters Guybrush when he breaks into the governor 's mansion on Mêlée Island in an attempt to steal a valuable idol . Elaine has been fascinated to meet Guybrush since hearing of his arrival on the island and his strange name , however , their first meeting is stunted by Guybrush being too awestruck by Elaine 's beauty to say anything intelligible . When the local sheriff tries to drown Guybrush after a fight , Elaine nevertheless rushes to his aid , confessing that she feels deeply attracted to Guybrush , which he reciprocates . She implores Guybrush to finish his pirate trials before they act on their new @-@ found love , but is kidnapped by LeChuck and taken to his hideout on Monkey Island when the ghost pirate 's crew suddenly raids the island . Guybrush mounts a rescue attempt , but fails to reach Elaine before LeChuck 's ship returns to Mêlée Island for LeChuck 's wedding to Elaine . The well

@-@ intentioned Threepwood gatecrashes the wedding , but in actuality ruins Elaine 's own plan to defeat LeChuck with an anti @-@ ghost concoction . Guybrush still manages to destroy LeChuck , and the game closes with the happy couple watching the fireworks as the evil pirate 's ghost form explodes .

Elaine 's role is significantly reduced for the sequel Monkey Island 2 : LeChuck 's Revenge , though the majority of the story is conveyed by Guybrush to Elaine in the form of a flashback . Between the games , the two have broken off their relationship and Elaine has moved to her governor 's mansion on Booty Island . When Guybrush appears at the mansion , she presumes he has come to apologize ; instead he is looking for a map that belonged to Elaine 's grandfather , which leads to fabled treasure Big Whoop . After discovering Guybrush 's intentions , Elaine is infuriated and refuses to speak to him . Guybrush eventually becomes trapped at the site of Big Whoop , with Elaine arriving to rescue him . Guybrush falls into a chasm , where he is confronted by LeChuck , recently resurrected as a zombie . As the game ends with Guybrush thinking he is a child in a theme park , Elaine is seen worrying that LeChuck has placed a curse on Guybrush .

In The Curse of Monkey Island , with Guybrush indisposed at the end of LeChuck 's Revenge , LeChuck attacks Plunder Island , the third island covered by Elaine 's gubernatorial powers . LeChuck 's efforts to buy Elaine 's love are again rebuked by Elaine during an exchange of cannon fire ; Elaine is angry at LeChuck for having apparently killed Guybrush , who she realises is the true love of her life . The battle is interrupted by Guybrush , who has escaped from LeChuck 's curse and helps defeat the zombie pirate . Afterwards , Guybrush proposes to Elaine , giving her a diamond ring found in LeChuck 's hold . Unknown to Guybrush , the ring is cursed and turns Elaine into solid gold . Guybrush manages to remove the curse , but both are captured by a reincarnated demon LeChuck . LeChuck plans to turn Elaine into a fellow undead creature , forcing her to accept him as he will be the only other person in a similar condition . Both Elaine and Guybrush escape , with Elaine eluding LeChuck until he is trapped under an avalanche of ice by Guybrush . Elaine and Guybrush marry , and leave on their honeymoon .

Elaine and Guybrush return to Mêlée Island in Escape from Monkey Island from their lengthy honeymoon to find that she has been declared legally dead ; as a result the governorship of the Tri @-@ Island Area is up for election . While Elaine and Guybrush work on reversing her legal demise , they discover that the other candidate in the election is actually LeChuck in disguise , but the townspeople , feeling neglected by Elaine 's long absence , do not believe her . Guybrush leaves to prevent the Ultimate Insult , a powerful voodoo talisman , from falling into the hands of LeChuck 's co @-@ conspirator Ozzie Mandrill . Elaine is defeated in the election and LeChuck becomes governor , while Guybrush is captured and marooned on Monkey Island . On Monkey Island , Guybrush discovers that resident castaway Herman Toothrot is actually Horatio Marley , Elaine 's long thought dead grandfather . The two escape Monkey Island and defeat LeChuck and Mandrill . Elaine asks Horatio to take over her position as governor of the Tri @-@ Island Area , and Guybrush and Elaine depart .

In Tales of Monkey Island , set several years after Escape from Monkey Island , Elaine has once again been kidnapped by LeChuck . In his rescue attempt , Guybrush inadvertently releases a voodoo pox over Gulf of Melange , which turns LeChuck into a human . While events separate Guybrush and Elaine , she befriends the now seemingly unmalicious LeChuck , and helps him return monkeys used for his voodoo spells to their homes . Elaine also attempts , without success , to arbitrate between merpeople with access to a cure for the pox and infected pirates . When negotiations break down , Elaine participates in a battle around the Jerkbait Islands to drive off the pirates . However , Elaine becomes infected with the pox and loses control , travelling to Flotsam Island to sack the town and kill Morgan LeFlay , a bounty hunter who she sees as a rival for Guybrush 's love . Guybrush cures the pox , but LeChuck turns on him and fatally stabs him ; Elaine cradles her husband as he dies . LeChuck takes Elaine captive and appears to convince her to join him as his demon bride ; however , Elaine only submits to LeChuck to acquire a voodoo cutlass capable of destroying LeChuck . Guybrush returns as a ghost and maneuvers LeChuck into a position where Elaine can attack him with the cutlass . With LeChuck defeated , Guybrush restores himself to life by using a spell with Elaine 's wedding ring , and returns to his wife .

= = Reception = =

The character of Elaine Marley has garnered a positive reception from critics within the video game industry . Described by GameSpot as the impetus for the whole series , critics lauded Elaine 's non @-@ conformity to the damsel in distress stereotype . GameSpot noted that Elaine is usually much more proficient at escaping trouble " than the so @-@ called hero who comes to save her " , while the video game culture journal Eludamos approved of the character for allowing a level of " feminine expression which did not necessary always conform to passive ideals of the damsel in distress " . The website That Guy with the Glasses put Elaine as the eighth best female character in gaming , describing her as possibly the only staple character in the series to have " a shred of sanity and smarts " , praising the character 's independence and resilience as well as noting that as a woman in the Golden Age of Piracy , Elaine has risen to a position of power far above what would be historically considered normal for the time .

Eurogamer commended Elaine 's design as " worthy of acclaim " , naming her the " Best Female Supporting Character " in their 2001 annual Gaming Globes awards , while IGN described her alongside Guybrush and LeChuck as one of " the most beloved adventure characters of all time " . Alexandra Boyd and Charity James have also been praised for their voicing of Elaine ; Computer Games Magazine described Boyd 's work for The Curse of Monkey Island as " wonderful " , though lamented that she did not speak more in the game , while Macworld admired the character 's depiction in Escape from Monkey Island as " beautiful and plucky " .