

= Sienna Guillory =

Sienna Tiggy Guillory (/ ʒiːˈniːə ˈɡiːlɔːri / ; born 16 March 1975) is an English actress , and former model . She is known for playing the title role in the TV miniseries , *Helen of Troy* , as elf princess Arya Dröttningu in fantasy @-@ adventure film , *Eragon* , and for her portrayal of Jill Valentine in the science fiction action horror film *Resident Evil : Apocalypse* . She resumed her role as Jill Valentine for a cameo appearance in the 2010 action @-@ horror film *Resident Evil : Afterlife* , and in *Resident Evil : Retribution* , released on 14 September 2012 .

= = Early life = =

Born in Kettering , Northamptonshire , England , Guillory is the daughter of the American folk guitarist Isaac Guillory and his first wife , English model Tina Thompson , whom he married in 1973 . Isaac Guillory was of Jewish heritage and born at the Guantanamo naval base in Cuba , the son of an American sailor and his Turkish wife .

Her parents moved to Fulham , London when Guillory was two , then later to Norfolk when she was 11 . At the age of ten , she went to stay with cousins in Mexico to learn Spanish .

She has a half @-@ brother named Jace , whom her father had adopted and with whom she shares the same mother . Her parents divorced in 1990 when she was 14 , and in 1993 , her father married Vickie McMillan , which resulted in a much younger half @-@ sister and half @-@ brother , Ellie and Jacob . Guillory attended Gresham 's School in Holt , Norfolk , where she took part in numerous school productions .

Guillory has been an equestrian since the age of two . At 14 , she was given a horse , which she named *The Night Porter* , or " Porty " , after the film *The Night Porter* ; Guillory was a fan of its leading actress Charlotte Rampling .

In December 2000 , Guillory 's father died of cancer at the age of 53 .

= = Career = =

= = = Modelling = = =

In 1997 , Guillory accompanied a ballerina friend to the London modelling agency Select and was soon signed . She modelled solely to support her acting career . As a model , she worked in campaigns for Armani , Dolce & Gabbana , Burberry , and Paul Smith and appeared on the covers of several fashion magazines . In 1999 , she became the face of the Hugo Boss fragrance campaign , succeeding model Karen Ferrari and continuing the campaign for three years . After modelling for a few years , Guillory returned her focus to acting in 2000 . She is signed to Independent Models in London .

= = = Acting = = =

Guillory explained that she " became an actor because I wanted to know what it was like to be other people . Because possibly I don 't like myself " , and later said " I hate acting , really hate it . I kind of fell into it sideways ... I started acting because I got offered a job when I was 16 , and they wanted to pay me £ 8 @, @ 000 , and we 'd always lived on Family Support ... " She went on to say that her frustration with later film roles left her bitter , but after seeing Helen Mirren onstage she was inspired again .

In 1993 , Guillory made her screen debut in a TV adaptation of Jilly Cooper 's novel , *Riders* , for which the casting directors needed a young actress who was able to ride a horse . Her performance landed her in another small role in the miniseries *The Buccaneers* , opposite Mira Sorvino .

Before becoming a model to support her acting career , Guillory waited tables at a club . In an interview in 2000 , she said about the experience " Supporting my acting habit with waitressing was

probably the most useful thing I've done . " During her time as a model , she studied acting at the New World School of the Arts and the Paris Conservatoire , also taking small television and film roles in *The Future Lasts a Long Time* (1996) , *The Rules of Engagement* (1999) , *Star ! Star !* (1999) , *Kiss Kiss (Bang Bang)* (2000) , *The 3 Kings* (2000) , and *Two Days , Nine Lives* (2000) . During this time , Guillory decided to go on with her acting career because " I was so scared of going to university and being with people my own age again , having been with that tiny little sect of girls in Norfolk whose daddies were farmers and politicians , who didn 't trust me and didn 't know where I was coming from " .

She returned to film with a more substantial role in the thriller *Sorted* (2000) . Guillory went on to appear in the BBC production *Take a Girl Like You* , a television adaptation of Kingsley Amis 's novel of the same name . She portrayed Jenny Bunn , the story 's virginal heroine , and gained critical attention for her part in the period piece . Guillory was pleased to have played a more innocent character , saying " I've played floozies , psychopaths , assassins , crackheads ... It 's nice to do something with a lighter touch . " The production did not fare well in the ratings .

In 2001 , Guillory continued with other roles in predominantly British films , including *Oblivious* , *Late Night Shopping* (with husband Enzo Cilenti) , *The Last Minute* , and *Superstition* . 2002 saw Guillory appear in *The Time Machine* , alongside Guy Pearce and Jeremy Irons . She was pleased to take on a larger scale film , after having worked on low @-@ budget independent films , and compared the experience with " finding an unicorn in your sock drawer " . She played Emma , the fiancée of Pearce 's character , who was killed early in the film and whose death set off its main events .

In 2003 , after a friend had received a script for *The Principles of Lust* , Guillory claims she " read it and couldn 't put it down , and begged to read for the part " . She was impressed by director Penny Woolcock 's unconventional style of shooting , without rehearsing the actors , using raw takes and improvisational performances . For the role of Juliette , Guillory performed nude in the film 's sex scenes which were filmed during the first week of filming , making her somewhat nervous . She later went on to say that it was one of her favorite acting experiences . Afterwards , Guillory had a small role in the romantic comedy *Love Actually* before taking the starring role in the television miniseries *Helen of Troy* . The series was mostly based on Homer 's epic poem *Iliad* and focuses on the mythological life of Helen . *Helen of Troy* was nominated for best miniseries at the Satellite Awards .

In May 2004 , Guillory starred in a new stage production of *The Shape of Things* at the New Ambassadors Theatre in London , with husband Cilenti . 2004 also saw Guillory in her first big Hollywood role . She was cast as Jill Valentine , one of the lead characters in the video game adaptation sequel *Resident Evil : Apocalypse* . The film makers had searched widely for an actress to portray the video game character and found her in Guillory , who had to " please not only the movie @-@ going audience but also the gamers " . She was , however , " a dead ringer for Jill Valentine " . Guillory was reported to have studied the original character 's movements by watching playthroughs of the video game *Resident Evil 3 : Nemesis* . Before getting the script for the film , she had not been familiar with the video games or seen *Resident Evil* . She said about her role :

Resident Evil : Apocalypse , although it was not well received by critics , grossed \$ 23 @,@ 036 @,@ 273 on its opening weekend (10 ? 12 September 2004) and took a total of \$ 51 @,@ 201 @,@ 453 in the United States and \$ 129 @,@ 394 @,@ 835 worldwide .

After the success of *Resident Evil : Apocalypse* , Guillory went on to appear in other film and television roles , including *Beauty* (2004) , *Marple : A Murder Is Announced* (2005) , *In the Bathroom* (2005) , *The Virgin Queen* (2005) , *Silence Becomes You* (2005) , and *Rabbit Fever* (2006) .

In 2006 , Guillory was a lead in the ensemble cast of the fantasy *Eragon* , the film adaptation of the novel by Christopher Paolini ; the role had reunited her with *The Time Machine* co @-@ star Jeremy Irons . She portrayed Arya Dröttningu , an elf princess . She had not read the novels before filming , but after accepting the role she soon became a fan of Paolini 's work . Although Arya is a key character in the film , Guillory had little screen time and went on to say jokingly : " I've been trying to explain to friends who 've seen the trailer [...] I'm like , " [...] but that 's my whole part ! " " *Eragon* was not well received by the critics , but was nominated as Best Fantasy Film at the 2006 Saturn

Awards . The film went on to gross approximately \$ 75 million in the US and \$ 173 @. @ 9 million elsewhere , totalling \$ 249 million worldwide . Guillory was also invited to reprise her role as Jill Valentine in Resident Evil : Extinction , the sequel to Resident Evil : Apocalypse , but could not accept due to scheduling conflicts with Eragon .

In 2007 , she starred in the Spanish production El Corazón de la tierra , or The Heart of the Earth , and later in the year finished filming the horror / thriller Victims and the fantasy novel adaptation Inkheart . In Inkheart , she plays Resa , the wife of Brendan Fraser 's character and the mother of Eliza Bennett 's . Inkheart sees Guillory acting alongside Helen Mirren , a friend of the Guillory family who was a role model when she first had aspirations towards acting .

Guillory will be a lead in the forthcoming television series The Oaks , expected to begin airing in 2008 . She joins Bahar Soomekh , Matt Lanter , Romy Rosemont , Jeremy Renner , Michael Rispoli and Shannon Lucio in the series which follows the intertwining stories of three families ? a young couple in 1968 that have lost a child , a family of four in 1998 , and a pregnant couple in 2008 ? who are haunted by the same spirit in their house . The television series began filming on 5 November 2007 on location in Pasadena , California . Guillory will play Jessica , the 2008 couple 's neighbour , a woman who has Asperger syndrome who went to school with the husband (and father @-@ to @-@ be) and shares a secret with him .

In May 2010 , Shock Till You Drop.com confirmed the return of Jill Valentine in the Resident Evil film franchise 's fourth instalment , Resident Evil : Afterlife , with Guillory reprising the role . On 31 May , Jovovich also confirmed that Guillory would return as Jill . Guillory reappears in the film in a mid @-@ end credit scene . She returned to a starring role in the following film , Resident Evil : Retribution as the main antagonist of the film .

In 2015 she joined the main cast as scientist Natalie Yelburton in the new thriller series Fortitude , commissioned by Sky Atlantic and set in the fictional Arctic Norwegian oil settlement of the same name . She will return to the role for the show 's second series in 2016 .

In January 2016 she also joined the cast of Sky One 's new series , Stan Lee 's Lucky Man , playing the character Eve .

= = Media = =

In 2001 , readers of Esquire UK voted Guillory " Britain 's Most Eligible Woman " and featured her in a pictorial in the magazine . Guillory was photographed for the cover and shoot by photographer Jonathan Glynn Smith . In 2002 , she was number 89 on Maxim 's list of " The 100 Sexiest Women " , and in 2007 Guillory was voted number 54 at Askmen.com 's Top 99 Countdown .

Guillory has also been quoted as disliking the Hollywood culture , saying she does not wish to be part of it :

= = Personal life = =

In 2000 , Guillory began dating English actor Enzo Cilenti , and they married in 2002 . The couple appeared in the 2001 film Late Night Shopping , and have continued to appear together in various works . In August 2004 , Guillory and Cilenti cycled five stages of the Tour de France to raise money for charity .

In February 2011 , Guillory gave birth to their twin daughters , Valentina and Lucia , named after Guillory 's grandmother and great aunt , who were also twin sisters .

= = Filmography = =