

Miami Teen Stars in Lifetime's Army Wives

From Well-known Science Family, Ella Wahlestedt's Talents Land Her on TV



Miami, Fl. (April 25, 2013) Ella Wahlestedt, 14, who debuted as Caroline Hall in Season Seven of Lifetime network's "Army Wives" this March, may look like an angel, but she's got a totally bratty 'Tude down to a capital T.

"Caroline acts out and pushes her limits," Ella says. "She comes from a broken family and her mom is an alcoholic. She's filled with anger and takes it out on her stepmom ("The Vampire Diaries" vet, Torrey DeVitto), because she blames her for the divorce."

Fans of the show HATE Caroline, which, in fact, makes Ella very happy, because that means she's nailed her role.

From Army Wives fans on Facebook and Twitter:

- Ms. Caroline is going to cause some major trouble... NOT GOOD!!!
- Honestly, I think Caroline needs a reality check and a good donoza upside the head. Girl's mouth is too big for her britches.
- A typical teenager? I have a 12-year-old and she knows she'd better NEVER act like that.

In person, Ella couldn't be more different. Her parents, Lisa and Claes Wahlestedt (both in the medical profession), are together and supportive of their daughter all the way.

So, how come Ella knows so much about being a brat? The trick is you have to figure out your type and play it up, she says. "I get cast as the popular girl, the ditsy blonde and the mean girl," she says. "I like playing the mean girl. It's fun, sometimes, to be somebody totally different."

But, she's a typical teenager, too. "I've also had my frustrating and mad moments. I do believe that Caroline is going through a rough period in her life, and I empathize with her in that sense. We are all guilty of lashing out at one time or another."

Ella started out with modeling, commercials, musical theater and performing in Indies and student productions. She's made it to the covers of Justice and co-starred in an episode on "America's Most Wanted."

So, what's next? Acting and the on-set experience are rewarding, but Ella has made tough choices and often faces rejection, which has made her grow up, she says. Even so, she has lots to be happy about. In addition to her recurring part in "Army Wives," she will appear as Tina Honeycutt, girlfriend of Jeff Cargill, in an upcoming episode of AETV's "The Glades," and she landed a starring role, Emma, in a soon-to-be released Disney production, "Echo."

Ella, who lives in the Brickell neighborhood, is an eighth-grader studying through Laurel Springs School, an online college prep. Last year, she attended Ransom Everglades School but had to drop out because of all her traveling.

And what's next for her character, Caroline? That's another matter. As one fan said, "I can't wait to see what will happen between Caroline and her dad, Eddie (Tony Award winner, Burgess Jenkins)."