



post-intermediate

R A I N B O W S

Elizabeth Regina

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TUDORS'



Henry VII



Elizabeth of York



Margaret



James IV
of Scotland



Arthur



James V



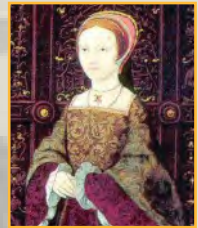
Marie de Guise



Mary Stuart



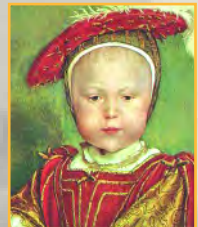
Henry Stuart,
Lord Darnley



Elizabeth I
(1533-1603)



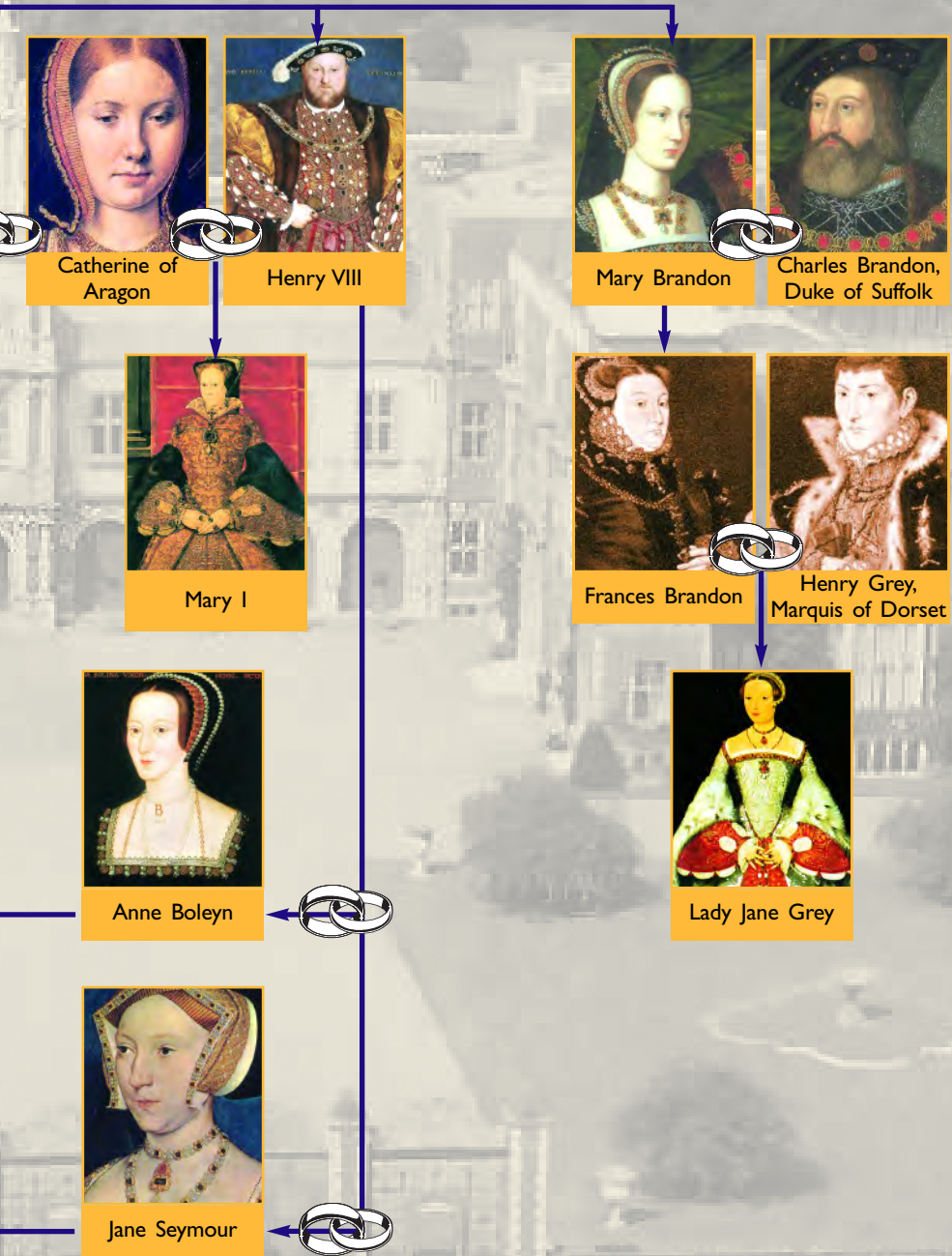
James VI of Scotland
(I of England)



Edward VI



GENEALOGICAL TREE





BEFORE READING

1 Test your Tudor knowledge. Referring to the Tudors' genealogical tree, fill in the sentences given below in jumbled order with the appropriate names of the family members.

- a. From his third wife,, Henry VIII has his long-awaited heir
- b. The heir to the throne,, marries but dies childless.
- c., Henry VIII's elder sister; marries James IV of Scotland.
- d. gives her husband twodaughters and two sons.
- e. is the founder of the family.
- f. After Elizabeth's death, of Scotland, Mary Stuart's son, becomes James I of England.
- g., Mary Duchess of Suffolk's granddaughter; becomes Queen of England for nine days.
- h. marries his brother Arthur's widow who gives him only a daughter;
- i., the daughter of and Mary of Guise, marries Francis II of France.
- j. Elizabeth is the daughter of 's second wife,
- k., Henry and Elizabeth's youngest child, marries Louis XII of France and then Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. They have a daughter;

2 Do you know the names of Elizabeth's stepmothers?

3 Guess who was said to have these 'anatomical' features. You'll check your guesses after reading the chapter.

- a 'wayward eye'
- an extra finger on her left hand
- a lion's heart

4 Tick what the Elizabethan Age reminds you of. You can choose more than one.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific discoveries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map making and navigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plague and famine | <input type="checkbox"/> Wars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious conflicts | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colonisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Prosperity |

Elizabeth Regina

The Lady Elizabeth

Chapter 1

The pale girl with reddish-gold hair, seated underneath an ancient oak tree¹, in the great park of Hatfield House, was eating an apple when she heard a galloping horse in the distance. She knew that the messenger was bringing long-awaited news.

The horseman, William Cecil, knelt² at Elizabeth's feet: "The Queen is dead. You are the rightful heir, by blood and lawful succession, to the crown. I pledge myself³ to serve you as my only Sovereign Lady and Queen!"

He then gave her the ring that had been removed from her half-sister Mary's finger and Elizabeth slipped it on her own.

It was a cold November day in 1558. Elizabeth was twenty-five years old and Queen of England. For the first time in her life, her destiny lay in her own hands. Elizabeth knelt on the ground and whispered in Latin what she was feeling: "This is the Lord's doing⁴, and it is marvellous in our eyes." Then, to Cecil, she added: "I may not be a lion, but I am a lion's cub⁵ and I have a lion's heart."

It was a moment of supreme triumph for the unwanted daughter who had spent her life in the shadow of the court, cast aside⁶ and forgotten.

In the green transparency of the gem on her finger, Elizabeth saw reflected the years of her difficult childhood and her troubled adolescence.



Sign under the oak tree planted by Elizabeth II on the spot of the original oak that Elizabeth I was sitting under when she was told she had become Queen
(Photograph by Lara E. Eakins).

1. *oak tree*: a type of hardwood.
2. *knelt* (kneel-knelt-knelt): went down on his knees.
3. *pledge myself*: make a solemn promise.

4. *the Lord's doing*: God's will.
5. *cub*: the young of certain wild animals.
6. *cast aside*: put away, ignored.

Birth of a Royal Girl

Three years after her birth in 1533, the child who would become England's greatest monarch was declared illegitimate. In that year too Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded⁷ by order of her husband. Among other crimes, Anne was accused of incest and adultery. Of course, Elizabeth was too young to be aware of her mother's strange trial and horrifying execution. She did not know that her father, Henry VIII, celebrated Anne's death with a series of wild⁸ parties. And she could not have reacted to the marriage that he contracted only ten days after the execution. Many years later, she would know of the serenity with which her mother met the executioner's sword. Perhaps she might have learnt what was written to one of her father's advisors: "I have seen many men and also women executed, and that they have been in great sorrow, and to my knowledge this lady has much joy in death."

7. *was beheaded*: her head was cut off.

8. *wild*: excited, enthusiastic.

Henry VIII
(H. Holbein,
c. 1536, detail).



The Lady Elizabeth

Since children in the sixteenth century were not viewed in the sentimental way that children usually are viewed today, it should not surprise us that Henry and Anne had little contact with their infant daughter. Both had other distractions or concerns⁹. Her father had a kingdom to manage. Her mother must have been aware of the difficulty involved in keeping her husband's favour, for¹⁰ Henry had a wayward¹¹ eye. To secure his dynastic ambitions, Henry desired a son, and he blamed the women with whom he was intimate for failing to give birth to males.

Almost immediately after her birth, Elizabeth's care was turned over to¹² the staff of one of the many palaces her father owned. Even during her infancy, her father and his advisors saw her as a tool to be used in the intrigues that governed relations among the royal families of Europe. When Elizabeth was seven months old, she was stripped¹³ and inspected by agents of the French King as the potential bride¹⁴ for his young son. Though the negotiations between the French and the English courts were intense, no marriage contract was made. The French were not willing to do as Henry had done – there would be no break with the Church of Rome and no support from France for the controversial marriage that had resulted in Elizabeth's birth and in Henry's excommunication by the Pope.

The marriage that had brought Elizabeth into the world was motivated by Henry's distaste for the woman to whom he had been married for twenty-four years. Among the reasons for his distaste was the fact that Catherine of Aragon had been unable to deliver him a son who survived. Though she had six pregnancies, only a daughter, Mary, survived. Henry demanded a son and, moreover, he fell in love with the young and lively Anne Boleyn. To remove the impediment to marrying Anne, Henry asked the Pope to declare his marriage to Catherine invalid. The request

9. *concern*: worry, anxiety.

10. *for*: because.

11. *wayward*: naughty (here, attracted to other women).

12. *turned over to*: delivered to the control of.

13. *stripped*: undressed.

14. *bride*: a woman who is about to get married.