

Textes activité 4

Edward VI ruled for just six years and his ambitious advisor, John Dudley, was determined to remain in power. To that end, he persuaded Edward to write his own will in 1552 as Edward's health was rapidly failing, urging him to leave the throne to his pious cousin, XXX According to parliament and Henry VIII's will, Mary was Edward's heir – but she was Catholic, in her late thirties, and never robust. Though just fifteen at the time, XXX was known for her Protestant piety and learning; it was this religious devotion which persuaded Edward to alter the succession.

XXXX spent little time with her lords during her nine days as queen. She sent an order to the Master of the Wardrobe for twenty yards of velvet, twenty-five ells of fine Holland linen cloth, thirty-three ells of coarser material for lining; she also collected the royal jewels. She made no explicit political statements; she was her father-in-law, Dudley's puppet. He was the one who met with the council, he was the one who wanted to capture Mary Tudor; he was the one tried to shore up their perilous situation.

When they fell from power, XXXX never protested or attempted another coup. On the 18th of July, most of her councilors had left the Tower on the pretext of visiting the French ambassador. In reality, they were planning a visit to the Imperial embassy. Once there, they assured Charles V's envoys that they had always been loyal to Mary; they had been kept prisoner by Dudley, forced to declare XXXX queen. But now they were free and determined to proclaim Mary queen of England. They did so around 5 o'clock in the evening, on Thursday, the 19th of July. London erupted into a joyous celebration.

XXXX was left alone in the Tower. Lady Throckmorton, one of her ladies-in-waiting, returned to the Tower for her duties but could not find her. She asked for the queen's whereabouts and was told that XXXX was now a prisoner, detained elsewhere in the Tower. XXXX was in the deputy lieutenant's house, awaiting her fate. The indignities began. Her belongings were sorted through, all her money confiscated; within the day, she was accused of stealing valuables from the royal wardrobe. Mary was riding to London, now accepted as queen. Dudley was arrested, his entire family was taken to the Tower; as they were marched through the streets, the crowd pelted them with filth and insults. Even the Imperial envoy called it 'dreadful' and 'a strange mutation.' For Dudley's fall from power had been rapid, extraordinarily so – the nine days' progress from ruler to traitor was a confusing mix of treachery, rumor, and disgrace.

While Mary prepared for her coronation, XXXX remained in the Tower. The Trial was held two months later. XXXX dressed soberly for the occasion, as befitted a proper young lady of the reformed church. She was clad all in black; she wore a black cloth gown, black cape trimmed with velvet, and a black French hood trimmed with velvet. At her girdle hung a prayer book also bound in black velvet. She held a book of prayers. The date of the execution was set for Friday 9 February 1554. Mary, who so hated executing her cousin, tried one last time to save her soul. She sent John Feckenham, dean of St Paul's, to XXXX. He was given a few days to sway XXXX to the Catholic faith. XXXX was polite. But she rebutted each of Feckenham's arguments with her own. After hours of argument, she remained Protestant. She watched by her window her husband as he was taken from Beauchamp Tower at 10 o'clock in the morning and led to the execution area on Tower Hill.

Mary did not execute XXXX because of their religious differences. Rather, she was motivated by political necessity and her own desire to marry and reinstate the Catholic church in England.

Edward VI was a devout Protestant and deeply pious, he could not leave the throne to his Catholic half-sister, Mary as he did not want Roman Catholicism restored in England. Urged on by his self-interested advisors, he removed Mary from the succession on the grounds of her illegitimacy (she was declared so by parliament in 1532.) But if he removed Mary, he also had to remove his other half-sister Elizabeth even though she was a Protestant; Elizabeth had also been declared a bastard by parliament in 1536. In his Device for the Succession, written in his own hand, Edward wrote that they were both "illegitimate and not lawfully begotten."

People realized there would be a succession crisis when XXX was quickly wed to Lord Dudley's son, Guildford whom she disliked and feared as most people did. But the duke convinced her easily because she was a devout and committed Protestant, and she didn't want Mary as queen any more than he did. XXXX was crowned queen of England in July 1553 and it was then that she realized the extent of Dudley's duplicity. He had manipulated Edward, knowing the devout Protestant king wanted the throne to go to his equally devout cousin; but, all along, Dudley simply wanted his own son crowned king. She ruled for just nine days, trapped and unhappy.

Mary Tudor claimed the throne with great popular support and immediately after her accession, she had XXXX imprisoned in the Tower of London. The former queen was well-treated but undoubtedly frightened. Her subsequent execution was a political necessity for Mary Tudor. Despite her youth, XXXX met her end with great dignity and courage. She wore the same black outfit she had worn at her trial. She carried her prayer book in her hands; she was escorted by Sir John Brydges, the lieutenant of the Tower. Her nurse, Mrs Ellen, and her attendant, Mrs Tylney, also accompanied her. They both cried but XXXX was calm and composed. She had, after all, watched her scaffold being erected near the White Tower; her rooms provided an excellent view of its construction. Since she was a princess of royal blood, her execution was private. Only a small crowd had been invited.

During the reign of her Protestant cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, XXXX was celebrated as a martyr to her faith and she remains one of the most famous queens of England.

Last seen alive in the autumn of 1483, the XXXX n have generally been presumed to have been murdered. But were they? Nobody really knows.. On the death of Edward IV (1442-1483), King of England, in April 1483, his brother Richard became Lord Protector of the realm. The king was survived by his two young sons.

Far from being a nice, avuncular figure to his nephews, Uncle Richard had the juveniles housed in the Tower of the London and it soon became apparent that Richard wanted the throne for himself. Richard had Edward dethroned as illegitimate and had himself crowned king on 26 June 1483.

the XXXX meanwhile were still in the Tower and before long rumours began to spread throughout England and then Europe that the youths were dead. Richard was undoubtedly ruthless – he had several opponents executed upon ascending the throne and was rumoured to have been involved in the deaths of Henry VI and his own brother George, who was executed by being drowned in a butt of wine – but would he have resorted to murdering his two young nephews?

A second theory is that Henry VII – the great progenitor of the Tudor royal dynasty and a talented king, nicknamed 'The Huckster King' for his shrewd handling of overseas trade deals, after his famous victory at Bosworth in 1485, was clearly determined that he and his descendants should possess the throne. Dispatching his enemies on the battlefield and with the executioner's axe was one thing, but was he capable of having two innocent children murdered in cold blood to secure power?

In 1674, builders at the Tower unearthed the skeletal remains of two people, 10ft below the foot of a staircase. These were declared to be the bones of the XXXX and were reinterred in Westminster Abbey a few years later, despite Tyrrell's confession to More that the bodies had been moved from there.

A controversial 1933 analysis of these remains was ultimately inconclusive, and the bones remain unidentified to this day.'

So, what if the boys were never murdered at all?

One leading theory maintains that Richard left the Tower and survived into adulthood but that Edward died of ill-health in custody. Others have contended that the XXXX were smuggled out and given new identities.

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Here we look at some of the main theories for what happened to XXXX . After the death of Edward IV in April 1483, the Duke of Buckingham, Henry Stafford (1455-1483), supported the Duke of Gloucester in his successful royal coup. By November King Richard had had him killed. He was attainted (executed and stripped of lands and titles) for his leading role in the failed 'Buckingham's Rebellion' of that autumn. What had made Henry jump ship? Perhaps Richard had in fact had the XXXX killed and Henry, finding out about the horrendous crime, turned against Richard?

Or perhaps, as some have hypothesised, it was actually Henry who had had the XXXX killed, unknown to Richard, and that Henry wanted the XXXX out of the way. But, if this is true, for whom did he do this? For himself? He did have a claim to the throne. Or did he act in support of another powerful figure, such as his aunt, Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of the future king Henry VII?

A contemporary Portuguese source says that the XXXX were in Buckingham's custody and that he was responsible for their deaths. If this is true, was he acting for or against Richard? Possibly both.

Some evidence suggests that Buckingham killed the XXXX in what he *thought* was an act favourable to Richard, but that this was the cause of their having fallen out. If Buckingham did in fact carry out the dreadful deed, it is thought highly unlikely by historians that he could have done so without Richard's knowledge.

Another theory is that Henry VII slew the XXXX. Henry VII (1457-1509) was the great progenitor of the Tudor royal dynasty and a talented king, nicknamed 'The Huckster King' for his shrewd handling of overseas trade deals.

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It has never been proven that the XXXX were murdered, or how they died and when, and their remains have never been conclusively located and identified.. It would certainly have been possible for one or both of the boys, had they somehow escaped the Tower, to live out their days in secret. Most of the public had probably never seen their faces, and as they grew up they would have been harder to recognise, especially in the provincial home of a sympathiser or even in the palace of a foreign ally. On the balance of probabilities, it seems that the evidence points to the man who's been the prime suspect all along: Richard III of England. DNA analysis of the remains at Westminster Abbey would undoubtedly tell us more, but permission to re-examine the contents of the urn has been consistently refused.

XXXX was the second wife of King [Henry VIII](#) — a scandalous marriage, given that he had been denied an annulment from his first wife by the Roman Church, and that his mistress was XXXX's sister, Mary. The king had fallen in love with XXXX as a young maid. What is known is that XXXX's sister, Mary, one of the king's mistresses, had introduced her to Henry VIII and that the king wrote love letters to her. In one of the king's letters, he wrote: "If you ... give yourself up, heart, body and soul to me ... I will take you for my only mistress, rejecting from thought and affection all others save yourself, to serve only you." XXXX replied with rejection, however, explaining that she aimed to be married and not be a mistress: "Your wife I cannot be, both in respect of mine own unworthiness, and also because you have a queen already. Your mistress I will not be."

XXXX's response surprised Henry VIII, who is believed to have had several mistresses at that time, reportedly entering into these adulterous relationships because he badly wanted a son, and Catherine of Aragon had not borne a male child. The couple's only child to survive infancy, Princess Mary, was born in 1516. But Henry was desperate to have XXXX so he quickly configured a way to officially abandon his marriage with Catherine. XXXX discovered that she was pregnant in early 1533. Without the blessing of the pope, on January 25, 1533, Henry and XXXX quickly married in a secret ceremony led by Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury. The following June, a lavish coronation ceremony was held in honor of the new queen. On September 7, 1533, Queen XXXX gave birth to a daughter, [Elizabeth I](#), who would be Henry VIII's only child with XXXX to survive infancy.

But if XXXX was less than prepared for her new role as queen, she was extremely unprepared for her new role as the king's wife. A year into their union, Henry VIII pursued and engaged in relationships with two of Anne's maids-of-honor, Madge Shelton and [Jane Seymour](#). Unlike Queen Catherine before her, who knew of her husband's infidelity but was able to turn the other cheek, XXXX was enraged by Henry's promiscuity and became increasingly jealous. Permeated by resentment and hostility, the marriage quickly fell apart.

After XXXX gave birth to a stillborn male child in January 1536, Henry VIII decided that it was time to take hold of his legacy. He quickly settled on taking Seymour as his future wife and sought out the annulment of his marriage to XXXX. He then had XXXX detained at the Tower of London on several false charges, among them adultery, incest and conspiracy. It is believed that Thomas Cromwell, Chief Minister to the King and Boleyn's former friend, plotted her downfall.

XXXX went to trial on May 15, 1536. In court, she remained levelheaded and articulate, calmly and clearly denying all of the charges against her. Four days later, on May 19, 1536, XXXX was unanimously convicted by a court of peers, and Henry's marriage to her was annulled and declared invalid. That same day, XXXX was taken to the Tower Green in London, England, for her execution, by a French swordsman. There, on the scaffolds, she delivered a speech. Her ermine mantle was removed and XXXX removed her headdress. She kneeled down and was blindfolded. With one swift motion, she was beheaded. Her head and body was buried in an unmarked grave. Within days of XXXX's execution, Henry VIII and [Jane Seymour](#) were formally wed. The daughter of Henry VIII and XXXX, Elizabeth I, would later emerge as one of England's most revered queens.

In 1527 Henry initiated secret proceedings to obtain an annulment from his wife, the aging Catherine of Aragon; his ultimate aim was to father a [legitimate](#) male heir to the throne. For six years Pope [Clement VII](#), under pressure from Henry's rival [Charles V](#), refused to grant the annulment, but all the while Henry's passion for XXXX was strengthening his determination to rid himself of his queen. About January 25, 1533, Henry and XXXX were secretly married. The union was made public on [Easter](#) of that year, and on May 23 Henry had the [archbishop of Canterbury](#), [Thomas Cranmer](#), pronounce the marriage to Catherine null and void. In September XXXX gave birth to a daughter, the future queen Elizabeth I.

XXXX's [arrogant](#) behaviour soon made her unpopular at court. Although Henry lost interest in her and began [liaisons](#) with other women, the birth of a son might have saved the marriage. XXXX had a [miscarriage](#) in 1534, and in January 1536 she gave birth to a stillborn male child. On May 2, 1536, Henry had her committed to the [Tower of London](#) on a charge of [adultery](#) with various men and even [incest](#) with her own brother. She was tried by a court of peers, unanimously convicted, and beheaded on May 19. On May 30 Henry married [Jane Seymour](#). That Anne was guilty as charged is unlikely; she was the apparent victim of a temporary court [faction](#) supported by [Thomas Cromwell](#).

She entered confinement for the birth of her first child on 26 August 1533. The child was born on 7 September 1533. The physicians and astrologers had been mistaken; it was not a prince. But the healthy baby girl called Elizabeth was not the disappointment most assumed, nor did she immediately cause her mother's downfall. The birth had been very easy and quick. 'There was good speed in the deliverance and bringing forth,' XXXX wrote to Lord Cobham that very day. The queen recovered quickly. Henry had every reason to believe that strong princes would follow. It was only when XXXX miscarried two sons that he began to question the validity of his second marriage.

As queen of England, XXXX was tried by her peers; the main charge was adultery, and this was an act of treason for a queen. No member of the nobility would help her; her craven uncle Norfolk pronounced the death sentence. She had prayed for exile, to end her days in a nunnery, but now faced a more tragic fate. She met it with bravery and wit. As a concession to her former position, she was not beheaded by a clumsy axe. A skilled swordsman was brought over from France. She was assured that there would be little pain; she replied, with typical spirit, 'I have heard that the executioner is very good. And I have a little neck.' She was brought to the scaffold at 8 o'clock in the morning on **19 May 1536**. It was a heretofore unknown spectacle, the first public execution of an English queen. XXXX, who had defended herself so ably at her trial, chose her last words carefully. She was blindfolded and knelt at the block. She repeated several times, '*To Jesus Christ I commend my soul; Lord Jesu receive my soul.*'

It was a sardonic message to the king. Even now he waited impatiently to hear the Tower cannon mark XXXX's death. He wished to marry XXXX's lady-in-waiting, Jane Seymour. They wed ten days after the execution.

XXXX XXXX was born in 1570 and though his father was a staunch Protestant, his mother married for a second time into a strongly Catholic family. He went to St Peter's School at York - like the Wright brothers - and later became a soldier, fighting for the Spanish against the Dutch. Although not a senior officer, he gained a reputation for his technical expertise and on behalf of some of the English Catholics he discussed with the Spanish an invasion of England.

XXXX had grown into a good looking man, tall and strong, with thick reddish-brown hair and beard, and an impressive moustache. His compatriots in Europe described him admiringly as: 'A man of great piety, of exemplary temperance, of mild and cheerful demeanour, an enemy of broils and disputes, a faithful friend, and remarkable for his punctual attendance upon religious observance.'

In 1604 he was recruited by Thomas Winter to join the Gunpowder conspiracy and came to London. Catesby initiated him and Thomas Percy into his plans in May. Once Percy had rented the house next to the House of Lords later that month, it was decided that XXXX would pretend to be Percy's servant, and live there. He adopted the false identity of John Johnson, and was closely involved in the business of digging a tunnel under the House of Lords and procuring gunpowder. Once the House of Lords basement was rented, the tunnel was abandoned. XXXX went abroad during the middle of 1605, but was back in London in late October to finalise the plan, and was ready on 4 November to carry it out.

When the basement was searched later that day XXXX was found looking after a large pile of firewood. His explanations were initially accepted. But suspicions were subsequently aroused and, in a second search later that evening, the gunpowder was found under the wood and XXXX was arrested.

XXXX XXXX was interrogated several times, but - to the admiration of members of the government, including the King - admitted almost nothing. The King authorised the use of torture on 6 November and XXXX's testimonies of 7, 8 and 9 November revealed much more information which the authorities used to begin to pick up some of the other conspirators.

XXXX was tried with the other surviving conspirators on 27 January 1606 and executed in Old Palace Yard, Westminster, on 31 January.

Everyone knows how XXXX was caught in the act, imprisoned and tortured at the Tower of London and that he and most of his fellow conspirators suffered a traitor's hideous death in Westminster.

XXXX was born in York in 1570, the son of Edward, a church lawyer and prominent Protestant in the city, and Edith, whose family included secret Catholics. To all outward appearances, the XXXX were a law-abiding Protestant family, until Edward XXXX died when XXXX was 8 years old. His mother remarried, this time to a Catholic, Dionysius Bainbridge. The young XXXX was drawn strongly to his stepfather's religion, and although he knew of the dangers, he converted to Catholicism. At the age of 21, the passionate young man set off to Europe to fight for Catholic Spain against Protestant Dutch reformers in the Eight Years War.

XXXX's future took a fateful turn when he met Englishman Thomas Wintour in Spain. Wintour was scouting around for allies to join a group of Catholic conspirators based in England, led by his cousin Robert Catesby. Devout XXXX was a perfect match, brave and skilful. The two men returned to England in 1604, where James I had acceded to the throne the previous year.

With the new reign, Catholics across the country had hoped for the end of the religious persecution they suffered for so long. After all, the King's mother - Mary, Queen of Scots - had been a devout Catholic. However they were soon disappointed; the Protestant James I wasn't a tolerant king. The conspirators, with XXXX now among them, decided on a drastic measure. Catesby's plan was to blow up Parliament during its State Opening on 5 November, when James I, the Queen and his heir would also be present, and would be killed.

The conspirators then hoped to crown the King's young daughter, Princess Elizabeth. The plan very nearly succeeded. It was only thanks to an anonymous letter to the authorities, received in late October, that the King, his family and his Protestant ministers were not all murdered. Royal guards searched The House of Lords at midnight and in the early hours of 5 November XXXX was discovered in the cellars, with a fuse, a small lamp, a box of matches and 36 poorly-hidden barrels of gunpowder.

XXXX was arrested and taken to the King. When asked what he was doing in the cellars, XXXX replied boldly: 'I wish to blow the Scottish King and all of his Scottish Lords back to Scotland.' He also expressed his regret at having failed. Although insulted, James I couldn't help but praise the traitor's 'Roman resolution'.

XXXX was brought to the Tower of London to be imprisoned and interrogated. Sir William Waad, Lieutenant of the Tower, led much of the interrogation in the Great Hall of the Queen's House, a 16th-century timber-framed building that overlooks Tower Green.

At the time, the monarch or Privy Council had to authorise any form of torture. James I himself wrote the royal warrant: 'If he will not other ways confesse, the gentler tortures are first to be used upon him, and then step by step you may employ the harsher, and so speede youre goode work.'

XXXX, who was already the most famous of all the plotters, was the last to go up the gallows. According to a contemporary account: 'Last of all came the great devil of all, XXXX, alias Johnson, who should have put fire to the powder. His body being weak with the torture and sickness he was scarce able to go up the ladder, yet with much ado, by the help of the hangman, went high enough to break his neck by the fall.' He made no speech, but with his crosses and idle ceremonies made his end upon the gallows and the block, to the great joy of all the beholders that the land was ended of so wicked a villainy.'



