



0. ENGAGED AT SIX YEARS OLD - Story Preface

1. ENGAGED AT SIX YEARS OLD

2. PALACE INTRIGUES

3. DISSENSION IN THE REALM

4. ELIZABETH I HELPS HER COUSIN

5. ENTRAPMENT

6. MARY IS CHARGED WITH TREASON

7. SHAM PROCEDURES

8. MARY IS BEHEADED

9. A GRUESOME DEATH

10. TOGETHER IN DEATH: FINAL IRONY

11. OTHER COOL LINKS

"Mary Queen of Scots' Farewell to France," created by Robert Herdman in 1867, is now maintained at the National Gallery in Edinburgh. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

When she was barely six years old, the young princess was engaged to Edward VI, the frail son of Henry VIII.

Had she married Edward, she would have been Queen Consort of England. Instead, Catholic forces inside Scotland, including Mary's mother, pushed for an engagement to the French heir, the dauphin Francis.

Henry VIII fought a war over the issue - called the "Rough Wooing" War. In the end, the French won that battle.

As a young girl, Mary went to France to be raised in the French court. When she was sixteen, she married Francis who was two years younger than she. When her young husband became King Francis II, Mary was also Queen Dauphine of France.

It was a happy time for her.

Happy times never lasted long in Mary Stuart's life. ("Stuart" was the French spelling of her name.) Within two years, the marriage was over. Francis II had died, and Mary was a widow at eighteen.

No longer useful to her French relations, Mary returned to Scotland. Her mother-in-law, the powerful Catherine di Medici, wanted the young queen out of France.

Mary returned to her homeland which, after twelve formative years in France, was unfamiliar to her. She settled into the royal palace of Holyroodhouse ("Holy Cross House") in Edinburgh.

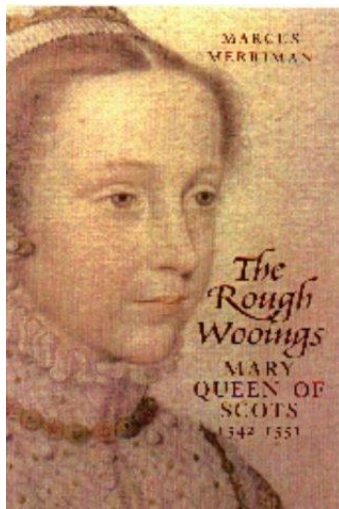
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ENGAGED-AT-SIX-YEARS-OLD-Regicide-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ENGAGED-AT-SIX-YEARS-OLD-Regicide-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>

Media Stream



Mary Stuart - Battle for a Bride

Book cover image online, courtesy Amazon.

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Mary, Queen of Scots at 16

Portrait by either François Clouet or Jacques Decourt, in 1558. Online, courtesy BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France).

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Francis II - First Husband of Mary, Queen of Scots

Portrait by François Clouet, in 1560, online courtesy BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France).

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Mary Stuart - Queen Dauphine of France

Portrait by François Clouet, in 1560, online courtesy BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France).

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Francis and Mary - The Dauphin and Dauphine of France

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Catherine di Medici

Portrait by François Clouet, in 1560, online courtesy BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France) via Wikimedia Commons.

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