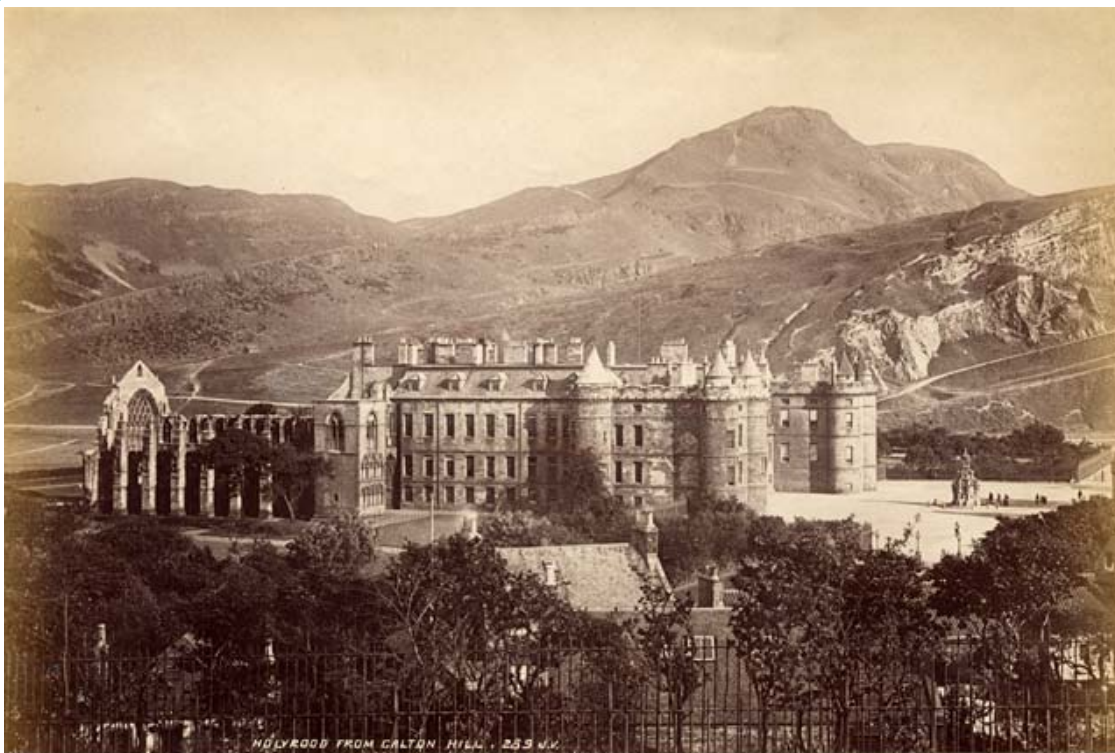


0. PALACE INTRIGUES - Story Preface
1. ENGAGED AT SIX YEARS OLD
- 2. PALACE INTRIGUES**
3. DISSENSION IN THE REALM
4. ELIZABETH I HELPS HER COUSIN
5. ENTRAPMENT
6. MARY IS CHARGED WITH TREASON
7. SHAM PROCEDURES
8. MARY IS BEHEADED
9. A GRUESOME DEATH
10. TOGETHER IN DEATH: FINAL IRONY
11. OTHER COOL LINKS



Home to palace intrigues, during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, Holyrood Palace is located in Edinburgh. In this image, we see the stately residence (which is still used by the royal family) from Carlton Hill. This image, by James Valentine, is from 1878 (or earlier). Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

By this time, Princess Elizabeth had become [Elizabeth I - The Virgin Queen](#). Although she was the daughter of Henry VIII, many people - including most Catholics - thought Elizabeth was not the rightful heir to the throne.

Worse ... as the daughter of the discredited, beheaded [Anne Boleyn](#), Elizabeth was thought to be illegitimate.

To strengthen her personal claim to the English throne, Mary decided to marry her cousin, [Lord Darnley](#) (Henry Stuart) who himself was an heir to the English throne. Mary and Darnley married (this is their [marriage certificate](#)), but the [strategic alliance](#) carried a high price. Darnley was no Francis. The marriage was unhappy.

Notwithstanding all of his own scheming and philandering, Darnley was a jealous husband. When he thought Mary was having an affair with her secretary, [David Rizzio](#), Darnley may have engineered Rizzio's murder.

Darnley and his compatriots stormed into [Mary's private quarters](#), at Holyroodhouse, and killed Rizzio in her presence. (The murder took place in the northwest tower.) Even though Mary was expecting Darnley's child, a son, the marriage was doomed from that point forward. Perhaps it had been doomed all along.

Darnley was ill with syphilis. He was murdered within two years. Many people pointed to Mary as the engineer of the plot to kill Darnley. Since her current lover - and later husband - James Hepburn, the 4th Earl of Bothwell, was accused of planning Darnley's death, circumstantial evidence against Mary initially seemed strong.

But as the investigation continued, there was no solid evidence against Mary, Queen of Scots. Not - that is - until someone found a small, silver casket containing letters ostensibly written by Mary. Those letters seemed to point a guilty finger in her direction.

Even though the letters were alleged to be forgeries, many people continued to believe the Queen had ordered Darnley's death. And ... even after a trial formally cleared Bothwell, most folks continued to believe he was the one behind Darnley's murder.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PALACE-INTRIGUES-Regicide-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PALACE-INTRIGUES-Regicide-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>

Media Stream



Elizabeth I - Queen of England

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Elizabeth-I-Queen-of-England>



Lord Darnley - Second Husband of Mary, Queen of Scots

Image online, courtesy National Galleries of Scotland via Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lord-Darnley-Second-Husband-of-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>



Marriage Certificate - Mary and Lord Darnley

Online, courtesy National Archives of Scotland.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marriage-Certificate-Mary-and-Lord-Darnley>



David Rizzio - Secretary to Mary, Queen of Scots

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

A [digital engraving](#), based on this work, is available for review at the New York Public Library's Digital Collection.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/David-Rizzio-Secretary-to-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>

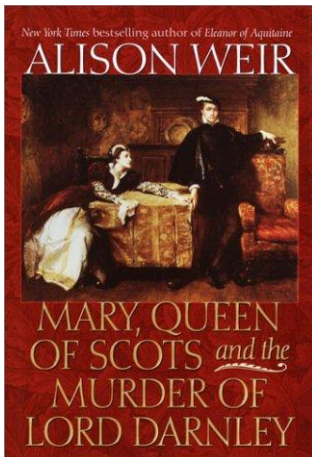


Mary's Private Living Quarters - Holyroodhouse

Photo online, courtesy Royal Monarchy web site.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mary-s-Private-Living-Quarters-Holyroodhouse>



The Death of Lord Darnley

Bookcover image online, courtesy publisher and Google Books.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Death-of-Lord-Darnley>



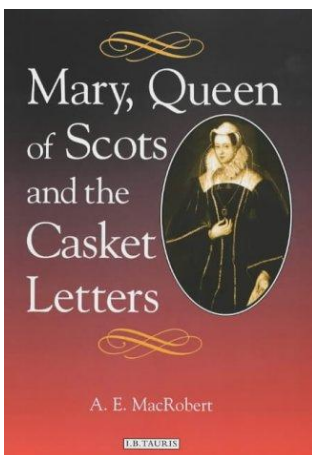
Gilded "Casket" - Held Letters Linked to Mary, Queen of Scots

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gilded-Casket-Held-Letters-Linked-to-Mary-Queen-of-Scots>



Mary, Queen of Scots and the Casket Letters - by A.E. MacRobert

Book-cover image online, courtesy publisher and Google Books.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mary-Queen-of-Scots-and-the-Casket-Letters-by-A.E.-MacRobert>