



0. Mary, Queen of Scots - Story Preface

1. ENGAGED, MARRIED and WIDOWED
2. DEATHS of RIZZIO and DARNLEY
3. BAD JUDGMENT and ABDICATION
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Image depicting official painting of Mary, Queen of Scots maintained by [Blairs Museum](#), Aberdeen, Scotland. Online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*I forgive you with all my heart,
for now, I hope,
you shall make an end
of all my troubles.*

Mary Stewart (as her name was spelled when she was born) was a royal baby. Her father, James V, was king of Scotland. Her mother, Mary of Guise, was a French princess who'd lived in the palace at Chateaudun.

Henry VIII, then king of England, and Margaret Tudor, Mary's great-grandmother, were brother and sister. That made Henry's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, and Mary, the Scottish Princess, second-cousins.

With such impressive ancestry, one might think that Mary would have a comfortable life. But consider these facts:

- At six-days old, her father died and the princess became Mary, Queen of Scots;
- At six-months old, the Treaty of Greenwich promised she would marry Prince Edward (son of Henry VIII) when Mary was ten (but the Treaty was rejected by Scotland's Parliament);
- At six-years old, she was engaged to marry the Dauphin of France;
- At sixteen, she was married to the Dauphin;
- At eighteen, she was a widow.

She was a girl, then a woman, who belonged to the country. As a child, she was more a political asset, good for developing relationships between countries, than a young girl who could grow-up with her own family. Her personal desires and preferences had to take second place.

Hers is a tragic story. Let's find-out why.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Mary-Queen-of-Scots2>

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Mary-Queen-of-Scots2>



Mary of Guise

Photograph, by E.P. Jones, of the portrait of Mary of Guise, Queen of James V of Scotland and mother of Mary, Queen of Scots, by Corneille de Lyon, c. 1537. Maintained by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. PG 1558.

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Palace at Chateaudun - Home to Mary of Guise

Vintage postcard depicting Chateaudun, France.

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James V and Mary of Guise - Parents of Mary Stewart

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Mary, Queen of Scots

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