

The Unraveling of the Misconceptions of a Vindictive Queen

There is a story that surrounds Elizabeth's birth, the tale goes that when she was born there was a massive thunderstorm. There is no evidence to suggest this story to be true and is widely believed as to be just a myth or an anecdote¹. Even though this story may or may not be true there is speculation of meaning behind this tale. The purpose for this story being told was to show what a formidable force the new princess already was². And to convey to all who were in opposition of her parents, King Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn, that the young princess was to be feared and loved for she was the one who will hold the most power in England³. Throughout her life Elizabeth had to engage in many wars, both on the battlefield and in her own castle walls, there is one war's outcome that is questioned and examined⁴ (Armada) The war between Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary of Scotland.

Queen Elizabeth was born September 7th, 1533. She was the second child of King Henry VIII but the only surviving child of Ann Boleyn⁵. She ascended England's throne November 17th, 1558 after the death of her older half-sister Queen Mary I⁶. Her birth did not bring her parents and the country the joy that they hoped for. Both of her parents were praying for a boy, one who would be King Henry's heir, the other problem being Henry already had a daughter, Mary I by his first wife, and had no need for another daughter⁷. Also, there was controversy with King Henry's divorce from his first wife Katherine of Aragon, in order to marry his second wife, Elizabeth's mother, Ann Boleyn. In order to achieve this Henry divided from the Catholic church and established his own in which he was the head of. Those who were opposed to Henry and this new church saw Elizabeth as illegitimate⁸. A word that would follow her the rest of her life. Although it took her twenty-five years Elizabeth was named Queen of Britain.

Across the way in Scotland, Elizabeth's first cousin once removed, Mary, became Queen only six days after she was born on December 8th, 1542⁹. Both Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary of Scots were both related to each other by blood. Their relationship seemed cordial with both Queens writing back and forth between each other¹⁰. "But while it ought to have brought them together, the fact that both rulers were female actually compounded the stress of their relationship. On the surface that relationship was normally civil and often even affectionate; underneath lurked Elizabeth's fear that Mary would challenge her throne, and Mary's resentment of Elizabeth's habit of interfering with her own authority" (Lewis,12). However, all this civility between these two queens came to a complete end with Mary abdicating the Scottish throne and going on the run ending up in England in order to ask her cousin Elizabeth for help. Elizabeth was hesitant to help Mary as she was paranoid of Mary's alterative motives¹¹.

¹ Anecdote

² Was

³ England

⁴ Mattingly, Garrett. "The Armada: 400th Anniversary Edition". Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

⁵ Abbott, Jacob. "Masters of History: Queen Elizabeth". Harper and Brothers. Philadelphia.

⁶ Anthony, Katherine. "Queen Elizabeth". MCM XXIX. New York.

⁷ Anthony, Katherine. "Queen Elizabeth". MCM XXIX. New York.

⁸ Abbott, Jacob. "Masters of History: Queen Elizabeth". Harper and Brothers. Philadelphia.

⁹ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹⁰ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹¹ Mattingly, Garrett. "The Armada: 400th Anniversary Edition". Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Elizabeth requested an investigation commence against Mary as soon as she escaped Scotland and landed in England and subsequently requested her cousins help. Mary abdicated the throne on July 24th, 1567 after retaliation and war broke out following the murder of her second husband Lord Darnley and her marriage to her third husband Earl Bothwell. This led to major contention in Scotland for a few reasons. Bothwell was suspected of being the person the murder of Darnley, possibly on Mary's orders however that is not confirmed, as well he was a protestant. The investigation supposedly uncovered several letters addressed from Mary to Bothwell.¹² The letters stated a conspiracy between Mary and Bothwell to murder Darnley in order for Mary to marry Bothwell. The investigators also came across love letters addressed to Bothwell that were from Mary admitting her love to Bothwell while she was still married to Darnley.¹³

During Mary's nineteen year stay in England Elizabeth was reluctant to help her cousin regain her Scottish throne. During this time Mary constantly wrote letters to Elizabeth pleading for help in getting her throne back along with asking to be Elizabeth's heir to England. Elizabeth's feelings centered around two feelings. She felt that, "Mary Stuart..... she feared and respected. Secretly, Elizabeth envied her Scotch cousin and in her heart she regarded Mary as her heir. This was a disloyalty to her father which she could never openly admit, a disloyalty to her mother who died a Lutheran, and a disloyalty to her own Protestant government. Yet with her strong dynastic feelings she could never get away from it. She was involved in the consequences of an inherited policy" (Anthony, 110). Even though her heart was telling her to trust Mary and name her Elizabeth's heir the circumstances surrounding Mary being in England could not be overlooked. Elizabeth became paranoid that her cousin was up to something and placed spies to keep an eye on Mary. These spies supposedly uncovered a plot to assassinate Elizabeth and put Mary on the throne of England.¹⁴ After these events, a trial, that took place on October 15, 1586 commenced.¹⁵ Elizabeth charged Mary with treason and after a fifteen-day trial against Mary she was found guilty of the charge and sentenced to death¹⁶. "For one monarch to order the execution of another was unprecedented" (Lewis, 2). She was executed on February 8th, 1587¹⁷.

The relationship between Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary of Scots was a turbulent one when both women were alive. Although the relationship was never a strong one there was never outright hatred between them. Elizabeth and Mary were related to each other by blood. Mary was the granddaughter of Henry's sister Margaret and although they were only second cousins once removed, they call each other sisters and friends in the letters between them. Elizabeth wrote to Mary personally after the death of her second husband Darnley, the letter stating, "My ears have been so astounded, my mind so disturbed and my heart so appalled at hearing report of the abominable murder of your late husband and my slaughtered cousin, that I can scarcely as yet summon the spirit to write about it. And as much as my

¹² Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹³ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹⁴ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹⁵ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹⁶ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

¹⁷ Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth. "The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots: A Brief History with Documents". Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston/ New York.

nature forces me to grieve for his death, so near to me in blood as he was, so it is that I must tell you boldly what I think about it, as I cannot hide the fact that I grieve more for you than for him. Oh madam! I should neither perform the office of a faithful cousin nor an affectionate friend if I studied more to please your ears than to preserve your honor. Therefore I will not conceal from you that people for the most part are saying that you will look through your fingers at this deed instead of avenging it, and that you don't care to take action against those who have done you this pleasure... I exhort you, I counsel you, and I beg you to take this thing so far to heart that you will not fear to touch even him whom you have nearest to you if he was involved..." (Guy, 299).

On Mary's side of the friendship she named Elizabeth her son's godmother at his christening¹⁸. And there was even a brief moment in history where Mary insisted that Elizabeth name her heir of the English throne, and for a brief moment Elizabeth considered. However, Elizabeth would not name Mary her heir and there were numerous reasons why Elizabeth wouldn't. For one reason Mary wasn't English, she was seen and viewed as French and thus an outsider. Second, she was a Catholic and as England was now under protestant rule it would remain in protestant rule. For another reason Mary was seen as coquettish. She had had three husbands in her lifetime and would be open about where a wife stood in connection with her husband. This was the exact opposite of the belief that Elizabeth had in connection with marrying. As she famously swore, "I will have one mistress here, and no master! No man shall rule over me" ((Levine, Heart.65). However, her council members and other members at court never relented in trying to persuade their Queen to marry. Bringer her to defend her decision multiple time, one time making the remark "I would rather be a beggar and single than a Queen and Married" (Levine, Heart. 45). The last reason being Mary's family, the Guises, ambition for the throne and willingness to do anything to get the English throne. Nevertheless, knowing this closeness and friendliness of this relationship must have been one of the reasons that Elizabeth must have hesitated to execute a family member and a friend. Still, the crime of treason is not one to be taken lightly.

Mary was found guilty of treason by Elizabeth's commissioners on October 25th, 1586. Elizabeth proclaimed to her country in the month of December that Mary was found guilty of the crime of treason. (Trials) However, it wasn't until February 1st that Elizabeth officially signed Mary's death warrant condemning her to be executed by beheading¹⁹. (Trial) This hesitation for Elizabeth to sign her name to the official proclamation to execute Mary is a noticeable one. There were many internal and external forces that drove Elizabeth to make this hard decision to execute her cousin and friend Queen Mary of Scots. There are three main factors that Elizabeth must have thought about in this decision-making process. One is her family history of executing other family member²⁰. The second factor being the Protestant and the Catholic churches positions of this delicate matter. The last factor is the overall paranoia Elizabeth possessed as she believed that Mary was using spies to watch her and was involved in a secret plot to depose of Elizabeth so that she could rule England on Elizabeth's throne²¹. The choice that Elizabeth made to execute Mary was not a light one. Elizabeth had to think long and hard about taking another Queen's life and the consequences that came with this. Such as would people have seen her actions and compared her to her father. What would her mother have thought about her executing a family member she once called a sister? Would Mary's son James retaliate against her and wage a war against her kingdom? But at the end of the day the decree to execute Mary was signed and was acted upon leaving the question; did Queen Elizabeth have any guilt toward her decision to execute Queen

¹⁸ Abbott, Jacob. "Masters of History: Queen Elizabeth". Harper and Brothers. Philadelphia.

¹⁹ Anthony, Katherine. "Queen Elizabeth". MCM XXIX. New York.

²⁰ Member

²¹ Anthony, Katherine. "Queen Elizabeth". MCM XXIX. New York.

Mary of Scots when everything was said and done. It is very possible she felt guilt for her decree. One piece of evidence to support this being that as soon as she signed the death warrant for Mary she did not send it to her privy council for them to carry out the order, a second piece of evidence being that she spent months in mourning for the loss of Mary. The last piece of evidence being that she named Queen Mary's son James her heir and successor to the throne of England²².

In Elizabeth's family history, executing a family member was not a foreign concept to the Queen. Elizabeth's own mother being executed by Elizabeth's father when she was only three years old. There was also the execution of another cousin named Lady Jane Gray, she was the granddaughter of Henry VIII's younger sister. Jane Gray was executed on the order Elizabeth's older half-sister Mary I. Meaning Jane and Mary I were also cousins and were possibly a foreshadowing event for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, another cousin, on the orders of Elizabeth. "Then too, to many of Mary's English contemporaries, her trial would have looked unusually generous, for it did accord the queen a measure of public justice, at least on the surface. In both England and the continental Europe, simple regicide was far more common than due process of law: Indeed, three months before Mary's trial at Fotheringay, the Prince of Orange had been murdered by Roman Catholic assassins, and three years after it, Mary's own brother-in-law, Henri III of France, would have met a similarly violent fate. In England two kings (Richard II and Edward II) had been put to death without any sort of legal investigation of their alleged crimes" (Lewis, 22). The idea of Kings and Queens committing regicide was not new, however, Elizabeth having such a close and personal history with her family members getting executed would have given the Queen pause to contemplate her own actions.

With all this fighting about who would be next in line following him and hoping to avoid any unnecessary executions Henry came up with a plan to sign into law a document that would help soothe the transition of power. Before Elizabeth's father's death he signed into law a document titled The Act of Succession. This document stated that both his daughters Mary I and Elizabeth could now inherit the throne, though they were still seen as illegitimate under the court of law, they now had a chance to rule but only if there was no heir to the throne. However, there was a line to that succession. The heir to the throne after Henry's passing was given to his only living son Edward VI. Next was to be Mary I and then Elizabeth followed by Lady Jane Gray. When Edward was on his deathbed at only fifteen years old, he named his cousin Lady Jane Gray as his successor and heir. Bypassing both of his half-sisters for the throne. This outraged Mary as she was supposed to be next in line. The reason Edward did not name Mary as his heir was due to the fact that she was Catholic, since Edward was protestant like his father and mother, he did not want the throne to go to her. Another reason why Edward did not name Mary his heir or Elizabeth was because they were both still seen as illegitimate and therefore in his and the court's mind unable to inherit the throne. Since Jane Gray was a protestant and was the granddaughter of Henry's younger sister, she was seen as a legitimate choice in heir. Edward was also more inclined to pick Jane as both were quite close friends this was due to the fact that both were around the same age as well had similar interest to one another. Edward died in July 6th, 1553. Leaving Jane as England's new queen at fifteen years old. However, her reign as queen would only last a total of nine days.

Mary I was angered at her younger half-brother's decision to name Lady Jane Gray queen upon his passing. She gathered men that were loyal to her and forcible took the crown from Jane. She established herself as queen on October 1st, 1553. Afraid that Jane would retaliate and seize the throne back from Mary, she made a deal with the former queen. Jane was to stay in the Tower of London however she was permitted to still live her life of luxury. She had multiple rooms, was able to continue education, and even

²² Anthony, Katherine. "Queen Elizabeth". MCM XXIX. New York.

was given ladies maids to assist her, So long as she promised to not incite any revolts against the new queen and pledge her allegiance to her Jane would keep her head. However all this came to an end in 1554 when Jane's father, Henry Gray, lead an unsuccessful plot to assassinate Mary and put his daughter back on the throne, In retaliation Mary charged Henry, his co-conspirators, and Jane with treason and sentenced them to death. Jane was executed on orders of her cousin Mary I by beheading on February 12th, 1554. Much like Mary Queen of Scots only thirty-three years later by her cousin Elizabeth.

Another execution of a queen that really impacted Elizabeth was her mother. Anne Boleyn was executed on May 19th, 1536 and the alleged crimes committed were that of incest, witchcraft, adultery, and treason. "Elizabeth was thus bound to grow up under the shadow of her mother's sullied name, barley acknowledged by a father whose attention soon centered on the one son he managed to produce with his third wife Jane Seymore" (Lewis, 3). Although Elizabeth could never acknowledge her mother in public she did so in private. In her royal portrait as a teenager Elizabeth wore her mother's famous A necklace. When Elizabeth became queen, she invited all her mother's family members back to court and even gave them the highest titles she could. She also commissioned for a ring to be made having Anne Boleyn's photo on one side and her own photo on the other in remembrance. Which once received she never removed it. Elizabeth was Anne Boleyn's only child, "Anne Boleyn aspired passionately to be Queen of England, and through some hereditary channel she transmitted her aspiration to Elizabeth, the daughter who so magnificently fulfilled it. Elizabeth retained her mother's badge as Princess and used it as Queen- a slight but eloquent tribute in the midst of her silence" (Anthony, 252). But because Elizabeth was a girl and Anne was unable to give birth to a son, her husband Henry VIII grew furious at Anne for unable to give him a son as he so wished. Henry soon grew bored with his new wife and turned his attentions to another lady named Jane Seymour, who would eventually been the only on to give him a son, Edward VI. But before that event occurred Henry would first have to get rid of Anne. As he did with Catherine, Henry tried to divorce Anne however this time he was unsuccessful. Instead of a divorce Henry locked Anne in the Tower of London and tried her under the court of law. She was found guilty in a rushed and biased trial and sentenced to die. Henry annulled his marriage to her and deemed Elizabeth illegitimate. She was cast aside as Mary I had been in the same way. Although she wasn't allowed to talk about her mother in fear of Henry's wrath, she would always remain loyal to her mother's memory. Still, Elizabeth was loyal to her father to an unfailing degree.

Elizabeth's relationship with her father has been a turbulent one. When she was young her father sent her away. She wasn't permitted to be at her father's castle until she was a teenager. And although they had distancing between them, he made sure she had the best lessons and the best teachers. Elizabeth's education could be compared to those had she been born a male. When she was finally permitted to be by her father's side, he still seemed distant preferring his current wife and his son. However, Elizabeth respected him as a king first and a father Henry still seemed to dote on Elizabeth, even bringing her to his meetings, however this could be due to the fact that Elizabeth looked like him more than any other of his children did and was a note of pride for him. Henry, so much like Elizabeth was not supposed to rule over England. Henry was second in line for the throne, his older brother Arthur had been their fathers' heir. However, when Arthur died Henry was named heir. Henry and Elizabeth seemed to have a lot in common, they both had an argumentative personality, were seen as sociable, had endless amounts of charm, were gracious and were prideful. Another thing shared between them was their faith. As both Henry and Elizabeth were both Protestant, Henry made sure that Elizabeth's education centered around Protestant thoughts, ideas and the beliefs. When Elizabeth sentenced Mary Queen of Scots to her death, her family history of executing one another must have played in the back of the queen's mind, another being religion and whether her religion and personal beliefs would allow her to do this.

As there were major religious tensions between the Catholics, which Mary was devoted to, and the Protestants, which Elizabeth was devoted to. Both religions wanted a claim to the English throne. Each Religion having a stake in the war that was brewing between Mary and Elizabeth. The Catholics naturally wanted Mary on the throne as they saw Elizabeth as illegitimate, as the Church never recognized the marriage between Henry and Anne, and therefore unfit for the crown. They heavily tried to persuade Mary, Queen of Scots to come forward when Mary I was on her deathbed and claim the throne of England. However, she refused claiming that she did not want to go to war with Elizabeth. Still that wouldn't stop her from trying to be like her famous cousin. "Mary's one great error was in styling herself Queen of England at the outset of Elizabeth's reign. She could never redeem this fatal step, even if she had cared to, which she never did. Taken at the instigation of her father-in-law, the King of France, it nevertheless corresponded to her own convictions" (Anthony,113). The Protestant Church were desperate to have Elizabeth on the throne, after Mary I's Catholic reign the church felt it was their rightful time to take the throne back. Just like Henry VIII had originally intended. When the time came to make a decision about executing Mary both churches came forward having their own say in the matter, just as they did when the talk about succession came about when Mary I was on her deathbed. The Catholic church begged Elizabeth to spare Mary's life. Pope Pius V, even got involved taking part in a plan to rescue Mary from her imprisonment under Elizabeth. The Protestant church on the other hand called for the death of Mary. They feared what Mary would do during her rule to the protestant people on England. As well as the threat of Mary looming over their heads was enough to terrify them and wanting to get the whole execution over with. On the same lines as religion Elizabeth had her own personal faith to consider. She believed in divine right, which is the belief that only God could appoint kings and queens to thrones. And as both Elizabeth and Mary were Queens in their own respective right, what rights did Elizabeth believe she possessed to go against God and execute another Queen that was also ordained by God, just like her. Along with this thought who was she to take another person's life. She had been held in the tower of London and at one time was close to getting executed by her older half-sister Mary I. All of this made her extremely hesitant and even paranoid during her entire reign.

Along with thinking about her family's history, her own religion and faith, Elizabeth had one last thought before giving the order that Mary, Queen of Scots was to die. That was her personal feeling toward the situation. She had her own personal fears to think about. Elizabeth was hesitant to immediately sentence a cousin to death, "And as it happened, immediate judgment was delayed -not because of anything the defendant was able to say or do, but rather because Elizabeth called the commissioners back to London before they could announce their verdict. In any case, it was Elizabeth who had finally to decide what Mary's punishment should be. That meant, ironically enough, that it was the very queen supposedly in danger who kept it possible that anything at all might have happened next" (Lewis, 30). Elizabeth was also paranoid. She was hesitant to give the order for a couple of reasons. The first being, asking herself if this was something she had to do. And for nineteen years Elizabeth managed to convince herself the execution of Mary didn't need to happen. This ended when it was revealed that Mary was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate her and take her throne. Mary then became more of a liability if she was kept alive. And a dangerous one that was not to be trusted. However, this is something Elizabeth suspected all along. Elizabeth was paranoid when it came to her cousin. Elizabeth was a paranoid person to begin with, she was a queen, however her paranoia was justified as Mary had power and supporters. She was a Catholic Queen ruling over two different countries for a time as well as she had support from the Catholic church. Elizabeth suspected that Mary had spies hidden in her castle reporting to Mary Elizabeth's every move. She also had James, Mary's son to think about. If Elizabeth executed Mary, would James seek revenge for his mother. Could Elizabeth fight a war with both Scotland and Spain? Elizabeth hated war and never engaged in it unless she absolutely had to. Furthermore, she was planning on making James her heir, would he except the title of a kingdom that executed his mother, and if he declines the throne

who then would rule when Elizabeth is dead? All these questions swarmed Elizabeth's head as she contemplated her options. And lastly could she execute a person, when she herself knows exactly what the feeling is of being so close to being put to death. When Elizabeth's older half-sister came to the throne there was an assassination attempt against the queen. Mary and her council suspected Elizabeth being behind the plot as she was next in line for the throne. Elizabeth was then questioned and held in the Tower of London where her own mother had once been held years before her demise. Elizabeth was only welcomed back at court over a year later. This was because there was suspicion that Mary was pregnant, if she and her child were to die in childbirth then Elizabeth would inherit the throne. However, this was not the case as Mary was never pregnant to begin with. Elizabeth's succession to the throne after Mary seemed an absolute, and so Elizabeth stayed at court and made an impression. Coming close to her own execution for the crime of treason was one that Elizabeth knew very well. And so, with her opinion the history of her family, her church and her own faith all weighing over her in her decision to execute Mary, Queen of Scots she had a hard choice to make. Finally concluding that Mary had to die and so picked up a pen and signed Mary's death warrant condemning her to death.

After Elizabeth weighed the pros and cons in her decision to execute Mary Queen of Scots, she concluded that Mary was better off dead than alive. After Mary's execution it is worth looking into how Elizabeth reacted right before and after Mary's execution. There is evidence to suggest that Elizabeth felt immense guilt when Mary's execution was over. There is also evidence to suggest there was immediate regret as soon as Elizabeth signed Mary's death warrant. The evidence that is there are, for one, after Elizabeth signed Mary's death warrant, she didn't immediately give the paper to her council to act upon. Instead she waited. Another piece of evidence is her months of mourning after the execution was taken place. The last piece of evidence is that she names James, Mary's son as her heir. Unfortunately, Elizabeth never outright told anyone her feelings, she couldn't she was the queen living in a man's world. She could show no weakness. Instead what we do see if possible, indications that would point to the feelings of regret for her actions.

After Mary, Queen of Scots was formally found guilty of treason for her role in attempting to assassinate her cousin Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth should have immediately signed Mary's death warrant at which point Elizabeth's advisors would have prepared her for execution in the following days. However, Elizabeth waited from October, when Mary was found guilty, to February to sign the warrant of execution. A warrant of execution was the final document needed for a monarch to condemn a person for death. Her hesitation to sign Mary's death warrant wasn't the only time she hesitated. After signing she gave the document to her new secretary with instructions to not give it to her council without her permission first. These two hesitations can be looked at and studied as acts of guilt and remorse. At other times before and after Mary's trial, whenever Elizabeth had to sign a death warrant of a person committed of treason she didn't hesitate, she signed the document the same day as the person was found guilty in front of her council. So why was it that with all the other times that a person was sentenced to death Queen Elizabeth signed their death warrant immediately but hesitated when it came to Mary. There is some logic to assume that Elizabeth was already feeling extreme amount of guilt during and after Mary's trial. We can examine Elizabeth's guilt further by her actions after she got the news that Mary was executed. When she locked herself in her room and mourned for her cousin's loss of life.

Answer Question (Mourning)

Answer Question (James)

Conclusion

Google Quotes I found:

James: During the [Spanish Armada](#) crisis of 1588, he assured Elizabeth of his support as "your natural son and compatriot of your country (Croft, 23)

Queen Elizabeth Anthony

Mourning 237; "Immersed in her lonely chamber, with the initials of Anne Boleyn and King Henry staring spectrally, what must her thoughts have been! What memories must have trooped through her agonized brain? What reveries? What ghosts from the past must have risen up to torture her? Horrible visions of the scaffold where her mother.....had been struck down like dumb brutes in the prime of life and hopefulness must have haunted her days and nights. Doubts more horrible than ghosts must have stalked her solitude".

James 128: Mary Stuart had borne a son. The succession question pressed Elizabeth now as never before. The Queen of Scots, as a catholic, loomed more threateningly than ever. There was no idea that her offspring and Darnley's would be anything but a future reinforcement of Mary's dynastic claim".

Mention:

James and Jane were friends

Henry, just like Elizabeth, was never supposed to be on the throne.