Courageous Queen or Bloody Mary?

By: Jane Buchanan

As Retold by: Brenna R.

Mary Tudor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1516</td>
<td>Mary Tudor was born at Greenwich Palace.</td>
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<td>1553</td>
<td>Mary becomes queen.</td>
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<td>1554</td>
<td>Mary marries Prince Philip of Spain at Winchester Cathedral.</td>
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<td>1555</td>
<td>The first Protestant is burned at the stake.</td>
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<td>1558</td>
<td>Dies of fever and seizures in England.</td>
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All Protestants were being forced to prison. They burned at the stake under the rule of Mary Tudor starting in the year of 1555. She would be remembered as “Bloody Mary.”

I think Mary does deserve to be in the Wicked History series. She picked one type of Christians called Protestants, even though she was Catholic. Mary continued the burning Protestants month after month for three years straight.
It is a trial of fire where Protestants were being burned at the stake. Mary ordered many of these to be done.

I think Mary does deserve to be in the Wicked History books. I think this because she murdered people because they were Protestant. Mary was Catholic and those are both denominations of Christianity!
**Question:** When you were born your father was disappointed because you were a girl. How did you deal with that?

**Answer:** Well, at first I thought my father loved me. As a baby he showered me with jewels and I had lots of Ladies in Waiting. However, he thought of me as someone to give away, he sold me to Prince Francis of France. I was two-years-old and he was one!
Question: You had the education of a princess. Can you tell me about that?

Answer: I thought my education was okay. I was taught by a Spanish scholar named Juan Luis Vives. He even wrote a book just for me called *The Education of a Christian Woman*. Spanish, Greek, French, and Latin are the languages I can speak. Latin was required for a Catholic to learn so, I can read the Bible. The joy of my life was music. My favorite instrument is the lute, a guitar-like instrument. I can also play the virginal, a type of tiny piano.
Question: There was a revolt and you got a new fiancé, how did this happen?

Answer: First of all, the revolt started with a German monk named Martin Luther. He posted his Ninety-Five Theses on a Cathedral door! That monk attached the Catholic Church, the church I love. This Reformation broke my engagement to Prince Francis of France. My father and Charles V started a war against France for my had in marriage which was broken a few years later, because Charles could not wait for me to grow up.
Question: Divorce happened in your family and then your family crumbled—tell me about that.

Answer: During this time I was learning to be a princess. I was living away from my mother. When I came back to Greenwich Palace I was shocked. My parents’ marriage was tearing apart and my chance of becoming queen. My father wanted a divorce, but the Catholic Church would not grant him one. So, my father went berserk and made the Church of England separate from the Church of Rome. He made himself Supreme Head of the Church of England. After that my father divorced and married Anne Boleyn and it was said she was pregnant. I was no longer princess.
Question: I have heard Queen Anne was a wicked stepmother. How was she evil?

Answer: I hated that woman. She convinced my father to take away my jewels and finest clothing. That Anne only loved my father and her daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth took away my title of princess. I never gave up that title, my father still loved me. This make Anne furious. Whenever I insisted on being called princess I was slapped! Then my father passed a law called the Act of Succession. This law declared me illegitimate. I was terrified, anyone who refused to take this oath was executed. Charles V would not help me. I wondered: Was I next?
Answer: I was crushed when my mother died. Also, I refused to attend the funeral; it was not fit for a queen. Soon after on May 19, 1536 Anne Boleyn was beheaded for having affairs. Just 11 days later my father got remarried to Jane Seymour. I was forced to sign that Act of Succession, I did it for England. I liked Jane she was kind and when my father came to see me with her it left good feelings all around. October 12, 1537 she gave birth to Edward. However, Jane got ill and she died when Edward was 12 days old. I was chief mourner.
Question: When you were at court during your father’s last years of his life, what happened?

Answer: When my father finally made me his heir, I was content. I loved Edward and I even felt warmly toward Elizabeth. I could still be a Catholic, and I played the virginal and the lute. I hunted, rode horses, and practiced archery. My father Henry VIII however, hated the Pope. He sold Catholic monasteries, monks, and nuns were forced to work for the Church of England. My father got married three more times before his death. Anne of Cleves didn’t last long, Catherine Howard was beheaded, and then there was Catherine Parr, who I was fond of. Then my father’s health was failing, he declared Edward the next heir to the throne, then me, and lastly Elizabeth.
Question: Edward was the new king and you did not like the way he ruled, why?

Answer: My father died in January 1547. I was free until, Edward’s councilors were beginning to wipe out Catholic tradition! I would not put up with this. I wrote a letter of protest, the answer I got said that they were continuing the work my father started. They said I could worship any way I liked as long as I did it quietly. I did so until, the Act of Uniformity was passed. This forbade priests from celebrating Catholic Mass. They were to read from a book called *The Book of Common Prayer*. I held Mass in a chapel. I was in danger, my cousin Charles V had told the councilors that I don’t have to change my religion. I could have left England, but I did not; I was too scared to leave.
Question: There then was a bloodless revolution, were you excited that you could be queen at last?

Answer: I was, but Edward tried to change that. He told me to become a Protestant, I refused. He was 13 and talked to me like I was a child. Northumberland (the head of the council who was coming after me) and Edward wanted Lady Jane Grey, my father’s grandniece would become queen because Edward VI had been ill on and off. July 6, 1533 Edward died and I gathered troops 30,000 of them. Northumberland realized I would win so, he backed down. I was queen.
Question: When you were queen at last, how did your reign begin?

Answer: I wanted to bring the Catholic Church back right away, but an ambassador of Charles V cautioned me not to, it could spark a revolt. I was nervous at first, because I had never participated in council meetings or looked at state papers, suddenly I was making all the decisions. First, I dealt with Northumberland and 2 of his supporters on trial. They were convicted and executed in August 1533. I then placed Lady Jane Grey in the Tower with her husband. After that I freed all the Catholics that were put in jail. Elizabeth would not attend Mass, fore she had been raised a Protestant, she wanted to learn, but lost the interest.
Question: You had a mission, what was that mission?

Answer: My mission was to bring England back to the Catholic Church, and to find a husband. I was nearly toothless, and had stomach problems, I was 37. Then I asked Charles for advice, he advised me to marry his son Philip. Philip was 26 and not as wise as his father, but he was Catholic. I prayed and prayed to God, and I decided I would marry Prince Philip. After that, I got what I wanted from Parliament, they passed laws bringing England back to the Catholic Church. Lastly, on January 18, 1554 my engagement to Philip was announced, the reaction was swift and angry.
Question: When you got engaged to Prince Philip the people rebel and plot to throw you, what was that like?

Answer: It was terrible. The plot was led by a knight named Thomas Wyatt. They wanted to overthrow me and put Elizabeth on the throne. The rebellion would be on March 18, 1554. Wyatt had 3,000 men, they had started toward London. I set up troops, but they foolishly joined Wyatt. I then gathered a crowd to fight Wyatt, they met at Kingston Bridge. Wyatt’s army surrendered and 500 of his men were arrested for treason. I had Wyatt beheaded and 150 of his men hung. Jane Grey and her husband were also executed, Elizabeth was put in the Tower. Now I waited for Philip.
Question: You meet your fiancé and you marry him, what happens at this time?

Answer: Well, Parliament decided that I should have the same amount of power as the king and my property would pass directly to my heir, not to my husband. However, Parliament would not let me burn Protestants at the stake, I shouted at all of my council. As Philip’s arrival approached it appeared Elizabeth knew nothing about Wyatt’s Rebellion and I released her. Even though I had constant headaches, and stomach problems I was very happy because my husband had arrived. On July 25 we got married at Winchester Cathedral. Philip did really love me. In September I was pregnant. I was nauseated and my belly was swelling.
Question: When there was a lot at stake and you went after your enemies, what happened?

Answer: Well, I finally got Parliament to ban *The Book of Common Prayer*, Protestants would not be allowed to preach, and priests would not be allowed to marry. Anyone who printed Protestant writings would lose their presses. Also, my favorite, anyone breaking these laws would be burned at the stake. Protestants instantly fled England. Others stayed in protest. A Catholic Church was burned while people were listening to Mass. John Rogers, a Protestant priest was the first burned at the stake. John Hooper burned slowly and painfully on February 9, 1555.
Question: When more Protestants were burned alive, did you have a baby?

Answer: Sadly, no I did not have a baby. I waited and waited, but nothing came. I kept burning more and more Protestants. I thought God wanted me to burn them all. Then the crops failed. Cattle and sheep were dying. Soon people would be dying. I had to work harder to get rid of all the Protestants.
Question: When Philip left England what did you do?  
Answer: I wept. More and more Protestants were burned. In 1556 a new plot formed against me. They thought the French king would help them. Then the plot failed when the King of France refused to fund it. Charles had made Philip King of Spain. Philip had made a treaty with France. Over spring and early summer 66 Protestants were killed. In fall the truce fell apart. Philip needed troops and I would send him some.
Question: When war happen, who did you lose?
Answer: I lost England’s last city in France, Calais. Also, I thought I was pregnant again, but I wasn’t. Then I figured Calais was lost because the governor was Protestant. I begged Philip not to be angry with me. I made sure when he came back I would be ready.
Question: When you the queen died, how did you die?
Answer: I had grown sick with fever and seizures. I recovered for short periods. I grew weaker and weaker. Philip could not be there for me. On October 28 I changed my will, Elizabeth would take the throne. In November my life was closing. Then on November 17 I woke for Mass I felt way better and as the priest was performing the ceremony I closed my eyes and died.
Phantom Child

Childbirth was a dangerous business in the 1500’s. One in ten women died in childbirth. Doctors weren’t a help, they knew very little. Mary probably had a kind of illness in her reproductive organs, so no child for Mary.
Reason #1: She burned of 300 people for Protestant beliefs. She was called “Bloody Mary.”

Reason #2: Mary locked up her half-sister in a tower for months. Mary’s sister was frightened in the Tower.

Reason #3: In the end Mary thought God approved of the executions. She left 300 families to mourn over someone they loved.