

Henry VIII

King of England



Playscript

Henry VIII

Cast

King Henry VIII

King Henry's Barber

Esquires

Cardinal Wolsey

Lady-in-Waiting

Anne Boleyn

Catherine of Aragon

Scene 1

(Enter Henry, Wolsey, King Henry's Barber)

(King Henry sits centre stage on his throne, Cardinal Wolsey to his right)

The King's Barber: The year is 1520 and this is your king, Henry VIII. *(take a deep bow towards Henry.)* We are in Hampton Court. His majesty is staying here by invitation from Cardinal Wolsey. It is indeed a fine palace suited to a king. I am the king's barber *(cupping a hand by mouth as if whispering to the audience)* He tells me everything you know! *(Winks)*. Well, I thought you'd like to know a little bit about life at court.

(King Henry's Barber exits the stage) (enter esquires)

Scene 2 Henry's Bedchamber

(Henry is in his bedchamber being dressed by his esquires. King Henry's Barber shaves him. They fuss over him, polishing shoes, brushing him down etc)

Henry: Hurry up, I must be in Calais by tomorrow afternoon. We are leaving the palace in few hours. I wish there was a tunnel that could take us under the waterway between England and France, it would make life a lot easier!

Barber: Where, might I ask, are we going sire?

Henry: Wolsey has organised a magnificent tournament, the like that has never been seen before. *(Wolsey looks pleased with himself)* There will be feasting and jousting for 5 days! Tents made of gold. In fact, they call it, The Field of the Cloth of Gold. There I will meet Francis I of France. I shall impress him so he realises that I am the most powerful king. These expensive wars must end and he must give in to my greatness.

(All exit stage)

Scene 3

The year is 1522.

(Enter ladies in waiting, Catherine of Aragon and Mary)

(Catherine of Aragon in her dressing room. Lady in waiting approaches.)

Lady-in-Waiting: *(curtseys)* Your majesty, I have news for you. There is a new lady-in-waiting appointed to your entourage, her name is Anne Boleyn.

(Enter Anne Boleyn)

Anne Boleyn: *(deep curtsey)* Your majesty. I am honoured to be your lady-in-waiting.

Catherine of Aragon: My pleasure dear girl. I am sure you will serve me well. See to my daughter Mary. *(Anne takes Princess Mary by the hand.)*

(All exit stage,)

Barber: *(In a confidential manner- speaking slowly at the corner of the stage).*

Greetings, it is me again.! Well, I have to tell you that the King is tiring of Queen Catherine. Shame really, she is a nice lady. Hey, guess what? He's fallen for Anne Boleyn! He told me this morning he wants a divorce! His top man, Cardinal Wolsey can't get him one so he got rid of him. The king took away his job and his house. King Henry now owns Hampton Court. His favourite palace. And.....*(confidentially and whispering)* now don't tell anyone, he is thinking of making himself head of the church!

(Exit stage).

Scene 4

The year is 1536

(Enter a sad looking Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth. They are talking quietly to themselves. Henry walks in, soldiers behind him. Anne turns to look at him and falls on her knees with Elizabeth just behind her).

Anne Boleyn: *(pleading)* Please sire, do not execute me, I have done nothing wrong. We have only been married 3 years. I have given you a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth. *(Hugging Elizabeth)*

Henry: *(Angrily)* Quiet woman! You tricked me into marriage and still you cannot give me a son. I was a fool. You have betrayed me with your trickery and treasonous actions. *(Turns to soldiers)* Take her away to the Tower of London!

(Exit stage)