



Tudors

ELIZABETH I BY MICHAEL COLEMAN

BARNEY: It was the year 1553, and Henry VIII's sickly son, Prince Edward, had just died. Who would have the X-Factor needed to rule England next?

ANNOUNCER: (*Game show style*) Intro-ducing our contenders for the throne. Number one: Mary!

BARNEY: Henry the VIII's first daughter from his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Will the vote be Mary for monarch?

ANNOUNCER: Number two: Elizabeth!

BARNEY: Henry's second daughter from his marriage to Anne Boleyn. Will the vote be for enthroning Elizabeth?

ANNOUNCER: Number three: Lady Jane Grey!

BARNEY: Who? Oh yes, the daughter of Lord Northumberland, the man who'd been running the country for sickly Edward.

ANNOUNCER: The votes are in. And the winner is... Lady Jane Grey!

BARNEY: Unfortunately for Jane, Mary Tudor was a very bad loser. Her supporters marched on London and very soon England had a new head. As for poor Lady Jane...she very soon had no head at all.

Mary reigned for the next five years. During that time she executed so many people that she earned the nickname, 'Bloody Mary'. Those executions were mostly to do with religion - which, in Tudor England, was rather like a tennis match at Wimbledon...

Before the Tudors arrived, England had been Catholic.

UMPIRE: Love-fifteen!

BARNEY: Then, because the Pope wouldn't allow him to divorce, Henry the Eighth formed a Protestant Church of England.





UMPIRE: Fifteen-all!

BARNEY: Henry's son, Prince Edward, had kept it that way.

UMPIRE: Thirty-fifteen!

BARNEY: That's what Lady Jane Grey would have done too - if she'd lasted.

UMPIRE: Forty-fifteen!

BARNEY: But when Catholic Mary became queen, she changed things back again. Anybody who disagreed with her was burned at the stake!

UMPIRE: Forty-thirty!

BARNEY: When Mary died, her younger sister Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth returned the country to the protestant church and all the too-ing and fro-ing finally came to an end.

UMPIRE: Game, set and match to the Church of England!

BARNEY: Yes, religions chopped and changed throughout Tudor times. But how about the punishments you could receive for breaking laws? Well, they didn't change - but they certainly involved a fair bit of chopping...

QUIZ MASTER: *(Quiz show style)* Welcome to Junior Tudor Mastermind! Contestant, your name please.

IVOR PAYNE: Ivor Payne, Torturer's Assistant.

QUIZ MASTER: And your specialist subject?

IVOR PAYNE: Really Horrible Punishments.

QUIZ MASTER: Your time starts now. What does your master say whenever he's sent a beggar to deal with?

IVOR PAYNE: Pass...my whip. Beggars are flogged.

QUIZ MASTER: What does your master say whenever he's sent a thief?

IVOR PAYNE: Pass...my knife. Some thieves have their hands cut off.

QUIZ MASTER: What does your master say when he's sent a woman who's had her husband murdered?



IVOR PAYNE: Pass...my box of matches. She'll be burned at the stake.

QUIZ MASTER: What does your master say when he's sent the man who carried out that murder?

IVOR PAYNE: Pass...my rope. The man will be hanged.

QUIZ MASTER: What does your master say whenever he's sent a traitor?

IVOR PAYNE: Pass...my rope. And my knife. And my box of matches! Traitors are hung, their insides burned on a fire and their bodies cut up in quarters.

QUIZ MASTER: What does your master say whenever his victim confesses almost as soon as he's begun to torture them?

IVOR PAYNE: I've started, so I'll finish!

BARNEY: Elizabeth's father, Henry the Eighth, had a lot of trouble with his wives. Elizabeth's problems were mostly caused by other people's husbands! In Tudor times Scotland was a separate country with its own royal family and Elizabeth's first problem husband was that of Scotland's queen - known as...wait for it...Mary, Queen of Scots...

MARY: My wee husband? Och, he's nae problem. I've had him mu-rrrr-derred!

BARNEY: So what was the problem?

MARY: But noo his supporters want tae murder me! Help me, cousin Elizabeth. Let me live in England.

BARNEY: Elizabeth did. But, over the years, Mary caused her more problems.

MARY: My supporters told me something vairy interesting. If you were tae suffer an unfortunate accident, Elizabeth, I could become Queen of England.

BARNEY: But when Mary was found guilty of taking part in a plot to murder Elizabeth, it was she who suffered the unfortunate accident... Elizabeth had her executed.

Elizabeth's next husbandly problem was with the husband of Bloody Mary, the queen she'd succeeded. Mary had married King Philip of Spain. After Elizabeth was crowned, Philip declared war on England, claiming that the throne was really his. The Queen turned to Sir Francis Drake to defend her realm. We sent our sports reporter, Ivor Question, to ask Sir Francis about the part he played in this vital European Championship match.



IVOR: King Philip of Spain was a top European manager, wasn't he, Sir Francis?

SIR FRANCIS: Too right. But we didn't want him managing England as well. No way, Jose.... er, Philip! So when he got together his Armada in 1585, it was my job to make sure we beat them.

IVOR: The Spanish had a powerful squad?

SIR FRANCIS: Did they just! The Armada was gonna be a massive match for us. They was strong in the attack, y'know, with plenty of big guns. But not so good in defence. So I decided, y'know, play the away leg first. Go to their place in Cadiz and surprise 'em. So we did. In Cadiz we did the biz!

IVOR: But didn't they have a strong group on the subs' bench for the return match?

SIR FRANCIS: Too right - though it took 'em three years to get warmed up. Set sail in 1588, didn't they? Up the English Channel they came, but I didn't panic. Hit 'em on the break, they were my plans. I waited until they docked in the French port of Calais then sent in some fire ships. Talk about hot stuff!

IVOR: There's a rumour that the weather played an important part in the result, Sir Francis.

SIR FRANCIS: Bah! You've got to cope with the conditions. It was the same for both sides. But yeah, there was a storm which sank sixty of their ships on top of the sixteen we'd sunk. But at the end of the day it was the end of the day for them and a good day for us!

BARNEY: Queen Elizabeth never did solve her final husband problem - which was that she couldn't find one! It's often said that she didn't really look for one., and that Elizabeth was married to England. She once said:

ELIZABETH: I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king and of a king of England too!

BARNEY: No marriage meant no children, though. And no children meant no Tudor to follow her when she died in 1603. As Sir Francis Drake might have said: at the end of the day it was the end of the day for the Tudor dynasty. James VI of Scotland became James I of England to begin the reign of the Stuart dynasty.