

Katherine Howard



Katherine Howard was born in about 1521, the exact date is unknown. She was the tenth child of Lord Edmund Howard and Joyce Culpepper. Her father was the second son of the Duke of Norfolk. She was a cousin to Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII.

Catherine's family was poor, so they sent her to live with her step-grandmother, Agnes Tilney. Agnes Tilney, the Duchess of Norfolk, had a large household, but it was not very strict. Catherine could read and write, but she was the least educated of Henry VIII's wives.

Catherine became a lady-in-waiting to Queen Anna of Kleves in 1539 or 1540, when she was about 18 years old. The king did not like Anna, and said she was not as pretty as he had hoped for and also called her a Flanders mare. He soon fell in love with Catherine.

In July 1540, after Henry had divorced Anna of Cleves, Henry and Catherine got married at Oatlands Palace which is in Surrey.

Henry VIII loved his young bride and gave her lots of rich presents. He called her his 'rose without a thorn'. However, Catherine was not happy in her marriage. Her husband was very fat (he was about 300 pounds at the time), much older than she was, and had an ulcer on his legs. She began falling in love with a man named Thomas Culpepper.

(Find out what happened to Katherine Howard after answering these questions)

Questions

1. Why did Katherine's family send her to live with Agnes Tilney?
2. Why was she not well educated?
3. How do you think Katherine felt being married to Henry VIII? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. What do you think happened to Katherine? Explain why. (Find out what happened to her after answering these questions)
5. What do you think Katherine's personality was like? Explain why.