

# Anne Boleyn-The temptation

Author: Bodnar Andreea Laura

Affiliation: Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj Napoca, Centrul Universitare  
Nord din Baia Mare



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Blickling Hall seen from the lake | © National Trust Images/Andrew Butler

- She was educated in France and established many connections whilst there
- She could sing, dance, and play musical instruments
- She also developed many artistic skills which would help her stand out in England
- She also would bring French fashion with her to the English court



- At the time of her return to England Henry was having an affair with her sister Mary
- She would be made a Lady in waiting to Catherine of Aragon
- Her talents and fashion would catch the eye of many men and she was not short of admirers
- The Earl of Northumberland Henry Percy and the Poet Thomas Wyatt both courted her and Henry Percy almost married her
- The Marriage was prevented however by Henry VIII as she caught his eye too

- In 1525 he began courting Anne. He desired her and wanted her as his mistress writing a love letter to her to her.
- *"If you ... give yourself up, heart, body and soul to me ... I will take you for my only mistress, rejecting from thought and affection all others save yourself, to serve only you."*
- Anne would write back refusing Henry's advance
- *"If you ... give yourself up, heart, body and soul to me ... I will take you for my only mistress, rejecting from thought and affection all others save yourself, to serve only you."*

- Anne had ambitions of becoming Queen and refused to become his mistress
- She knew of Henry's desire for a male heir and that Catherine seemed unable to deliver
- With Anne now his new obsession Henry began pushing harder for divorce
- These Pope however refused to grant a divorce to Henry

- Under normal circumstances the Pope would willingly grant a divorce
- The Protestant reformation was in full swing and keeping England firmly catholic was in the Pope's interest
- He was however the prisoner of Charles V the Holy Roman Emperor and Catherine's Nephew
- This would lead to, in-spite of years of pressure from Henry, no change to the Pope's decision
- This opened the door for Anne and other reformists to convince the King of their ideas



- Anne would share the book "*Obedience of a Christian man*" by William Tyndale
- The book argued that the source of supreme authority did not come from the pope but instead directly from the Bible
- Anne with the help of Henry's advisors Thomas Cramer and Thomas Cromwell convinced Henry to break from the Catholic Church and found the Church of England with him as the Head of Faith
- To add further pressure to Henry Anne would sleep with him and become pregnant with his child

- Anne's pregnancy forced Henry to make a decision as if the child was born out of wedlock they would be a bastard and all their work would have been for nought
- In January 1533 Anne and Henry were secretly married and then in May Henry would officially divorce Catherine and declare Anne Queen
- Three months later Anne would give birth to her and Henry's child, a girl that they would name Elizabeth

- Henry was greatly disappointed by this and Anne would quickly lose his favour
- After such a long fight to only have another daughter and not the son he desired led Henry to search for a new lover
- Anne was furious and would seek to fight for Henry and would get pregnant two more times both ending in miscarriages
- Anne's attempts to keep Henry would only irritate him and lead to her losing the protection she had as queen far faster than Catherine did
- In May 1536 she would be charged with treason and adultery and found guilty and sentenced to be executed



- At her execution she gave the following speech to those present

*“Good Christian people, I have not come here to preach a sermon; I have come here to die. For according to the law and by the law I am judged to die, and therefore I will speak nothing against it. I am come hither to accuse no man, nor to speak of that whereof I am accused and condemned to die, but I pray God save the King and send him long to reign over you, for a gentler nor a more merciful prince was there never, and to me he was ever a good, a gentle, and sovereign lord. And if any person will meddle of my cause, I require them to judge the best. And thus I take my leave of the world and of you all, and I heartily desire you all to pray for me.”*

- Henry would make attempts to remove any trace of Anne from the palace
- Artworks she liked and statues of her would be removed and it would be like she was never there
- This effort would be reversed as her daughter Elizabeth would take the throne and become one of England's longest serving monarchs

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