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Jane Seymour (1508–1537)

Henry married Jane just 11 days after Anne was beheaded in 1536. She was from a noble, powerful and ambitious family.

Jane gave birth to a son, Edward, in 1537. He would later become King Edward VI. Unfortunately, Jane died just 12 days after giving birth.

Historians believe that Henry loved Jane more than any of his other wives. He was deeply saddened by Jane's death and waited two years before he married his next wife.



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Anne Boleyn (1501–1536)

Henry fell in love with Anne in 1525, while he was still married to Catherine of Aragon.

The Pope, in Rome, would not grant Henry a divorce, so Henry broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and created the Church of England.

Henry was granted a divorce from Catherine in 1533 and he married Anne in the same year. They had a baby girl, Elizabeth, in September 1533.

After their marriage, Henry accused Anne of treason and adultery. She was beheaded in 1536.



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Catherine of Aragon (1485–1536)

Catherine married Henry VIII's older brother, Arthur, on 14th November 1501 but he died five months later. She married Henry in 1509.

Catherine was a popular queen and a good wife to Henry for over 20 years. She had six children, but sadly only one child, Mary, survived. Mary went on to become queen in 1553.

Henry divorced Catherine in 1533 because he had fallen in love with Anne Boleyn and was desperate for a male heir.



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Anne of Cleves (1515–1557)

Henry sent artists all over Europe to paint portraits of potential wives. He decided to make Anne his fourth wife, based on a portrait he saw of her.

When they met for the first time, she was appalled by his obesity and he thought she looked like a horse!

However, Henry was a man of his word; he had made a promise and he kept it. He married her in 1540 but the marriage only lasted six months and he divorced her in the same year.



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Catherine Parr (1512–1548)

Catherine Parr agreed to marry Henry in 1543, despite being in love with Thomas Seymour (Jane Seymour's brother).

Henry was 52 and in very ill-health when he married her. Catherine became both his wife and nurse, until he died in 1547.

Diplomatic and clever, Catherine also worked hard to maintain good relations with all three of Henry's children.

Soon after Henry's death, Catherine married her fourth husband, Thomas Seymour.



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Catherine Howard (1521–1542)

Just 20 days after his divorce from Anne of Cleves, Henry married Catherine Howard, who was only 19 years old. She was also a cousin of Anne Boleyn.

Henry was, by now, old and considerably obese. He was attracted to Catherine's lively and youthful spirit.

However, in 1542, Henry had Catherine beheaded because he discovered she had been engaged to other men before marrying him. These men were also beheaded.



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