

## 6 RE-MIX (\*older responsible @ younger party girls)

**Cailyn- Catherine of Aragon\*** Spanish Princess married to Henry over 24 yrs -DIVORCED color Yellow

**Sophie- Anne Boleyn@** married a few yrs has Daughter Elizabeth who becomes Elizabeth I Tried for treason by her own relatives BEHEADED color Green

**Rhys- Jane Seymour @** married for a few years -it is said she's the only one Henry really loved. Died of child birth complications. DIED color white

**Libby- Anne of Cleves\*** German –Henry thought she was ugly. Gave her a lot of money to go away. DIVORCED color Red

**Emma – Katherine Howard @** Very young married at 17 party girl. Tried for cheating on Henry BEHEADED color Pink

**Aynsleigh- Catherine Parr\*** older than all the others, competent SURVIVED Henry by over a year color Blue

**Cassie-Henry VIII & Detective Gavin Troy** -Male Bumbling a bit so wives help him'solve' case

**SND Q 1** Welcome-Washrooms-Treaty 7 -Enjoy- Royal music lasts at low level for 1 min or so-will fade out **2 mins - 2:12**

### PROLOGUE

*Henry comes from audience during royal music goes to turntable grabs goblet with wine Sits on throne drinks wine I a gulp puts goblet on table. We can see figure watching thru curtain at back-she is wear a black outfit w black veil over hers-so audience does not know who it is.*

*Enter S.L. Howard (is drunk) behind Henry with flask which is empty*

**Howard:** Hello my French cupcake. I enjoyed last night. We could do it again... (*slips on floor looks up sees Henry*) Henry. When did you get here? I'm going to get ready for the party. (*Grabs flask exits S.L. Henry gets up, poisons cup goes to sit by fire briefly -it makes more sense for Henry to exit S.L. while figure does the switch.*)

**SND Q 2** *The poison 25 secs as Figure steps thru curtain switches wine markers. Exits S.C. Henry comes back in as if forgotten his book-grabs book grabs his wine goblet exits S.L. where we hear something... )*

**SND Q 3** gurgle cup fall 'Murder! Murder most foul<sup>1</sup>. THE king is dead.' **17 Sec**

### SCENE 1 Intro to The Wives

*The Wives come in order except Howard (Aragon-Boleyn-Seymour-Cleves-Howard missing-Parr We read from left to right so it's from the audiences view Aud L > Aud R)*

ALL QUEENS: The King is dead, long live the queens.

**SND Q 4** Ominous music for wives Divorced- Aragon, beheaded-Boleyn, died-Seymour, divorced Cleaves, beheaded(*Howard misses her Q*) survived-Parr **35 secs**

*Howard enters S.R*

**Howard:** Whose ready to part'ae'.....Like Who Died? I know what can fix this. I need my flask. (*see's Henry-hits wall in shock*) I see dead people. Did I do that? Like, he was alive (*counts on fingers*) eight seconds ago. I killed him.... (*Goes to the wives*)

We already know it's me. I'm a bad person. Take me away already.... It's all my fault....I need a drink.... *(Goes to turntable of wine goblets- drinks all) Seymour goes up to stop her - gets fingerprints all over-*

**Seymour:** Stop it dear you'll make yourself sick.

*(EACH of them go over and touch things)*

**Cleves:** Grow up girl. Stop fussing Jane she'll be fine.

**Aragon:** Show some strength child. You're a Queen.

**Parr:** Have some dignity. She has to learn to take care of herself.  
*(temper tantrum-Howard)*

**Boleyn:** Oh leave her alone you old bats. Girls just wanna have fun.

**SND Q5** Song Girls just wanna have fun. *Young ones come up with a modernish dance that they try to drag the older ones reluctantly into- **song will end abruptly for Troy to come in and say his line.** 49 SECS *(Howard keeps dancing after everyone has stopped)**

## **SCENE 2 The detective copes with The Queen's**

Enter Detective Gavin Troy<sup>2</sup>

**Troy:** I'm Detective Gavin Troy. Someone reported a murder. *(Howard faints, Cleves says 'dummkopf,' Boleyn bats her eyelashes, Aragon covers her face, Parr shakes her head, Seymour speaks*

**Seymour:** Yes I did.

**Aragon:** Oh my dear!

**Parr:** What were you thinking?

**Cleves:** She wasn't!

**Boleyn:** Well that's not fair.

**Parr:** Who ever said life was fair?

**Boleyn:** You know I'm getting tired of your negativity.

**Parr:** Since when is being realistic negative?

**Seymour:** Well you do go on about how to do things properly.

**Aragon:** That's because she is mostly right you know.

**Cleves:** That is true. If only these young ones would learn from it.

**Boleyn:** Oh stop sounding as if you actually know what you are talking about. It is getting tedious.

**Parr:** Well, Well. Congratulations my dear. It seems you have quite the extensive vocabulary. *(Howard finally wakes up)*

**Howard:** I killed him.



**Troy:** I beg your pardon my lady.

**Parr:** You will address her as Your Grace or Your Highness.

**Troy:** Of course. 'Your Highness' Why did you just say?

**Howard:** He was alive (*tries to count but too many minutes have gone by*) a while ago.

**Troy:** Where you the last one to see the victim?

**Howard:** Victim ! Victim! He was my King. I loved him.

**Cleves:** You've loved everyone dear.

**Aragon:** We all loved him.

**Seymour:** Some more than others. (*looks at Cleves*)

**Cleves:** I was perfectly willing to stay married to him. Of course I am pleased to now be rich, rather than restricted. My duty was fulfilled.

**Aragon:** Oh my dear! You have no idea about loyalty and duty. I ran England for two years while Henry was away fighting the French.

**Cleves:** Really? You talk of loyalty. I did what the king asked. I stayed quiet and got rich. At least I wasn't dumped in a mouldy mice infested castle in the badlands.

**Aragon:** That was all her fault. (*points to Boleyn*)

**Troy:** (*clears throat*) Excuse me ladies but I really need to ask you some questions.

**Parr:** No ladies here lad. Only Royalty.

**Boleyn:** Not too bright is he?

**Howard:** Oh I don't know he's kind of .....

**Seymour:** Leave him alone Katie. He has a job to do.

**Howard:** Everyone keeps telling me what to do. Henry did too. Did you know he gave me a curfew. The Queen of England had to be in by 9.

**Troy:** So would you say you hated your husband? (*Starts writing in a notebook*)

**Howard:** Of course not. Didn't you hear what I said? I loved him.

**Aragon:** This is going to take an eternity. We'll all be dead by the time this is solved.

**Parr:** We are dead my dear.

**Howard:** I'm dead! Someone Pinch me. (*all wives take a turn*)

Owe, ouch, owe that hurt. Whew. For a minute I thought you were serious.

### **SCENE 3 -Investigation going nowhere.**

**Troy:** Could someone show me the scene of the crime? (*See's Henry.*) He was quite the big fellow wasn't he. The goblet smells like almonds. His face is bright red. He was definitely poisoned. Poison is often a women's weapon.

(*All wives freeze look at each other and step away from each other in distrust.*)

**Cleves:** And being women we are all suspected. How typically male of you.

**Troy:** *(As Howard goes to pour a drink)* Please do not touch anything. And remove yourselves from this room.

**Howard:** We have to leave.

**Seymour:** I guess he needs quiet while he works. Figures.  
*(Wives exit as Troy examines room to music. Wives put black on fingers as if they've been fingerprinted)*

**SND Q 6** Detective magnifies 29 secs  
*(Wives enter cleaning off their hands)*

**Aragon:** I am not used to being treated like a criminal.

**Boleyn:** Sure you are. You are Catholic.

**Seymour:** Be very careful Anne. We are all in the same boat.

**Boleyn:** Then you can drown together.

**Aragon:** How dare you demean my faith.

**Seymour:** Here we go.

**Boleyn:** And I thought you were intelligent.

**Aragon:** You are nothing but a trivial illegitimate pretender.

**Boleyn:** That is simply not true. History has labeled me as a flirt and tease. But I believe in my self-respect as an honest women. I am just as devout as you.

**Aragon:** You wouldn't know devout if it hit you in the head.

**Troy:** But the question remains, did Henry's betrayal make you kill him?

**Boleyn:** I would never do such a thing. And no one makes me do anything. Once again I am being unfairly judged.

**Cleves:** She does have a wicked temper.

**Howard:** She threw a shoe at me once when I did not get the right needle.

**Cleves:** We are talking about Anne dear not me.

**Howard:** Oh. Anyone up for snacks?

**Parr:** Pay attention child. This is important.

**Seymour:** And There was that whole shirt incident.

**Troy & Howard:** What incident?

**Seymour:** Oh Queen Catherine made Henry's shirts. As his wife that was her right. After 24 years he got used to his shirts a certain way. Anne didn't like that The Queen continued to assert her wifely right to make Henry's shirts even though she was no longer really 'his.'

**Aragon:** The Pope never annulled our marriage. I remain his wife in the eyes of the church.



**Boleyn:** And by divine right, the law and the church is The King. Put that in your pipe and smoke it you...you... harridan.

**Troy:** So either of you could have killed the king. Catherine because he forsake her, Anne well, we all know your story. This is more complicated than I thought it would be. Each of you have motive, means and opportunity. Your fingerprints are all over the place. I need to interview you and the staff individually.

**Howard:** Maybe you aren't that bright, but you do have an commanding presence. I just love a man in uniform. Interview me first. *(They exit)*

**Parr:** We have to do something. As thick as two planks. *(Shaking head)*

**Boleyn:** That's my cousin you boil brained harpy.

**Parr:** I was talking about the detective dear. Although she is not far behind.

**Cleves:** I think neither is as foolish as they appear.

**Seymour:** Why?

**Cleves:** What do you mean why?

**Seymour:** Why do we have to do anything?

**Parr:** History will judge us by what we do here.

**Seymour:** History? We've already been judged. We are here to fix our story and set the record straight through actors in a performance medium. *(Brechtian technique where we remind the audience this is a play so they can be more analytical about the dialogue/content of the play)*

**Seymour:** Henry isn't supposed to be dead.

**Boleyn:** It makes it easier to re-write our histories with Henry dead, KARMA got him good?

**Aragon:** History is already written my dear. Exactly what can we re-write?

**Boleyn:** Oh sure. Go ahead and make us all redundant.

*(Howard sneaks in)*

**Howard:** I'm redundant? *(Hits Cleves)* Your it. Wait what's redundant? *(Cleves exits to talk with detective)* *(note the point of having each wife talk to detective is the audience doesn't know what is said, so we have a bit more leeway when we get to the reveal. )* Where's more wine?

**Seymour:** I'll go get it. *(Seymour exits- she wants to hear what Cleves has to say to the detective. Almost always aware of being somewhere near to the exit point of each wife. In order to overhear things she can use to save her own skin.)*

**Howard:** I feel like my brain has been twisted inside out.

**Aragon:** Your brain? *(as if the idea is ludicrous)*

**Parr:** *(Says it quietly – or as if to be speaking only to Aragon )* That is not very kind of you. She is the youngest and most innocent. *(to all)* So who was the last one to see Henry alive?

**Howard:** I think it might have been me.

**Aragon:** You think?

**Howard:** Well I was a little tipsy at the time.

*Cleves comes back taps Boleyn who exits Seymour enters w wine bottle which Howard grabs and takes a big swig)*

**Parr:** So show us what you did?

**Howard:** Well I was sitting on the floor looking up at Henry....

**Seymour:** On the floor?

**Howard:** It makes Henry feel superior and protective. He can look down on me.

**Cleves:** Dummkopf like a fox. *(to audience)*

**Parr:** Then what?

**Howard:** I got up, grabbed my flask and left. *(Boleyn enters taps Aragon, Aragon exits Seymour kind of moves towards Aragon's exit as if to overhear)*

**Boleyn:** Where was Henry?

**Howard:** Still sitting in his chair scowling.

**Seymour:** Where were you before sitting at Henry's feet?

**Howard:** I was wandering around.

**Parr:** Where?

**Howard:** Well you see.... I .... I can't actually remember. *(She can but she knows if she tells she will be suspected. She is not as drunk as at the beginning- but pretends to be. )*

**Cleves:** Why am I not surprised.

**Boleyn:** As if you have never drank too much. *(Aragon enters tap Seymour who then exits.)*

**Parr :** We think we have established that Cat was the last one to see Henry alive.

**Aragon:** Now we just need to establish where each of us was at the time of his death.

**Boleyn:** Weren't we all getting ready for the party?

**Howard:** Like any of you oldies know how to part-ae.

**Aragon:** Henry and I had numerous dance parties.

**Cleves:** Well there were parties at the palace constantly. Henry liked to show off his wealth.

**Aragon:** Oh the dancing was wonderful. *(Seymour enters taps Parr who exits)*

**Aragon** I love dancing.

**Howard:** Okay maybe you do know how to have fun.

**Boleyn:** It's all about the food, the wine, the dancing, the clothes, the pageantry. *(with each word get more flamboyant)*

**Cleves:** Oh yes the laughter, the intrigues, the shame.



**Howard:** Is that bitterness I hear.

**Seymour:** I thought you like being rich, with no man to tell you what to do.

**Cleves:** It still hurt you know. Everyone at court whispering behind my back. Henry rejected me!

**Aragon:** Of all of us you had the blessed life.

**Cleves:** Perhaps. I like to think that people understand I have intelligence, a sense of humor, and am fairly easy going.

**Boleyn:** Seriously? You act like an old women. (*Parr enters*)

**Seymour:** Some people are born old.

**Howard:** Not me I still like dancing. (*snaps her fingers -music comes on*)

**SND Q 7 dance 1 min 5 sec WIVES WILL LEARN A TUDOR DANCE:**

Troy enters watches for a few seconds

**Troy:** I've done it. I've solved the murder.

### **SCENE 4-it's about the Queen's**

**Troy:** Each one of you has a reason to want the King dead.

**Boleyn:** Like we don't already know that.

**Troy:** But one of you wants him more dead.

**Howard:** How can one be 'more' dead?

**Troy:** Perhaps I should have said wants him dead more than anyone else.

**Parr:** So cut to the chase boy. Who killed Henry VIII?

**Troy:** There is one of you who was in Henry's company. (*Everyone looks at Howard*)

**Howard:** Just say it. I'm the one aren't I?

**Troy:** The murderer is not that obvious.

**Aragon:** Goodness could this get any more convoluted?

**Troy:** The murder is, or perhaps I should say murderess is...

**Cleves:** We are all women dummkopf.

**Troy:** It's quite simple really. All of you want to re-write your history. The only way to do that is for all of you to kill Henry VIII.

**Seymour:** What? That is ridiculous. You just said one of you....

**Parr:** Two planks!

**Cleves:** Well if Jane hadn't called in a detective.....

**Boleyn:** And if you weren't so all fired up about sewing his stupid shirts. You just couldn't let it go.

**Aragon:** Right is right. You stole my husband.

**Boleyn:** Well you are old and unloved.<sup>3</sup>

**Parr:** All right enough.

**Howard:** Who died and made you King? Oh right!

**Boleyn:** Henry was going to leave you anyways. (*taking to Aragon*)

**Parr:** We really shouldn't be arguing like this.

**Seymour:** Oh just shut up!

**Cleves:** You would think we could all agree on something.

**Troy:** Ladies please.

**WIVES WILL LEARN TO SWORD FIGHT**

**ALL WIVES:** WE are not ladies WE are royalty!

**Boleyn:** All right put your money where your mouth is... En-garde!  
(Boleyn vs Aragon)

**Parr:** I'm not sure this is appropriate.

**Howard:** Oh you would say that. Everything is about propriety isn't it.  
Well what do you say to that?

**Parr:** That perhaps you shouldn't poke the bear you silly child. En-garde!

**Howard:** I don't want to fight. I don't want to kill anyone. (Parr vs Howard)

**Seymour:** Awe leave her alone, She's just a child.

**Cleves:** Well, children should learn their boundaries. Don't you think?

**Seymour:** I think you should keep your nose out of other people's business.

**Cleves:** Moi. I'm easy going, ask anyone. En-Garde! (Cleaves vs Seymour)

**SND Q 8 Sword Fight 46 secs chanting ends abruptly**

**Boleyn:** Stop! I chipped a nail. (*Everyone stops*) Goes into her monologue.

**SND Q 9 Boleyn 9 sec**

**Boleyn:** Sure the people don't like me, but that doesn't mean Henry didn't! I mean how could you not? King Henry chose me over Ms. Aragon for a reason and we can all tell it was looks.

**Aragon:** (*getting mad*) He was married to me for 24 years you skank!

**Boleyn:** I'm no skank. And technically you were only married for 17 years. Your "highness." And to think I was her lady in waiting! She WAS kind but as soon as Henry started looking at me, she went off the rails. But hey, it was her problem. All that mattered to me was that I got him. I recently heard about how King Henry has been sleeping around with Jane her. Did she have a ring on her finger? No, I did. Nevertheless, all that mattered is that I had him. Then he goes on and tells me about how I can't



produce him a son? What does it matter if he is **mine**. He can't just walk away and pretend like I was nothing. Nothing is for peasants and I have a higher standard. **No one** treats me like that (takes a quick moment to bottle it up.) How could I risk not being there for Elizabeth if she needed me? Plus Henry even stayed with me while I had the sweating sickness! While he stayed with me, he told me how much I had affected England and how much he loved me! He would never become someone else's because he even told me that I was the one he loved. I would never kill Henry. Anything that I have ever experienced is not enough for me to lose my head about.

### **SND Q 10 Parr 14 secs**

**Parr:** Oh honey you are a victim of your own arrogance. (points to Boleyn) Yes, I may be twice widowed but that gives me the experience the others lack. I am very familiar with the joys and pains of love. Henry and I shared many common interests and we often discussed politics. With him being king and me a woman, it often led to some quite entertaining discussions. Like any normal person, we both love the beauty of music. Once upon a time I wrote and published a religious text. It was a risk, yes, but I was married to Henry the Eighth, so everything was a risk, but that's besides the point. I allowed for a new kind of excitement in his life, though I don't think he was much of a fan. I heard having a "criminal mastermind" as a wife can be quite exhausting. We didn't always agree and Henry hated it when I contradicted him. I regularly contributed my two cents, and rightfully so I might add. I have both an education and experience, so I deserve an opinion. Most men weren't a fan of that. But Henry? He is... ah...ehem... was a severely complicated and entirely fractious man whose ego needed to be constantly soothed. We wouldn't want the king to have a meltdown now do we? Exhausting really. Despite all of the stress and frustration I caused him, I DID convince him to restore Mary and Elizabeth to succession. One of the very few things he ever did right. Though I couldn't stop him from going to war with France. Again. Nevertheless, I was good for him. I kept him company as he grew older. Even though I was the sixth wife to stand by his side, I somehow managed to keep the peace and provide him with comfort in his old age. Frankly, I am surprised he didn't send me to my death. But here I am, the lone survivor. Understand, I could not have killed him. I am a peacemaker by nature. I use my brains, not such an irresponsible implement as poison. By the way poison is not necessarily a woman's weapon. Poison is a Coward's weapon; it requires no skill, no courage and no honor.<sup>4</sup> (*note the look on Seymour's face- sets it up so she wants to kill Parr and is caught by the others.*)

### **SND Q 11 Howard 8 secs**

**Howard:** Poison? Henry was poisoned? Well that changes everything. When I was little I learned how to write my name, C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E and nothing else, because after all what else would I need to sign other than my name on a marriage contract, even that probably would not happen, as it is not my choice who I marry, not really anyways. I started singing and playing instruments. It was something I could control, a part of my life that was not full of boys, except my music teacher, Henry Madox, I should have got out sooner, but it was my life, my choice, until it was not anymore. I stopped singing and moved on. My father found me a job! A Job. I couldn't believe it until I realized my job was to please this man, so I quit and on a mission to avoid boys I ended up in court where I met King Henry, he valued me, he valued my opinions, oh wait sorry no he didn't he just wanted me in bed. What's

good for the Gander is good for the Goose....Not really because It makes me wonder if there ever could be love anywhere, or if it's just desire, want. Maybe love is just a figment of imagination, some people pretend to have, to hold onto something in life, because otherwise they'd realize that life really is not that important.. I guess some made up lies is easier to believe than the truth I have seen. Love is not real only a want that is so strong it feels like a need. Maybe if I keep looking one day I'll find a person who I can be stuck in this pretend world with, but at the same time I don't really see the point. I still hold on to hope though that I might be wrong, but I haven't been so far. I wouldn't blame you if you thought I killed him but the thing is what's my motive behind this crime? He found out that I just like him was overcome by a want so strong it felt like a need, why would that lead me to commit a crime? I was worried he would kill me? Please I go through half my life numb anyways, maybe in the final moments before my demise I would figure what was worth living for. I was worried about scorn? My life of fancies taken away? So what, it's not like I liked him anyways, sure the perks were nice. But then maybe if I was disgraced I could see if love was a thing, that someone might fall so deeply that they didn't care about the public eye. So actually I am for Henry's survival and my decline, because maybe then this lie that life has led me to believe would be proven false and I could find the purpose of life, that most people around me seem to have figured out.

**SND Q 12 Cleves 11.5 secs** (*Lived until 1557 9 years longer than Parr*)

**Cleves:** The saying is 'what's good for the goose is good for the Gander.' If you are going to compare Henry to fowl at least get it right. I came from England, filled with hopeful ignorance, summoned after the king saw my portrait. Despite his longing for my presence my meagre visage, looking the way they are, didn't live up to his expectations. He picked me from a painting. He calls me ugly when it takes 4 strong men just to lift him out of bed in the morning. I mean, it's the usual story isn't it? The savvy, educated, young princess deemed repulsive by a wheezing, wrinkled, ulcer-ridden man twenty-four years her senior. And why? Because I am a woman. Because I am a woman I am only good for sex, popularity and alliances. Because I am a woman I cannot carry any knowledge, no thoughts of my own. I was worshiped until I was not the popular commodity Henry could use. I became worthless. Arat in the gutter. Because if I was not pretty enough, not obedient enough, or dare I say not the hot body a man wants in his bed at any time he chooses I am nothing. I gave him what he wanted and what did I get in return? A fate doomed in a resplendent palace in Richmond, with more money than a person could ever spend in a lifetime and not a single man around to cherish it with. Because I am a woman I will never be listened too. But hear me now! My name is Anne of Cleves! I am damn German royalty and will not be accused of crimes I did not commit, by a man who knows nothing of my life. It should also be noted that Henry's generosity continued only as long as he lived. Any fool could see that is a lack of motive.

**SND Q 13 Seymour 8 secs**

**Seymour:** I heard from the second footman Henry was going to stop giving you such a generous allowance. People tell me things. It's my sense of humor and my open



personality. I get along with everyone. I notice everything about people. It's a shame that you are all so mean and catty. It's so much easier to just get along. Henry appreciated my ability to entertain those around me. Actually I'm quite protective of my ladies. I have that mothering instinct. My life began in Wiltshire, in 1509. I was raised the same as any woman at that time. To please my future husband. And that would be a job I fulfilled. At the age of 21 I would become the lady in waiting under Katherine of Aragon and soon after Anne Boleyn. And that's when I met him. Henry the VIII. It was love at first sight when he had visited my father that fateful day at Wolf Hall. And from that moment on he insisted on being with me. But no matter how much I loved that man I would not stand to be one of his mistresses. So once he had- uh a well cut Boleyn out of his life he married me 11 long days later. He was the love of my life. I would do anything for that man, as I'm sure he would do for me. At 28 I had my beautiful baby boy, those agonizing months all worth it when I looked into his beautiful pale blue eyes. Oh I can't wait to watch my boy grow up into the man I know he can be. The other queens have never been a fan of mine because they are jealous that I am his favourite. What Henry and I had was true and passionate. I didn't do it for power, or money, or a title. I did it for love, lust, and devotion. I love Henry with every bone in my body. And I will lay to rest with him when my time comes.

### **SND Q 14 Aragon 10.5 secs**

**Aragon:** Of course my marriage with Arthur, Henry's brother was not consummated. We were only 15. He was not up for the task no matter what he said. Arthur's father wanted to marry me, only for my money of course. My mother, the Queen of Spain was against the match thank goodness. After Arthur died I became the first female, and youngest ambassador for Spain. I married Henry with joy. Not one of you are his true wife. I was by Henry's side for 24 years. I was loyal and devoted, though I cannot say the same for Henry. It was left to me to unite the troops. While I was with child, I helped repel the Scottish invaders while Henry was in France fighting. I kept this country stable and safe. I had six children with Henry, although Mary is our only surviving child. Being by Henry's side for so many years should count for something. I am Pious, pure, and beloved of the people. I even put up with Henry's liaison with my lady in waiting Bessie. I am the rightful Queen of England and I have proved that I am earnest in my service to my country, and my King. I would never harm my husband. That would be a sin I could never recover from.

**Howard:** Not consummated.? That is not what Arthur said the morning after the wedding. Thomas Grey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Dorset said Arthur had a "good and Sanguine" complexion the next day. Arthur bragged about how wonderful it was to have a wife, particularly one from Spain.

**Aragon:** How would you know? You were not even born yet.

**Howard:** Oh servants talk. They love to tell all kinds of gossip. There are no secrets in the royal household.

**Troy:** No secrets. That is truly spoken. I have heard from servants, royalty, and nobility, and everyone has agreed that Henry was difficult at the best of times. Everyone

either benefited from their relationship with the king, or was executed. He sent many thousands to their death. Are you sure you want this investigation to continue? You could say he got his just deserts.

### **SND Q 15 huddle 15 secs**

*(The Queens do a huddle we hear their words above the music)* **Boleyn:** Suspicion  
**Aragon:** distrust **Howard:** Doubt **Seymour:** Need to know. **Parr:** Lay it to rest.  
**Cleves:** Understand.

**Parr:** Continue. If you cannot, we will take it on ourselves.

### **SND Q 16 transition 17 secs fade out**

## **SCENE 5 Troy Solves the case but doesn't realize it**

**Troy:** Very well. Each of your alibis are weak. I have a strong suspicion that each of you is hiding something.

**Seymour:** We're royalty darling. Hiding something is second nature.

**Troy:** Perhaps. The Servants have told me everything. If anyone is withholding information now is the time to come forward.

**Aragon:** Everything? The servants are not the only ones who know what is going on. Anne you lied. Henry not only did not stay by your side when you had the sweating sickness, and he only sent his second best surgeon. If you lied about that, you could lie about anything.

**Boleyn:** I didn't lie.... Well okay maybe I did. But you can't blame me. I really do love Henry. Did Love him. I'm surprised you didn't notice earlier... it was a stupid explanation nonetheless. No Henry did not stay with me, heck he wanted to be as far away from me as possible. Nothing more romantic than letting your wife suffer instead of caring for her. The truth is, we had a fight a few days ago. He mentioned me flirting with a man and how I couldn't produce a male heir for him and I retaliated... saying things I definitely shouldn't. I'm surprised he didn't execute me on the spot... but I suppose he can't now.

**Troy:** Loving someone doesn't mean you don't want to kill them. Although in your case a maid was helping you with your clothing when the King was killed. Besides the Queen heard you yelling at your privy maid from down the hall.

**All Queens:** Which queen?

**Troy:** Her Majesty Queen Katherine Parr

**Seymour:** Hmmm despite being male, it seems he can learn.

**Boleyn:** So I'm off the hook?



**Seymour:** Surely we are all off the hook. We are Queen's.

**Troy:** My name is not Shirley. It's Gavin Troy.

**Cleves:** So much for learning! The planks you mentioned are getting pretty thick.

**Howard:** Planks? Where? Are you building something? (*the other queens shake their heads in dismay*) No one tells me anything. It's like you're afraid I can't take the truth.

**Troy:** Truth is relative. Everyone has their own version of it.

**Boleyn:** If we are talking of truth. Catherine of Aragon isn't exactly the paragon of virtue she professes. She had an argument with Henry before the party.

**Aragon:** Well if you were listening carefully you would have heard laughter as well. We were arguing over the best curries.

**Troy:** The cook heard you arguing as well your majesty. She was greatly amused. (*Boleyn Walks away in a huff*)

**Troy:** The rest of you do not really have anyone to vouch for your where-about.

**Howard:** Like that's not true I have.....Henry saw...uh.... .oh right.

**Troy:** The third footman did see you before the murder . I believe you were ummmmm. Uhhhh...

**Parr:** Out with it boy what was she doing?

**Troy:** I believe he described it as 'losing one's lunch' with fervour.

**Howard:** Really? I don't remember doing that.

**Seymour:** That's a little too convenient wouldn't you say?

**Boleyn:** What happened to getting along with everyone?

**Cleves:** She is not as she appears.

**Seymour:** I agree. Kathy can be a bit flighty one minute, coherent the next.

**Parr:** She was talking about you dear. Where were you during the murder?

**Seymour:** How would I know. I was outside walking in the garden for awhile.

**Troy:** The gardener did see you but he was unclear about the exact time. He also mentioned seeing Anne of Cleves a few minutes later. Odd that neither of you saw the other.

**Seymour:** Well if I knew I would need an alibi I would have planned one.

**Aragon:** That is a bit convenient... no?

**Howard:** We seem to be going in circles with no clear solution.

**Troy:** (*Clears throat*) Well that isn't entirely true Your Grace. We have multiple finger prints on the goblets. Except for Catherine of Aragon, and Anne of Cleves who do not seem to have touched any goblets at any time.

**Seymour:** That looks grim for us Kat.

**Troy:** There does seem to be irregularities. Catherine Howard being too drunk to remember anything. We keep coming back to that.

**Howard:** I have a spotty memory when I'm not drinking. And I prefer to call it tipsy. How else do you think I could stay married to Henry. Sometimes the Gardener lets me into the green house. It's wonderfully warm in there. I like the quiet. He might know where I was.

**Cleves:** I wouldn't trust that man. I saw him giving the King some white flowers.

**Troy:** Yes the king asked for them. The gardener didn't dare question the king of course.

**Parr:** So the King was planning to give someone white flowers?

**Aragon:** So it would seem.

**Troy:** Appearances can be deceiving.

**Seymour:** I did see Henry mucking about with the goblets. At least that's what I think he was doing.

**Troy:** You mentioned that in your interview. Did you see anyone else?

**Seymour:** Not right then. Earlier Catherine Howard was wandering all over the castle. So were Anne of Cleves and Catherine of Aragon.

**Troy:** So You saw most of the wives at some point or another.

**Seymour:** I guess.

**Troy:** Of all of the wives you seem to be everywhere, doing everything.

**Seymour:** Well I do like to get around. It's easier to adapt and help people if you stay informed.

**Howard:** She's been very good at getting wine for me.

**Parr:** Your wine is terrible my dear. I tried some and was sick for hours afterwards. Where did you get it?

**Seymour:** I was getting it from the cook. *(There is a scream)*

### **SND Q 17 Scream The cook is dead.**

**Aragon:** What is going on?

**Troy:** I will return later. *(exits)*

**Boleyn:** The castle of death! *(laughs kind of hysterically)*

**Cleves:** You are being overly dramatic, as usual. Perhaps the cook had an accident.

**Parr:** The kitchen is a dangerous place.

**Seymour:** Well I'm not waiting to be accused of another crime. I'm going to bed.

**Boleyn:** I too have had enough. Good Night. *(Seymour and Boleyn exit.)*

**Howard:** Well how about a game of Imperial?

**Cleves:** Not for me *(yawn)* I am for my bed. *(exit)*



**Aragon:** It is late and past time for my rest. (*exits*)

**Parr:** I will take you on Your Majesty. (*they start playing cards*)  
*Troy enters*

**Troy:** Everyone went to bed I assume.

**Parr:** Yes of course. What is the news detective?

**Troy:** The cook is dead I'm afraid.

**Howard:** Did she fall into her oven?

**Troy:** Not at all. It looks like poison. She has the same red around her face as the King.

**Howard:** It wasn't me!

**Troy:** Oh were pretty sure it was an accident. The glasses from the wine goblets were emptied into a bottle for consumption by the servants later. Common practice amongst staff.

**Howard:** I thought I drank all of the wine in the glasses. I must have been more tipsy than I thought.

**Parr:** Didn't Jane remove all of the glasses?

**Troy:** The parlour maid saw her bringing them into the kitchen. The kitchen staff were grateful for her help. Now I must return to my office to sort through the suspects. Good evening ladies. Parr & Howard continue to play cards as lights dim

**SND Q 18** passing of evening into morning (*bird song, to awaken*)

## **SCENE 6 A New Day dawns**

*Enter wives*

**Boleyn:** Well. It is quite the relief to have that detective gone.

**Parr:** Don't celebrate just yet. The detective will be back. The cook died of poison from tainted wine.

**Howard:** I thought the detective was rather charming.

**Cleves:** You would.

**Howard:** You find meaning your way, I'll find it mine.

**Aragon:** Give it a rest you two.

**Parr:** Where's Jane?

**Howard:** She said she had a headache so was staying in bed.

**Boleyn:** Figures.

**Howard:** Why is it that Janey is always there at every turn of this narrative?

**Boleyn:** Well she did say she saw Henry by the goblets. What do you suppose he could have been doing?

**Cleves:** My footman told me that Henry was quite vindictive and would poison rabbits that dug holes in the garden.

**Howard:** That is the sign of a disturbed man. Rabbits are adorable, soft, and cute.

**Aragon:** Kings will do what they do. Devine right!

**Cleves:** Hog wash. You are either good or not. Henry was a cruel and vain man.

**Howard:** So who's kinda glad he's dead? *(Each wife puts up their hand)*

**Seymour:** *(enters and raises her hand)* So what am I raising my hand to?

**Boleyn:** Being glad Henry is dead.

**Seymour:** Oh well that goes without saying.

**Howard:** But you loved him.

**Seymour:** Yes.

**Parr:** So then why did you kill him *(looks at Seymour)*

**Seymour:** *(sighs)* How did you know.

**Aragon:** You were everywhere dear. Providing enough distractions to re-direct things off of you.

**Boleyn:** You kept pointing to each of us.

**Cleves:** And left yourself totally out of it a little too much.

**Seymour:** You all knew?

**Howard:** I didn't know. Well not exactly anyways. I did see you and Henry having an argument. Which seemed very out of character.

**Seymour:** He wanted me to tell Anne that she had to give back Richmond Palace and Hever Castle. I told him it wasn't fair. He almost hit me when I said no.

**Parr:** The clincher for most of us was the cook drinking the dregs of the left over wine. You were the one that put the wine into the kitchen pot.

**Seymour:** Henry was putting poison in Anne's cup.

**Howard:** What? Oh thank you Janey.

**Seymour:** No dear that I understand. I wasn't protecting you. You called him your 'French Cupcake.' He was tired of being laughed at behind his back. No I was protecting you Anne *(points to Anne of Cleves)* I just couldn't allow it. As much as I love him, I couldn't let him kill you Anne.

**Aragon:** So what do we tell the detective?

**Boleyn:** Nothing. This is an internal affair.

**Parr:** He isn't as bumbling as he seems.

**Aragon:** He could figure it out?

**Cleves:** Does it really matter? What can he do that history hasn't already done?



**Howard:** I don't want to go down as a murderess.

**Seymour:** Relax. He's more into you for other reasons.

**Howard:** Really? Now that's interesting.

**Cleves:** Well get your game faces on ladies. Because we are about to be invaded.

**Troy:** Good Morning Your Majesties. Any developments?

**Boleyn:** You sound rather chipper this morning.

**Troy:** Well it's amazing what some sleep will do. I have a clear head and am ready to solve this case. I could make inspector.

**Howard:** That's all this is to you a rung on a ladder? *(They move away from others- others go either off stage or hang about in the background)*

**Troy:** So you are amazingly coherent from someone constantly drinking the last couple of days.

**Howard:** Well with Henry gone I don't quite feel the need.

**Troy:** That bad huh?

**Howard:** Worse. So have you really solved the case?

**Troy:** Well I have a good idea, but no real evidence. Everything was washed away. The bodies tell us what, but not who.

**Howard:** But you said you had evidence.

**Troy:** I exaggerated a bit. It's a trick my boss taught me to help draw out confessions.

**Howard:** Yeah I had all these tricks to deflect Henry. Some worked, some didn't.

**Troy:** That's smart. what we all do to survive. Last week I had to arrest this kid for stealing a car and hurting the owner. It was hard but I had to do it.

**Howard:** Your job must be difficult.

**Troy:** Sometimes. But I do some good. There was this father I arrested for abuse. He went to jail for 5 years. But in that time he got counselling, got a degree in social work, and is making a difference in families lives. I like to think I made a difference in his life. I've sent a few other cases his way and it seems to be working well.

**Howard:** You know you are the first person I've talked to that really isn't in it for the fortune and glory. You don't really know who did it do you?

**Troy:** Well I'll tell you mine if you tell me yours.

**Howard:** Oh so I tell you and then you make an arrest based on my say so. I am not that gullible. *(Troy leans in and whispers in her ear- her eyes get big in response- she in turn whispers in his ears and his eyes get big in response.)* *(They freeze)*

**Aragon:** She is re-writing her story.

**Cleves:** So if you had a do over. What would you change?

**Aragon:** I would have gone back home to Spain. I stayed out of duty to everyone but myself.

**Cleves:** What about you Ms. Seymour? What's your do over?

**Seymour:** I don't know. When you look into the eyes of your child for the first time, and they look back, you see such wonder. It's like the whole world slows down into a perfect moment where everything makes sense. That's worth anything.

**Boleyn:** I think I would have stayed in France. I got along well with the Queen, and it would have kept me away from my scheming family. Catherine?

**Parr:** Oh for the most part I enjoyed my time at court. I'm not sure I would change much. I think I might not have married Thomas Seymour. Much as I loved him, he really did drink too much. It made him a little too careless in his opinions. And you Anne what would you change?

**Cleves:** Everyone does tend to think of my life as blessed. I am rich, but lonely. I would have gone home. I missed my family terribly. Amalia, Sibylle, William and I were very close.

**Boleyn:** So what now?

**Parr:** Well performance imitates life so now that our truth is out there, it will spread.

**Cleves:** Is 'truth' not a matter of perspective?

**Aragon:** Perhaps. New information always comes to light. *(Each has a small old fashioned book -they take pens and start to write. They Freeze.)*

**Troy:** Would you like to go for a cappuccino? They put cinnamon and whipped cream with chocolate on top.

**Howard:** Sounds fabulous. What about your making inspector?

**Troy:** Meh! There will always be other cases. It will happen at some point. I can't do much more here. It will go into the cold case files and collect dust for an eternity.

**Howard:** Sounds about right. *(They exit)*

**Boleyn:** And just like that she walks away.

**Cleves:** Leave it be Anne. You re-write your way. She will do it hers.

**Parr:** Now we put it in a chest. Bury it and someone discovers it in a few hundred years and voila. *(Use garden as a means to bury the chest)*

**Aragon:** A long time to wait.

**Cleves:** You have something better to do? *(wives Exit-or do end song)*

**SND Q 19 future \*\*\*\* Need scene change if do scene 7\*\*\*\***

*3 people change garden to look overgrown.....if we can build it a cardboard castle ruins.. The audience should watch so as to be distracted so the future group has time to change.*

**SCENE 7 Discovery (additional scene if you are up for it.)**



*3 people are dressed very modern or futuristic (challenges-making it old as sat for years)*

**Jane:** Hey Anne get your butt over here. *(has discovered the chest)*

**Anne:** Yeah yeah. What's the hurry. It's not like we are ever going to find....*(see's chest)*

**Kate:** You were saying?

**Anne:** Okay okay.... Open it already.

**Kate:** Be careful. Air might destroy what's in there.

**Jane:** All those stories our ancestor wrote about seeing a play when she was little.

**Kate:** I know ... right. We never really believed we'd find it. It's like one of those historical references that no one really believes.

**Anne:** Like a fish tale that gets bigger each time.*(They open the chest and slowly pull out the books)*

**Kate:** Paper. I've never seen real paper before. Well except in a museum.

**Jane:** It's each of them.... The wives....

**Anne:** Not all. Catherine Howards is missing.

**Kate:** Well she had her 15 minutes of fame.

**Anne:** The museum curator will be tickled.

**Jane:** I want to read through them before we hand them over to the world.

**Kate:** There's a lot of material here. It could take quite awhile to read through it all.

**Jane:** You have something better to do?

2<sup>nd</sup> challenge is how do these 3 get back into costume?

Could the other wives come ut and do a little distracting. OR since we keep mentioning the Brechtian technique we could make a big thing of them changing right on stage-make it part of it.

## EPILOGUE

*SONG is your curtain call -decide which*



Aragon, Boleyn, Seymour, Cleves, Howard, Parr

<sup>1</sup> References a line from Hamlet where his father's Ghost tells Hamlet of his (the father's) death. Also The name of film adaptation starring Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple. Based on a 1952 Agatha Christie novel *Mrs. McGinty's Dead*. Also a song by Bob Dylan telling about JFK's assassination.

<sup>2</sup> Detective Sergeant Gavin Troy from *Midsummer Murders* Seasons 1-7, 11 also the name of a city in ancient times based on Homer's *Iliad*.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Pan says it to Captain Hook as they sword fight.

<sup>4</sup> George R.R. Martin American Novelist. Writer of *Games of Thrones*