

INT. DATING GAME SET - DAY

Open up on the set of a "Tudor Style Dating Game". Our host, THOMAS CROMWELL, addresses the crowd. Three LADIES IN WAITING are seated, separated from the host by a wall that runs down the middle of the room.

THOMAS

Hello England! Are you peasants ready to play the Betrothal Game?

The crowd cheers.

THOMAS

Good, 'cause you don't really have a choice! I'm your host Thomas Cromwell, and today's lucky contestant is someone we all know and love. Voted England's sexiest bachelor, because he was the only one on the ballot, it's the one, the only, King Henry the 8th!

HENRY THE 8TH enters, taking a seat.

THOMAS

Now Henry, it's your fifth time here at the Betrothal Game. Are you ready to finally find true love?

HENRY

Thomas, I really hope so. That or some new sons. It's almost leprosy season and I could use a few backups just in case.

THOMAS

Alright, well let's meet your lovely ladies in waiting!

CATHERINE

Hi! My name is Catherine Howard, I'm the step-granddaughter of the Dowager Duchess, and I'm two months shy of seventeen!

HENRY

Oh, a cougar! Hot!

MARGARET

I'm Margaret, I love to sing, dance, and I don't know what an opinion is, because I've never had one!

HENRY

Damn, this is a tough competition already. Ok, who's next?

JOAN

I'm Joan, I'm a devout Catholic-

HENRY

Yeah, yikes. Been there, done that, got excommunicated. I'm good.

THOMAS

Alright Henry, well let's see which one of these beauties is fit to be queen.

Henry reads from a scroll.

HENRY

Alright, my first question is something very near and dear to my heart. Lady Number One, my last wife was a total uggo barf-face, so...are you like hot or what?

Catherine giggles.

CATHERINE

Well, my body has been known to tantalize. I'll have you know I'm corseted so tight right now, I've lost complete control of my lower intestine.

HENRY

Ooh, someone fetch the leeches because I am burning up! That was hot! Let me move on, there is no topping that!

Henry grabs a new scroll.

HENRY

As you ladies know, being a father is a huge part of my life. I wanted to introduce you all to a child that means the world to me...but the boy couldn't make it, so here's one of my daughters, Mallory or some shit.

THOMAS

Please welcome, Princess Mary Tudor!

PRINCESS MARY enters.

MARY

My question is for Lady Number Two. Let's say, hypothetically, that after my father passes, my younger brother happens to...oh I don't know, mysteriously fall ill and die leaving me in charge. And I sort of, again hypothetically, re-instate Catholicism and set fire to hundreds of Protestants...would you comply?...hypothetically.

MARGARET

I...I really don't feel comfortable answering that.

MARY

Oh yeah, for sure no problem.

Mary peeks over the divider, and stares at Margaret.

MARY

Just making a quick mental note. Carry on.

She exits.

THOMAS

Ah Mary, always a pleasure. Well ladies now that you've got a feel for our eligible bachelor, let's hear what our last winner has to say about her time with Henry.

HENRY

Which one was that?

THOMAS

Literally the only one that's still alive.

HENRY

Oh yeah, dogface. The hell does she want?

Thomas pulls out a scroll.

THOMAS

Anne of Cleves writes,
(reading)
Henry you absolute foul beast.
(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You are a soulless man with a black heart and a cruel tongue. You should fear the day you stand before God's judgement.

(back to Henry)

Ooh, that was rough. Henry, any thoughts?

HENRY

She's just crazy! You know how exes are. You throw them in a dungeon for two days, all of a sudden you're the antichrist.

THOMAS

Of course, of course your highness.

HENRY

However, that does bring me to my next question. Lady Number Three, I'm known to lose my temper, and naturally it will be your fault when I do. How will you fix this?

JOAN

Well, I'd take you to church and-

HENRY

Oh great back on the Catholic crap. Listen sweetheart, the only church I go to is the one I made up to get out of bangin' my old ass first wife, okay? Let me make myself more clear. Let's say I get pissed and chop your head off, which one of you isn't gonna be a mega biatch about it?

Catherine raises her hand.

CATHERINE

I wont, your highness!

HENRY

Sweet, I pick that one.

Catherine excitedly runs towards Henry, the two embrace.

THOMAS

And there you have it folks, Catherine Howard, our new Queen of England!

Everyone applauds.

THOMAS

Aw, I wish you two a long and prosperous marriage, one that you will cherish for the rest of your lives...but if it isn't...this episode is sponsored by the Tower of London! Execute her within the next six months, and get 50% off your next order of longswords!

HENRY

Whoa, I love those guys!

CATHERINE

Wait, what?

THOMAS

Join us next time as we find a wife for the Duke of Richmond, spoiler alert, it's his cousin. Goodnight everyone!

FADE TO BLACK.