

# Henry VIII: Big Hal Knows Best

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SCENE 3:

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**16TH CENTURY DOCTOR:** Don't worry Prince Arthur, I've already got the leaches ready to bleed you. You'll be feeling fit as a fiddle in a moment.

*(Exit Arthur and 16th Century Doctor.)*

**NARRATOR 2:** And, that was that. In 1502, at the age of fifteen, Arthur died and the short marriage was over.

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**CATHERINE OF ARAGON:** My Lord, your army won a great victory over the Scottish at Flodden Field.

**HENRY VIII:** That's wonderful news, Catherine!

**NARRATOR 1:** Two years later, there was more good news for Big Hal.

*(Stage-hand bows and presents a doll to Catherine of Aragon. Catherine of Aragon happily shows child to Henry VIII.)*

**CATHERINE OF ARAGON:** And, this is our daughter Mary. Doesn't she have a cute smile?

**NARRATOR 2:** Unfortunately, Big Hal believed that a male heir was essential to prevent rival claims to the throne leading to another civil war and consolidate the Tudor Dynasty.

**HENRY VIII:** A daughter? I need a son! What's the matter with you woman? She can't play football and she can't be a strong king.

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*(Enter ANNE BOLEYN.)*

**HENRY VIII:** I've made a decision: I need a younger wife who can give me a son. Like her!

*(Points to Anne Boleyn.)* What's your name?

**ANNE BOLEYN:** Anne Boleyn, Your Majesty.

**HENRY VIII:** You'll do. Wolsey, I need the pope to allow me to have a divorce so I can marry again and have lots of sons.

*(Enter THOMAS WOLSEY bowing deeply.)*

**THOMAS WOLSEY:** But, I'm in the middle of building myself a really huge palace called Hampton Court.

**HENRY VIII:** Too bad.

**THOMAS WOLSEY:** Okay, I'll ask.

*(Thomas Wolsey exits and re-enters.)*

**THOMAS WOLSEY:** He said, "Forget it, Henry boy, you're stuck with her."

**HENRY VIII:** She'll never agree to a divorce and she's too important to behead. There must be another way...

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**NARRATOR 2:** Henry VIII died aged fifty-five on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1547 in the Palace of Whitehall.

**NARRATOR 1:** He was one of England's most important kings, but he was wrong that girls can't bend a football like Beckham and his daughters were very strong rulers indeed. The End.