

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:01

Bah damn keyboard.. Was Katherine the only one of Edmund howards daughters to end up in the Duchess's household, and why was that and how

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:02

That's ok! I think techy issues our end and storm issues your end, Gareth!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:02

Gareth, Lorna asked about how Catherine ended up in the Dowager Duchess's household.

[Nikki](#)0:02

It is a bit of a history wasteland in Australia. I'm positive I'm an Englishwoman trying to get back lol

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:02

Nikki you will be most welcome in our little Tudor home

[Nikki](#)0:02

Thanks Lorna!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:02

Nikki, ha! Well you are very welcome to our community.

[Lisa](#)0:03

Gareth - You thoughts on the relationship between Catherine and culpepper

[Gareth Russell](#)0:03

Catherine was, yes, the only daughter of Edmund's to end up at the Dowager Duchess's. One of her brothers, Henry, also joined the household at some point. It's not really clear why, except that it was fairly standard not to send all siblings to the same household for that particular part of their education. Most households didn't want to take in an entire group of siblings and in any case it was better for a family for siblings to go to multiple households, therefore increasing their networks with other families. It's also worth noting that by the time Catherine went to the Dowager Duchess's only she and her sister Mary were left unmarried. We don't know where Mary went, but it wasn't to the Duchess's.

[Liz](#)0:03

Gareth, I really enjoyed your book. It seemed a very balanced view of Catherine.

[Peggy](#)0:03

I admit, I'm a casual Tudor enthusiast, but this site is a treasure trove. Thank you for allowing this open weekend!

[Nikki](#)0:03

Thanks! I used to tell my parents I was English as a toddler... spooky lol

[Gareth Russell](#)0:03

Thank you so much, Liz, that means a lot to me.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:04

While Gareth catches up, I'd just like to say a very warm welcome to everyone joining the chat. This is a chance to talk Tudor for an hour with an expert and other Tudor history lovers. We're all friendly but you can just lurk in the background or fire as many questions as you like. Just type in the text box.

[Barbara](#)0:04

Hi Claire! And Gareth!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:05

Gareth, would you say the Dowager Duchess was lax in her care of the girls in her household, or did she do her best?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:05

It's hard to summarise that entire relationship between Catherine and Culpepper in a few sentences, except to say that I think there's zero evidence he was blackmailing her, as has recently been alleged, I think it was fully consensual, but I think Thomas was telling the truth when he told Lord Hertford during the interrogations that he hadn't slept with the Queen yet.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:06

Peggy, It's Claire we have to thank for our wonderful Tudor home, she's an amazing woman.

[Barbara](#)0:06

Gareth, I'm curious - do you think there was any way that Catherine might have been spared and received a lighter sentence? Or after all the confessions was her fate sealed, so to speak?

[Lisa](#)0:06

Thanks! I was wondering about the coercion but I thought it was consensual

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:06

Lorna, aw, you're lovely!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:07

I think it was a case of both at different times. I think she did her best but it was impossible to monitor everyone all the time, particularly when duties called her away to court. However, I would say that I do think there was a real and sustained dereliction of propriety in how the Dowager Duchess dealt with Catherine's romance with Francis Dereham after she discovered it. My research for the book suggested to me the Dowager liked Dereham and thus failed to censure the relationship as fully as she ought to have.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:07

Thank you!

[Liz](#)0:07

It seems very unfair that Dereham received such a brutal execution as a result of a relationship when he could have not possibly predicted that Catherine would be queen. Was there any hint of any contemporary sympathy around that?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:08

Legally, Barbara, yes, she could have. In my bio of her I talk about a fascinating set of queries that came from the House of Lords concerning the case against her, in which they seemed to query if she was being treated fairly. However, I do believe given Henry VIII's personality she was doomed

from the moment the investigation began.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:08

Gareth Do you think there was some form of pre-contract or understanding between Katherine and Dereham.

[Lisa](#)0:08

Just had 2 of my cast mates laughing because I just said Gareth Russell just answered my question!

[Peggy](#)0:08

Gareth - what do you think might have changed had she been pregnant at the time of the investigation?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:09

Only very slightly, Liz. He was technically executed for not informing the government of Catherine's unworthiness to be queen at the time of her marriage into the Royal Family. So he had technically committed treason in failing to alert them that she wasn't a virgin.

[Barbara](#)0:09

That's fascinating, thank you! I really do need to get to your book, it sounds delightful, it's just buried at the bottom of a pile of other things 🤔

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:09

Lisa 😊

[Gareth Russell](#)0:09

Peggy, that I can't answer. My gut tells me Cranmer wouldn't have carried Lascelles's accusations to the king, but who knows?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:09

Hahaha, Lisa, I'm glad we raised a giggle!

[Peggy](#)0:10

I'd trust your gut over most others'. Just saying.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:10

That's very kind of you, Peggy. For what it's worth, thank you!

[Barbara](#)0:10

Complete tangent but Lisa what are you performing in?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:10

Liz remember Katherine was married to H8 he was a brutal man and he felt that Dereham had spoiled what he thought was a perfect being. H8 destruction of Katherine was just as brutal it was a case of "well if I can't have her no one will"

[Lisa](#)0:11

Christmas drama we have 4 performances this weekend

[Nikki](#)0:11

Gareth, is there much out there, as far as information goes about Catherine?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:12

Well, I got a 500 page biography out of it, so in some senses, yes, although on the other hand, no, Nikki. There's plenty that's been overlooked previously, but there's also plenty which is more often overlooked in regards those who impacted her life - her uncles Norfolk and Lord William, her aunt Lady Bridgewater, Henry Manox and Francis Dereham, her maids, etc. Which I think shifts the story significantly once you start to treat these people as figures in their own right, rather than simply props to whichever Catherine narrative you want to craft.

[Liz](#)0:12

Lorna, Culpepper was given a lighter sentence despite the relationship carrying on while she was married to H8. That's why I wondered if there was any evidence of sympathy from the public towards him. I know H8 himself wouldn't be inclined to mercy

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:12

Gareth, was there anything you found that really surprised you in your research?

[Liz](#)0:13

Great questions Claire!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:13

Thank you!

[Lisa](#)0:13

Related to Catherine- why would lady Rockford help her - it seemed so dangerous considering you're helping deceive the king

[Gareth Russell](#)0:13

I think how good Catherine was at her job as queen consort when in public - how elegant and mannerly she was, and the praise she received from it. I was also struck by the fact that I came to the conclusion that there's really no evidence, whatsoever, that her family deliberately planted/pimped Catherine out to increase their influence over the king

[Gareth Russell](#)0:13

I think the Howards were as surprised as anybody when it happened!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:14

Gareth, yes, a lot of people blame the Duke of Norfolk.

[Barbara](#)0:14

Neat, break a leg Lisa! 😊

[Peggy](#)0:14

That's very interesting, given the popular perception in some contemporary books.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:14

Do you think that the Duke of Norfolk, the slimy git, knew about Katherine indecent behaviour with Dereham and mannox before he found a place for her in court

[Lisa](#)0:14

Gareth what was the most surprising information you found out about Catherine while doing your research

[Liz](#)0:14

Well many people dislike him for his alleged treatment of Anne Boleyn...

[Gareth Russell](#)0:15

No, Lorna, I would say it borders on the impossible that he knew anything about Dereham and Manox beforehand.

[Liz](#)0:15

What are you working on now Gareth?

[Nicola](#)0:15

Could she have refused to marry Henry ? Or was it something she had to do? Damned if our do damned if you don't

[Gareth Russell](#)0:15

Lisa, in terms of Lady Rochford, trying to ascribe motivation to something so lunatic is tough. My own interpretation is that she wanted to be a royal favourite and that she shared Catherine's love of gossip and, once this led them into a very difficult situation, it proved impossible to get out of it.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:16

There really wasn't a feasible way to say no to the proposal, Nicola, without ruining her reputation and her family. Katherine Parr desperately wanted to say no, but concluded she couldn't in 1543.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:16

Lisa I think Jane B tried to act as the voice of reason where Catherine and Culpepper were concerned

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:17

Nicola, I don't think Catherine had a lot of choice.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:17

Lorna, I would say the opposite on Lady Rochford. I think there were numerous instances of her actually stoking the flames of the Queen's infatuation, by carrying gossipy tidbits about Culpepper's infatuation with Queen Catherine and rumours that another gentlemen of the privy chamber, Thomas Paston, had similar feelings.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:17

Do you think that Culpepper and Catherine thought that Henry was going to die quite soon and they would soon be together?

[Liz](#)0:17

Was Francis's sympathy letter to Henry on the discovery of the affair a major factor in Henry's decision to abandon Catherine?

[Nicola](#)0:18

Oh that's a good question Claire..

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:18

One has to ask why would Jane B do that, when she knew how dangerous that would be?

[Nikki](#)0:18

I agree Lorna...

[Gareth Russell](#)0:19

I do discuss that in the book, Claire, and yes I do think that was a credible motivating factor. Look at the number of well-born women who married "beneath them" after their widowhood - Mary Boleyn, both of Henry VIII's sisters, two of his great-grandmothers (Jacquetta of Luxembourg and Catherine de Valois), his widow Katherine Parr eventually, Katherine Brandon. It was a fairly common thing in the upper classes.

[Lisa](#)0:19

You know what you said about Catherine not wanting to embarrass herself in public- now it makes much more sense as to why she wanted the block brought to her to practice

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:19

Liz I assume you are on about King Francis's letter

[Liz](#)0:19

Yes, I am

[Gareth Russell](#)0:19

True, Lorna, but all I can tell you is that is exactly what she did and I always think we should be cautious trying to apply rigorously rational behaviour to irrational beings like humans.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:20

King Francis I believe wrote that letter shortly after Katherine was arrested.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:20

Yes, Lisa, she had incredible sense of dignity and was morbidly averse to public embarrassment which, to me, the more I researched, was a recurring theme through her career, which led ultimately to the block rehearsal.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:20

I find Jane such a sad figure.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:21

Jane Rochford was a sad figure, Claire. I think there's an attempt to exonerate her by excusing her actions with Catherine, though in fact I think the tragedy remains intact even through the mistakes the poor woman made.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:21

I find it so chilling the lengths Henry went to to make sure Jane was executed...

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:22

Horrific

[Nikki](#)0:22

Yes

[Gareth Russell](#)0:22

Those were some of the most horrific things I wrote about in "Young and Damned and Fair". The ruthless logic he deployed to ensure Lady Rochford died.

[Liz](#)0:22

Was anyone else executed subsequently under the new ruling if allowing insane people to be put yo death?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:23

Oooh, good question Liz!

[Liz](#)0:23

Apologies, my spelling is rubbish tonight!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:23

Don't worry!

[Liz](#)0:23

Thanks Claire

[Peggy](#)0:24

What are you working on next/now, Gareth?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:24

No, most of the legislation enacted during the Howard crisis of 1541-2 was repealed under Edward VI's governments, including the very unpopular requirement that a woman had to be a virgin when she married into the royal family and if people who knew didn't testify against her at the time of the marriage, they became complicit in the treason

[Gareth Russell](#)0:25

I have just finished work on my other love, the Edwardian era, a book on first-class on "Titanic" as a way to examine the end of the Edwardian era. And after that it'll be my first historical fiction, which unfortunately I can't say too much about now, except that it's set in the 16th century and focuses on a little known scandal in the 1520s.

[Lisa](#)0:25

See I never understand The Who has to be a virgin act since he then married a widow

[Liz](#)0:25

I'm glad to hear that! Although a lady being a virgin also seems to be a more modern requirement (thinking Lady Diana here)

[Nicola](#)0:25

Do you think Henry showed more emotion to finding out katherine's past than Anne's supposed acts of adultery

[Nikki](#)0:25

It seems a little strange that so little attention is given to Catherine compared to Anne Boleyn? Not saying anything against Anne, Claire! It just seems like Catherine is largely ignored as far as Henry's wives go?

[Peggy](#)0:25

Ooh - looking forward to the "Titanic" work, but both sound very interesting.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:26

Widows were the only ones who were safe under the new law. Because of course they weren't virgins, but it was ok in their cases. Even if you had been a virgin and unmarried, under that law what was to stop someone testifying that you weren't if they wanted to damage your career?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:26

In your book you talk about Manox only being a few years older than Catherine. How old do you think they were when they had their romance?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:26

This might sound strange as someone who wrote a biography of Catherine, Nikki, but it's because Anne Boleyn wielded more political influence and historical importance than Henry's last four wives combined

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:27

Nicola, Henry more or less broke down when Katherine's sins came tumbling out. Which is why his actions against Dereham were all the more brutal

[Liz](#)0:27

I think that is because Catherine has been largely viewed as a stupid little girl and responsible for her own downfall

[Gareth Russell](#)0:27

Catherine's career is a fascinating personal tragedy and a window into the crises of 1540s, but she wasn't an agent of historical change in the way Anne Boleyn was.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:27

I can't say with certainty on their ages, except to say that I think Catherine was about 15-16 when the Manox liaison began and he was maybe in his early to mid-20s.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:28

Thank you!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:28

Mannox allegedly married Katherine's Stepmother is there any truth in that

[Gareth Russell](#)0:28

None whatsoever, Lorna

[Nikki](#)0:28

I guess by the time Catherine came around Henry had learnt his lesson and made sure he didn't marry someone who'd attempt to take any power away from him!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:29

He was already married before the death of Catherine's father.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:29

Yes, Nikki, he all but told Jane Seymour he didn't want another competitor or disputatious wife.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:29

thank you guess it was purely coincidental that the name was the same

[Nikki](#)0:29

Is she was very young and enjoyed the trappings of wealth he offered..

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:29

He certainly doted on her and lavished her with gifts.

[Liz](#)0:29

What would you say Catherine's legacy was?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:30

I don't think the name even was the same, Lorna, that seems to be a Victorian fabrication.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:30

Those pesky Victorians!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:31

It's one of many, I'm afraid, which attached themselves to Catherine's legend in the 1800s because the Victorians were fascinated by her story.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:31

Do you think if Catherine's youthful follies hadn't come out she would have made a good queen

[RealTudorLady](#)0:31

Hi everyone, sorry I am late, just got in from a gig. Just wanted to ask about the trial that Kathryn never had. Is it true that Henry refused her a trial in Parliament or did she not want to defend herself?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:31

Liz, that's an interesting question. In the sense, this is her legacy. She left a legacy of an enduringly fascinating, and tragic, story which kept her name alive for 500 years after her death.

[Peggy](#)0:31

What do you think drew the Victorians to this particular queen?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:31

Hi RealTudorLady!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:31

Parliament offered her a trial and she refused.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:32

Yes the Victorians have a lot to answer for with their chewed up versions of the truth

[Nikki](#)0:32

Why do you think??

[Lisa](#)0:32

Do you think if Catherine had been able to see Henry she would have pleaded her case successfully to change his mind

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:32

Hi RTL hope you are well

[Gareth Russell](#)0:32

Whether she was too embarrassed to hear the details of her private life read out in a court of law or if she thought she should throw herself on her husband's mercy is unclear. But it was Catherine who turned down the trial

[Gareth Russell](#)0:32

I don't, Lisa, the evidence kept coming out against her and it would have destroyed her in his eyes and at his hands eventually

[Nikki](#)0:33

I guess she figured out it was a lost cause anyway....

[Liz](#)0:33

I wish the Victorians had had the technology we have now when they excavated the alter in St Peter ad Vincula. It would be so fascinating to find out what science could tell us from the remains of all the victims there

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:34

Perhaps Katherine refused a trial to spare her family

[Nikki](#)0:34

Yes!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:34

trial and to spare her family the shame she had brought upon them

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:34

Yes, Liz, I love the fact that everything was recorded from the work they did in the 1870s, but it would have been nice to have more forensic details.

[Nikki](#)0:35

I agree Claire..

[Gareth Russell](#)0:35

I think her emotions were all over the place, to be honest. One moment she was defiant, others contrite, she swung between thinking she'd live and accepting she'd die. Which to me seems a perfectly natural and human reaction to such an awful scenario

[Nikki](#)0:35

It was one of the most atmospheric places I visited in England, that's for sure...

[RealTudorLady](#)0:35

Thanks Gareth. Yes, Lorna, not too bad. I have mixed feelings with KH as yes she was young but she also should have known better as her cousin had been condemned for nothing. She may not have had sex with Culpeper but she was daft meeting with him at night.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:35

I feel personally that the Duchess shared a great deal of the blame here what is your opinion on that Gareth

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:36

Gareth, what do you think Cranmer felt about it all. Do you think he felt sorry for Catherine?

[Liz](#)0:37

Which tv/ film interpretation of her and her story do you think comes closest to the real person and events? If any

[Gareth Russell](#)0:37

Yes, Lorna, but not in the way she's usually blamed. I think she only knew half of what had gone on, I think once Catherine became queen she did try to contain the Dereham scandal if ineffectively, and I also uncovered evidence that when she was interrogated she refused to traduce Catherine or "throw her under the bus" to try to save herself. So I actually think there was a lot more affection there than the Duchess is usually given credit for, likewise with the Countess of Bridgewater towards Catherine. That being said, she failed to appreciate Dereham's possessiveness and unpredictability, and badly so.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:37

I think he did feel sorry for her, definitely, Claire, but not enough to stop him pursuing the case to the end.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:38

Liz, there have been many excellent ones but in terms of any which have gotten the closest to Catherine that, I think, is still something we're waiting for.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:38

If the duchess was aware that the key kept going missing then she should have kept it with her at all times and made sure that she was the one that locked the maidens chamber at night

[Lisa](#)0:38

We'll all I have to go. Gareth and Claire thank you so much!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:38

She wasn't aware it was missing, Lorna. Catherine stole it, they made a copy and it was put back presumably.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:38

Thank you for coming, Lisa!

[Nikki](#)0:38

Bye Lisa!

[Barbara](#)0:39

Bye Lisa, break a leg!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:39

Happy Christmas, Lisa!

[Peggy](#)0:39

Bye, Lisa!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:39

It's also very easy to say "should" with the benefit of hindsight. The Duchess's actions were instances of failures, but Catherine outwitted her at Horsham on many occasions and her servants deliberately didn't tell her what they knew to be going on.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:40

After your research, what kind of feeling did you come away with regarding Culpeper. What kind of man do you think he was?

[Gareth Russell](#)0:40

It would also have been grossly beneath the dignity of the third or fourth highest-ranking woman in the country to go around locking her servants' doors at night. So etiquette played a part too

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:40

Ahh thank you Gareth.. So the duchess was aware that Katherine was a bit of a tearaway (loosely worded) then

[Gareth Russell](#)0:40

I think he was an awful, shallow, vainglorious moron, Claire.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:40

There was very little redeeming qualities in Culpepper

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:40

Don't hold back 😊

[Gareth Russell](#)0:40

I'd say she did, yes, Lorna!

[Gareth Russell](#)0:41

I'll try, Claire! Hahahaha

[Liz](#)0:41

Dereham seemd to have genuine affection for her, leaving money in her care etc. But why did he put himself in so much risk by coming to court after she was married to H8?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:42

One thing that really flummoxs me is why did the Duchess send Dereham to court

[Liz](#)0:42

Is the rape story regarding Culpepper confirmed to be him to I believe a cousin f his was a possibility???

[Gareth Russell](#)0:43

I think he was obsessed with her, Liz, and possessive into the bargain and that's why he went. I talk a lot in the book about how that happened, which is probably too detailed for her, but obsessive covers it. And Lorna, there's evidence that she brought him once to try to sate him and he then left her household. Again it's hard to boil chapters into sentences, but the Howards weren't stupid - they were just dealing with Dereham, who was.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:43

Liz I'm not too sure but I believe it was quite common to have a few sons with the same name in a family

[Gareth Russell](#)0:43

It could be him or his brother with the same name, Thomas Culpepper the Elder, Liz.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:44

I think Dereham wanted to claim Kathryn as his own as promised to him but got his eye whipped and Kathryn didn't want him any more. He then became a cad and a nuisance.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:45

So by keeping Dereham close the Howards thought they could keep his mouth shut

[Liz](#)0:45

Poor Catherine wasn't the shrewdest judge of character when it came to her love life

[Gareth Russell](#)0:45

Pretty much

[Nikki](#)0:45

Yes he sounds narcissistic

[Gareth Russell](#)0:45

That's exactly what they were trying to do, Lorna

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:46

Liz I feel that she tried her best, in a world that was brutal basically she was chucked into the lions den and chewed up

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:48

She was so stupid to have those meetings with Culpeper though. Even if they didn't have sex, it would have appeared that they were doing so.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:48

So do you think that Dereham was jealous of Catherine's "relationship" with Culpepper

[RealTudorLady](#)0:48

Francis Dereham was one of those men whom you can't get rid off and just keeps on and on until you either kill them or give in, it seems to me. He caused trouble in the household as well, bragging all the time and being insulting.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:48

Yes, the Culpepper meetings can only be described as lunatic, Claire, and Lorna Dereham certainly was jealous of her relationship with Culpepper. He thought she wanted to marry Culpepper instead of him in 1539.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:49

RTL, precisely. A shrewd assessment of Francis.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:49

Was it Dereham who told his torturer about Culpepper or did he try to protect her

[Liz](#)0:49

I wonder what type of queen she would have been if she had stayed married to H8. It's been a while since I read Gareth's book but I remember that she was interested in trying to do traditional queenly things such as patronage. Maybe she would have matured into a highly successful consort?

[Peggy](#)0:49

Well, one couldn't actually prepare for life as queen in that court - all the teachings of manners, etiquette, and so on were basically useless, it seems, absent a shrewd strategic mind, which most of H8's queens lacked.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:49

I think she could have been, Liz, she certainly believed strongly in aristocratic etiquette and the "correct" way of doing things. Which for a queen consort is part of the job requirements!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:49

Thanks, Gareth.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:50

It was queens like Jane Seymour who stuck to the rule book who tended to do well. Deviating from it, like Katherine Parr did when she queried Henry's views, was the risk.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:51

Basically queens were to be seen and not heard and have babies

[Nikki](#)0:51

Yes... what a life! 🙄

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:52

How many children did Edmund Howard have

[Liz](#)0:52

I don't know, the medieval queen duties which H8 obviously wanted seemed to be quite varied.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:53

It depends really on the king, Lorna, because actually medieval queens had been expected to conduct diplomatic meetings, they had to oversee the largest collection of personal revenue-generating lands in the kingdom beside the king, they oversaw households with incomes and expenditures that would today run into millions of pounds, they had to pick scholars and artists to

patronise, etc. So in fact they were expected to an awful lot, it was more Henry who was unsettled by their clout

[Liz](#)0:53

Having children was obviously the main one but there were many others, patronage etc

[Liz](#)0:53

acting as regent etc

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:54

Henry couldn't seem to make up his mind about what kind of woman and queen he wanted.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:54

The sources are unclear, Lorna, one mentions another daughter for Edmund called Jane. But the biological children we can be sure of are Charles, Henry, and George, a Margaret, Catherine and Mary. The others - Isabella, Joyce, the other Margaret, Ralph, John, etc. - they were Leighs from Catherine's mother's first marriage

[Gareth Russell](#)0:54

No, he absolutely couldn't, Claire.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:55

I believe Kathryn H would have been a decent Queen if she was a bit older and a bit more mature. She was trained to run a household and the Howards thought they ruled anyway. She was left alone without the King for long periods as well with his leg and depression and visits to Anne of Cleves so it's no wonder she deviated from the rules.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:55

Katherine of Aragon certainly went beyond the usual remit then as she defended the Kingdom from James 4th whilst Henry was in France on a pub Crawl LOL

[Nikki](#)0:55

Lol

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:55

It's just coming up to the hour. Thank you all for joining us tonight and a big thank you to Gareth for allowing us to grill him. If you haven't had chance to listen to his talk then you can see that at <https://www.tudorsociety.com/expert-talk-gareth-russell-catherine-howard-personality-and-private-life/>. Do have a good browse of our expert talks too, just use the menu bar at the top of the page (they're in Expert Talks under Contents).

[Liz](#)0:56

I think if Katherine of Aragon had had a brood of healthy boys Henry would of considered her ideal in every way. She was certainly close to the perfect medieval queen model

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

Next Saturday, here in the chatroom at the same time, we have our Tudor Society Christmas party. We all just pile in, armed with our favourite tippie, and socialise for an hour. It's always fun. Our next expert live chat is with Kate Cole on the Witches of Elizabethan and Stuart Essex, and will take place on 4th January.

[Gareth Russell](#)0:56

Thank you so much, Claire, and everybody. A very happy Christmas and Hanukkah to everyone!

[Barbara](#)0:56

Thank you everyone!

[Nikki](#)0:56

Thank you so much Gareth, and Claire too for letting us newbies in!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

It's always a pleasure having you chat with us, Gareth, thank you.

[Peggy](#)0:56

Lorna - well, in that case Catherine of Aragon was following in her mother's example.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:57

Thank you Gareth Xx Happy Christmas

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:57

I hope those of you here for the open weekend are enjoying having a browse.

[Liz](#)0:57

Thanks Gareth. It's been very interesting. I look forward to your Titanic book very much

[Barbara](#)0:57

Very much so!

[Nikki](#)0:57

Merry Christmas all!

[Peggy](#)0:57

Merry Christmas!

[Liz](#)0:57

Thanks Gareth

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:57

Merry Christmas and thank you!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:57

Thanks Gareth, enjoyed. Merry [Christmas.Thanks](#) Claire. See you next week everyone.

[Nikki](#)0:57

Bye, I'm off for breakfast!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:58

See you all next week, Take care and keep safe everyone Xx

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:59

See you all soon!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:59

Enjoy your bacon and eggs, Nikki.

[RealTudorLady](#)1:00

I am off with my chocolate cake and coffee. Night.