

Live Chat with Caroline Angus – Thomas Cromwell

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:00

Hello! Welcome to this month's expert live chat. Joining us for a Q&A session on Thomas Cromwell today is author Caroline Angus. A big thank you to Caroline for her wonderful talk and for joining us here today. Feel free to ask Caroline questions about her talk, her novels, her forthcoming book of Cromwell's letters, or her research.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:00

Cromwell is a different person in the letters he wrote and received.

[Bill Wolff](#)00:00

Caroline, where do you do your research?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:01

What were Cromwell's origins and what did he do before he entered wolsey'd service

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:01

Hi Clare!

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:01

Hi everyone

[Caroline Angus](#)00:01

Cromwell is measured and calm in all his letters, with a few exceptions. He calculated every word, every move.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:02

Greetings Everyone

[Shelley Varran](#)00:02

Really Looking forward to Speaking about Cromwell

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:02

Hi Shelley!

[Caroline Angus](#)00:02

I researched entirely online, due to my locations. I have access to all primary sources and have a library of secondary sources at home. Covid had made it hard to access some papers, so its such me and my computer in my library

[Caroline Angus](#)00:04

Cromwell left Putney, and after a stint in the French army, worked for the Frescobaldi family in Florence, which smuggled goods in England for Henry VII. On return to England in 1513,

Cromwell moved between London and Rome for private legal clients, and then worked for Thoams Grey, Marquis of Dorset, who recommended him to Wolsey

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:04

I'd love to know how you got into Cromwell in the first place as you've also done books on Spanish history, haven't you?

[Shelley Varran](#)00:04

What were the unexpected things you learned about Thomas Cromwell

[Bill Wolff](#)00:04

Online! Interesting, I thought you'd be in the dusty stacks in London!!

[Doc Clark](#)00:04

Caroline, what is the evidence for Cromwell's penetration into noble circles at court prior to being hired by HVIII to manage the former monastic properties the crown took over from Wolsey in 1529?

[RealTudorLady](#)00:04

Do you think Cromwell and his relationship with the nobility has been misunderstood or misrepresented. Yes, Norfolk seems to have developed a personal thing against him, but he was as thick as two short planks, whereas letters from Suffolk suggested they had a productive relationship. Was his relationship with Norfolk really that negative?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:04

Sounds like Cromwell had his fingers in many pies..

[Caroline Angus](#)00:04

I wish I was in the dusty stacks of London! I am relegated to New Zealand thanks to Covid and my sons heart transplant

[Caroline Angus](#)00:05

Cromwell was exceptionally kind to people, somethign most people don't expect. He always have people multople chances if they did wrong

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:05

A beautiful country though

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:05

Covid is running rampant around London so I believe you are safer where you are Caroline, and your son certainly is..

[Caroline Angus](#)00:06

I saw Thomas Cromwell on tv years ago in The Tudors, my mum loved the show. I immediately fixated on Cromwell and wanted to know more, but my research on the Spanish Civil War took precedent for years.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:06

Why was he hated so much by the elite at court

[Shelley Varran](#)00:06

Okay he WAS kind....but WHY was he so brutal to the closings of all the monasteries....did he hate Catholics?

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:07

I remember he tried to get parliament to fund replacements for the monasteries' hospitals.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:07

Was he wronged by a Catholic someplace along the way?

[Caroline Angus](#)00:07

Cromwell had friends in Henry VIII's privy chamber in 1529, Sir John Gage and Sir John Russell, who promoted Cromwell to the king. Cromwell always spoke up on parliament for Wlsey after his arrest, earning the king's admiration for his loyalty at the expense of popularity. Henry knew of Cromwell from 1527, but disliked him until 1529.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:07

Shelley, I don't think he hated Catholics as such, he hated the way they worshipped.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:08

I don't think he hated the monasteries, he saw them as a way to get Henry some fast cash.

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:08

He was less brutal than some of his functionaries. One who was cruel was reprimanded by Cromwell.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:08

RTL that's true

[Caroline Angus](#)00:08

Norfolk HATED Cromwell, but Suffolk never did. Suffolk surprisingly nice to him. Cromwell was godson to Suffolk's son Henry, and likely godfather to Lady Jane Grey, Suffolk's granddaughter.

[Mary Rutherford-Birkey](#)00:09

Hello Claire and all!

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:09

Most of the religious were pensioned off. Henry wanted the land.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:09

Hello!

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:09

Pensioned off.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:09

Norfolk is a marmite character anyway... I love marmite but I hate Norfolk, the jumped up poppinjay

[Caroline Angus](#)00:10

Norfolk and Cromwell tried to get along. Gregory Cromwell holidayed with Norfolk. Cromwell was the executor of Norfolk's will. Cromwell was very close to Norfolk's wife, who Norfolk abused. That would have caused endless strife

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:10

Clare Monastic land brought in a lot of money

[RealTudorLady](#)00:10

Cromwell was known as the widow helper because he helped many with destitution and financial problems. Thanks Caroline. Suffolk asked Cromwell to help him when his daughter ran away from her husband.

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:10

Absolutely Lorna

[Caroline Angus](#)00:11

The elite hated a '🤡' man in their domain. They expected everything from the moment of their birth, and never expected to work for their place in Society. When someone did earn a spot, they simply couldn't handle it. Henry enacted a law basing preference in parliament based on merit, not birthright in 1539 and they freaked out in panic

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:11

If I have remembered it rightly the vast wealth H7 had built up.. H8 squandered it all in little over 5 years

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:12

What did he spend it on

[Caroline Angus](#)00:12

Cromwell did not hate Catholic, but he did the corruption in the church. Corruption was rife in the monasteries, and it solved many issues. Cromwell paid out every person displaced from monasteries to start a new life and many were found new homes and jobs. He was not cruel in the dissolution, that came from Richard Rich, and a handful of corrupt commissioners.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:12

Yep the silver spoon club hated those who made their fortune by their own hand. In some cases they still do as well

[Roland Hui](#)00:13

What was Cromwell's relationship with Anne Boleyn? Was it good at first?

[Caroline Angus](#)00:13

Cromwell tried to stop the dissolution in 1535 before they got underway and the King hit him and refused to stop the project

[RealTudorLady](#)00:13

The Tudors were an odd bunch. They promoted people based on their skills and value rather than birth right. What was left of the nobility could not stand that.

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:13

I thought they were allies on the issue of Protestantism

[Caroline Angus](#)00:14

Cromwell really got in reformist books and teaching in the 1520s, and saw it was a better way, rather than being wronged by a Catholic. Almost everyone in his life was Catholic until he started at the royal court. He never let go of a friendship due to religion, but he did not like the stronghold the Catholics had over law in the country

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:14

RTL The tudors quiriness is what makes them so facinating and infuriating at times as well

[RealTudorLady00:14](#)

Cromwell would have voted against our Government last night and extended free meals for poor children.

[RealTudorLady00:15](#)

This is true Lorna.

[Caroline Angus00:15](#)

Yes, Thomas Legh was brutal when closing monasteries, stealing, bribing, sexual abuse of nuns. Cromwell threw a fit about it. he didn't believe in cruelty to the people, he believed the system cruel

[Lorna Wanstall00:15](#)

Did Cromwell feel any emotion about his part in the destruction of Anne B

[Clare Shepherd00:16](#)

I think do too RTL. The London elite have no idea how the poor live nor care. Labour isn't the party of the poor or either.

[Caroline Angus00:16](#)

The fast cash of the monasteries was so important to Henry. Cromwell finally was able to repay all of Henry's debts and more besides. owning that land brought in immense power and control, Henry's favourite things

[RealTudorLady00:17](#)

How did Cromwell come to be so crummy with Chapuys? Was it because they both had an interest in Princess Mary and the succession?

[Caroline Angus00:18](#)

Widows calling Cromwell is a very regular feature, and he always replied, as later letters come in thanking him for help. He started out by helping the children of the Duke of Buckingham after his 1521 execution, and never stopped receiving requests. words must have got around that widows and orphans were Cromwell's weak spot

[Lorna Wanstall00:18](#)

Yes Henry was a terrible wastrel he liked to chuck his money and his weight around..

[Caroline Angus00:19](#)

Henry blew the money on his lifestyle and then lost most of it on his stupid invasion of France in 1543 and 44. By 1545, England was broke again

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:19

Am I right in thinking that Cromwell helped to secure a stipend for Mary B and saw that she got something from her father will

[RealTudorLady](#)00:20

That's true, Clare, but its so important now. Cromwell wanted some kind of help for the unemployed which of course was a by product of monasteries being closed as they employed tenants, farmers, servants, lay people and so on.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:20

Caroline, that what I meant about H throwing his weight around... He threw his weight around France and acheived bugger all

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:21

He did get Malaria and dysentary I bellieve but that didn't bring him any money either

[Caroline Angus](#)00:21

Cromwell never cared for Anne Boleyn. She never featured much in his life, surprisingly. She was just the one Henry chose. Cromwell liked Katherine and Mary and spent far more time helping them. Anne can't have liked that. When it came time to kill Anne, Cromwell jumped to it; he didn't worry about her at all. By his own surviving words, she barely existed in his sphere.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:22

Now that interesting it is always portrayed that he and Anne were freindly.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:22

Cromwell believed in the reformation wholeheartedly, and his partner in that was Thoams Cranmer. Henry picked and chose what he liked for his own benefit. Henry was only an ally when it suited him

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:22

Yes, I thought that too.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:22

Mary was confident enough to write to Cromwell and ask his help with daddy King dear who then gave the poor girl a shock by bullying her into submission. Cromwell helped her with the letters which followed.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:23

RTL that's true.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:23

Cromwell tried to institute free food, clothing and housing to the poor, along with jobs provided to all over age of 12. Parliament in 1536 refused to vote yes to the act. The English government really hate the poor

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:24

Nothing else there then,

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:24

I always feel sorry for Mary in the time between Anne's execution and her submission

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:25

Caroline I don't think they like the poor much today either

[Caroline Angus](#)00:25

Honestly, I don't think Cromwell felt guilty over killing Anne. If he did, he hid it well. His own future was tied up with the Seymours soon after, so I doubt he felt bad. Cromwell and Thomas Boleyn remained close for years afterwards. Cromwell aided him and Mary Boleyn financially. Cromwell received no backlash for killing Anne

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:26

Cromwell knew the charges against Anne were got under duress/torture

[Caroline Angus](#)00:26

Chapuis was almost obsessed with Cromwell. Went to his house a lot, Cromwell refused him access a lot, because he was sick of the visits. But they both loved Katherine and Mary, and Cromwell desperately wanted an Imperial alliance, but couldn't manage it. Cromwell and Chapuis had a lot in common socially, shared hobbies and interested and religion was kept out of it

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:26

So Cromwell felt that Anne's Execution was the just reward for a stumpe...

[Bill Wolff](#)00:27

I believe TC was truly a genius in his time.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:27

I detest Henry. From the moment he tried to overthrow Katherine, he was dead to me. A cruel monster

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:27

How could he have, he must have known the truth.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:28

Caroline You aren't on your own about H8 I hate the overweight prat as well

[RealTudorLady](#)00:28

Cromwell seems to have few principles when it came to prosecution of religious dissidents, he starved monks, partnered Henry in the persecution of the friars, executed heretics as well, including a few he knew well and executed 30 Anabaptist people. I don't think he was bothered about very much when it came to political or religious enforcement, he just did his worst.

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:29

Henry illustrates the old adage about power, power corrupts, etc

[Caroline Angus](#)00:29

Cromwell battled endlessly for Mary. He made sure sentimental items of Katherines were smuggled to Mary in 1536. He brought her jewellery (the king stole it) , sent her money and horses and visitors, spoke on her behalf and saved her when Henry demanded her allegiance in 1536, telling what to write to save herself.

[Roland Hui](#)00:29

Why was Cromwell, who was so skilled in almost everything, unable to rid H8 of Anne of Cleves, leading to his downfall?

[Shelley Varran](#)00:30

What did TC think of Wolsey, who was a Catholic Cardinal?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:30

Clare and yet when H8 was a young man he was very different.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:30

Cromwell had an elaborate plan to employ everyone displaced by monasteries to gain public servant roles as construction workers, builders, trades that needed men. WOMen would help educate children, and help with feeding those working now for the government rather than the fire. He

detailed everything down to even ensuring fires were kept lit to kept people warm at night.
Parliament destroyed it all

[Shelley Varran](#)00:30

Perhaps his time in Italy he saw all the corruption there

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:31

Ye, but once King he was on a downward path, and acce,eating after the fall from a horse.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:31

Shelley I think Martin Luther made a big impression on Cromwell.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:31

Cromwell and Anne had similar views, but had different ideas on how two achieve their goals. Lack of a son meant Cromwell's ideas won with Henry

[Shelley Varran](#)00:31

This is a wonderful chat....thank you so very much Caroline!

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:32

You havd to remember that par,isent

[Shelley Varran](#)00:32

Caroline, your thoughts on my previous questions?

[Caroline Angus](#)00:32

Cromwell was the only one on Mary's side in 1536. The way others treated Mary was awful. They were lucky to get away with it, as Henry was not in a good place in 1536

[Doc Clark](#)00:33

I am intrigued by your statement that Cromwell could care less about Anne Boleyn, I assume there are details on this in your upcoming book?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:33

Clare I think small pox and recurrent bouts of Maleria may have also played a part in the way H8 turned out as well

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:33

Oh drat. You have to remember that parliament was made up of thd aristocracy and the poor were among their tenants and serfs

[Shelley Varran](#)00:33

My question as CARoline had to do with his relationship with Wolsey....Wolsey was a Catholic Cardinal.....

[Caroline Angus](#)00:34

Cromwell knew the charges against Anne were fake. Cases were held often with false or flimsy evidence. It didn't matter, because Henry's opinion mattered more than the truth. Cromwell, the finest lawyer of them all, didn't want much to do with Anne's trial, because she was more convincing than the evidence against her.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:34

I think Cromwell was a scapegoat as the Emperor wanted more land in which Cleves was invested and England was caught up in the middle. That's why the Cleves marriage failed not because Henry didn't like her. He made it all up.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:34

I am wondering if while spending time in Italy, TC saw the corruption in Italy....did the writings of TC involve him expressing opinions of either how he felt about Wolsey or corruption in Italy.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:35

Much of Anne's demise came from Elizabeth Somerset, Countess of Worcester's testimony. There are letters between her and Cromwell in the past; he had done her favours. This time she happily obliged in return

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:35

Caroline, do you feel that if Anne's adultery etc case was heard today, the result would still be the same?

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:35

My granddad suffered from MS, from WWI until his death in the 80s, but he didn't turn into a monster like N8

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:36

H8

[Caroline Angus](#)00:37

I don't know if Cromwell felt that Anne deserved to die. He was Anne-neutral, rather than anti-Anne. He knew Anne hated him and laughed it off for years. Once Anne stepped up her threats to

kill Cromwell, then she came a liability. Cromwell liked the Boleyns, but Henry wanted what Henry wanted, so he saw out his plan

[RealTudorLady](#)00:37

Henry's problems are a mixture of the years getting an annulment, the power which came from the Supremacy and the neurological problems caused in 1536.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:39

True.. I think his illnesses and the blows on his head certainly contributed to H8 madness, but I feel that these traits were in him from the time he took the throne....Edmund Dudley was offed and then the duke of Buckingham was executed on what I feel was very flimsey evidence

[Doc Clark](#)00:39

How involved was Cromwell in the trials of Exeter, Montagu et al.?

[RealTudorLady](#)00:39

I think Cromwell was willing to remove Anne as she was an obstacle in the way of an alliance with the Emperor. Henry wanted her gone and Cromwell said permanently. Henry said yes please and Cromwell provided the ammunition.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:40

Cromwell did secure the annulment for Anna of Cleves, from the Tower after his arrest. He didn't WANT to secure that annulment, that was half the problem. He liked Anna. She was the perfect choice of wife, it was her brother that was the thorn in Henry's side. Henry did not push for an annulment until just prior to Cromwell's arrest. Henry did not request one specifically until May, only questioning his decisions. The timeline of the Henry/Anna saga was been often portrayed incorrectly

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:40

RTL I think thos neuro problems could have bean in the first fall in 1520 something the 1536 just made the situaation worse

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:41

I thought the trouble started on their wedding night

[Caroline Angus](#)00:41

Cromwell cared deeply for Wolsey, they were best friends. Cromwell kept his reformist ideas and opinions on the down-low while Wolsey was alive. Wolsey too hated the corruption of the church, but loved the bribes it brought. Cromwell stuck to building Wolsey's Oxford and Ipswich Colleges, staying above the drama and the accounts.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:42

Young Henry and old Henry are like two different people. I like young Henry. post-1529 Henry was a mess

[RealTudorLady](#)00:42

You are right Caroline, see the work by Heather Dairsie on Anna of Cleves, its an eye opener.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:43

Clare the trouble started when he came down to Rochester to meet Anne...

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:43

RTL, Heather is our speaker in January.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:43

H8 silly dress up games must have scared the life out of her...

[Caroline Angus](#)00:43

Cromwell learned the ways of the Italians and their corruption was next level. I had a lot of fo fun writing that in my fictional Cromwell work. I have toyed with pre-1520 Cromwell novels. He would have had a wild time there

[RealTudorLady](#)00:43

Yes, Lorna having a lance almost slice his brain open would have set things in motion.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:44

Luther personally wrote to Cromwell, commending his zeal for reformation. All the major players in Europe on reformation knew Cromwell and Cranmer to be the real deal, trapped under a tyrant. They were very upfront about that

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:44

Yes Lorna no chemistry I think

[Caroline Angus](#)00:44

Sorry Shelley, can you repeat the question? I'm getting lost

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:45

Clare but there could have been if only H8 had given it a chance....

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:45

Clare but there could have been if only H8 had given it a chance....

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:46

Yes, but Henry for whatever reason would not.

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:46

Caroline, I think you answered Shelley's question about Wolsey.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:46

My goodness you are so wonderful....

[Caroline Angus](#)00:47

Yes, the letters about Cromwell and Anne are all in the book

[RealTudorLady](#)00:47

Why was Cromwell executed on the same scaffold as Lord Hungerford who was executed under the Buggary Act? Was it to humiliate him further?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:47

Rochester Castle despite being more of a ruin now but a very beautiful one, must have been a wonderful site to see, Her flotilla coming up the medway must have been awe inspiring

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:48

Yes, I visited it several times when we worked in London.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:48

I pretty certain she would have floated right past or little island on the way down the medway to rochester..

[Shelley Varran](#)00:48

Anything cool anout Cromwells love life??

[Doc Clark](#)00:49

One of the Cromwell biographies opined that Dacre's trial in 1534 was abetted by Dacre and Cromwell being on opposite sides of the political fence, Have you found anything in your research that would support that stance?

[Alana Ask](#)00:49

What do you think of Hilary Mantel's portrayal of Cromwell? And what did Cromwell really think of Thomas More?

[Shelley Varran](#)00:49

How was Thomas Cromwell and the ladies?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:49

Clare I love seeing it everytime I go into town.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:49

Cromwell never shared his reformist views with Wolsey. He respected Wolsey as a Catholic cardinal because Wolsey had earned that position. Wolsey also was Lord Chancellor on the back of hard work. Cromwell would respected Wolsey over so many others.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:49

Oh, are there any really good pictures of THomas Cromwell except as the old piggy-eyed Ghoul his famous one?

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:50

My partners aunt lived ex there, Lorna. Rochester hexterth us

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:51

Did Cromwell have any other family members aside from Gregory..

[Caroline Angus](#)00:51

Anna of Cleves brother Wilhelm claimed the German ducky fo Guelders when he uncle died. The Emperor wanted it under his Catholic control, not another German State lost to the reformists and their big army. Henry didn't want to side with Wilhelm so he discarded Anna. Heather Darsies' book has all the goods.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:52

It's interesting that many of the people Cromwell would later be in contact with in Rome or Italy were living in an around Austin Friars during the early 1520s.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:52

Are there things THomas Cromwell wanted to achieve which he was not able to do?

[Caroline Angus](#)00:52

If Anne's case was held today, a real trial, she would be free. The evidence was so full of holes that Covid would drift through it right towards the liars who created it.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:52

The castle has years of history just written on it's walls Not lterely written but you know what I mean

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:53

Yes, I do.

[Caroline Angus](#)00:53

I think Henry VIII was a monster by choice. He was in terrible pain, and liked to comfort eat which didn't help. I feel like his health issues get used as a scapegoat a lot though. You can be sick and still kind.

[Bill Wolff](#)00:54

Caroline, can you easily sum up TC's fall?

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:54

I agree entirely Caroline

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:54

I think about how King John managed to breach it's walls with nothing but pig fat...You can see the civil war scars etc.. and of course the Catherdral is beautiful

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:55

The town is beautiful

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:55

Yep..it is

[Caroline Angus](#)00:55

Cromwell worked on the paperwork of the Duke of Buckingham's head attendant, who needed to show he was innocent of aiding the Duke in the imagined crimes he committed. I don't know what Cromwell saw in Knvyett's paperwork, but it changed Cromwell. He became defensive of Buckingham's children for life. He saw then how corrupt the system was. He knew the risks involved, but Henry could not be changed.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:55

The German version of the meeting at Rochester is completely different and it shows Henry didn't dislike her. In fact he was courteous, gave her gifts, stayed the night, had dinner and breakfast and lunch with her and enjoyed conversations.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:55

Walk down rochester high street and you will be in a dickens novel

[Shelley Varran](#)00:56

Did you get the question about other pictures od Cromwell

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:56

RTL, the same as some of the English versions too.

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:57

I'll have to read it RTL.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:57

Did you get the question about if Cromwell had other loves than his wife that died?

[Caroline Angus](#)00:57

Cromwellw as heavily involved in the Montagu, Exter, Neville executions. Quiet a bit of paperwork has survived, filed sperarately to Cromwell's own papers. Cromwellw rote up the inerrrogations personally. Sadly the papers have been damaged by fire and water but Cromwell was deep in it. He seemed convinced of their guilt of planning to overthrow the king and told Chapuys all about it.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:57

Pictures of Cromwell....anyone know if there are other pictures of him?

[Caroline Angus](#)00:58

Anne was absolutely a barrier to Imperial alliance. It was one fo Cromwell's greatest desires, so Henry wanting Jane instead would have felt like payday for Cromwell

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:58

Shelley, I don't think Caroline will be able to answer all of the questions as a lot came in all at once.

[RealTudorLady](#)00:58

The Holbein is a good likeness, Shelley.

[Shelley Varran](#)00:58

She is very knowleagible

[Clare Shepherd](#)00:59

I've never understood why Cromwell told Chapuys so much, he's tantamount to a spy

[Shelley Varran](#)00:59

Thank you RTL

[Caroline Angus](#)00:59

The wedding night was tense with Henry and Anna for sure. Impotence was the constant problem, as Henry told Cromwell and Fitzwilliam. But Henry knew if he consummated the marriage with Anna they could not annul. The potential war with the Emperor came up prior to the wedding itself, so Henry already knew that consummation = having to fight the Emperor in battle over his choice of bride

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:59

Shelley, I like the miniature by Holbein.

[RealTudorLady](#)01:00

Yes, Claire, Hall gives a good account of A of C and Henry meeting but its always the sensational ones that are made

[Shelley Varran](#)01:00

:🤔 He IS quite serious in it!

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:00

Well, we've just come up to the hour.

[RealTudorLady](#)01:00

made popular in the media.

[Shelley Varran](#)01:01

Thank you

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:01

Thank you so much to Caroline for joining us and answering so many questions!

[Caroline Angus](#)01:01

I think a marriage between Henry and Anna could have been wonderful. She was young, pretty, graceful and bred to be a royal wife. The Emperor's mood crushed any hope of it by threatening Henry with war over this choice of wife. Religion killed the marriage, not Anna's beauty

[Shelley Varran](#)01:01

THankyou Caroline!!!

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:01

And thank you to all you Lords and Ladies for joining in.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)01:01

Thank you for visiting our happy tudor home Caroline, I do hope that you will be able to visit us again soon. I hope your son makes a speedy recovery

[Mary Rutherford-Birkey](#)01:01

Thank you Caroline and Claire!! Great chat!

[Clare Shepherd](#)01:01

It been a great hour. Thanks Caroline

[Bill Wolff](#)01:01

Thanks Caroline, terrific hour!!

[Doc Clark](#)01:02

Thanks, Caroline. Those answers help with my own research on tudor trials

[Caroline Angus](#)01:02

Poor Anna didn't know who Henry was when he arrived, so naturally didn't want to kiss him! That makes perfect sense. The German story of their first meeting, and the English version made up during the annulment hearing bear no similarities. The German papers tend to get ignored

[Clare Shepherd](#)01:02

Goodnight everyone and thanks

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:02

Mary, you're today's winner! You can either have Caroline's first novel in her Queenmaker series (paperback) or her new one on Thomas Cromwell's letters, although I've only seen that available as kindle. It comes out soon.

[RealTudorLady](#)01:03

Love to your son, Caroline and thank you for this wonderful chat

[Lorna Wanstall](#)01:03

Well done Mary Happy reading...

[RealTudorLady](#)01:03

Congratulations Mary.

[Mary Rutherford-Birkey](#)01:03

Oh wow, thank you!!Would love the novel!!

[Mary Rutherford-Birkey](#)01:03

Thanks everyone - what a treat!

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:03

Mary, ok, great!

[Mary Rutherford-Birkey](#)01:04



[Caroline Angus](#)01:04

Hungerford there was like a way to highlighting how low Cromwell was, so unimportant that he was killed next to a man who tortured his wife and had sex with their daughter. It didn't really work. Hungerford was genuinely guilty and Cromwell still showed him mercy and kindness at the scaffold, to calm him down. Cromwell was executed at Tower Hill as his rank of earl demanded, not hanged, drawn and quartered like a commoner.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)01:04

Right folks I'm off up the old wooden hill, Take care and keep safe everyone Xx

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:04

Good night everyone! Take care and have a wonderful weekend, Stay safe!

[RealTudorLady](#)01:05

Thomas Wyatt was interrogated by the Emperor as things got tense with England as our Ambassador.

[Caroline Angus](#)01:06

Cromwell had zero love life! He married Elizabeth in the late 1510s, remained faithful, had three children and then she died. He had a brief affairs in about mid-1529 with a woman (I think I know who, I put it in the book) and then Jane Cromwell was born in 1530. Jane's mother died and Cromwell had the girl raised and educated with his family, and gave her his surname. Cromwell 'dated' no one, never sought a second wife

[RealTudorLady](#)01:06

Thanks again Caroline, looking forward to your book. Take care. Night all.

[Clare Shepherd](#)01:06

Thats interesting RTL I'm going to look into tnd German papers, tomorrow.

[Clare Shepherd](#)01:07

Night everyone

[Caroline Angus](#)01:07

Cromwell hated Dacre. they were got along. Wosley also hated Dacre, and Cromwell kept that detail buried away until he needed it, to aid destroying Dacre.

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:08

Thank you Caroline!

[RealTudorLady](#)01:08

Happy digging, Clare. The German side is fascinating. Heather book Anna Duchess of Cleves quoted widely from them.

[RealTudorLady](#)01:08

Again night.

[Caroline Angus](#)01:09

Cromwell and More were very different people, but that didn't lead to personal hatred. They would still meet, still dine and have many mutual friends. More's was personally torturing and burning reformist friends of Cromwell, you can't come back from that. Cromwell went to More in the Tower several times to see if he could be saved, and More refused. Cromwell also spoke for More's wife to the king. The Mantel portrayal of the the two is quite good. I don't agree with Mantel on everything, but on More, yes.

[Caroline Angus](#)01:10

Cromwell had a wide range of female friends. He was witty and charming, so attracting women would have been easy when combined with money and power. He never pursued any woman. if they pursued him, that has been lost, because no one ever speaks of any rumours.

[Alana Ask](#)01:10

Thanks for the reply, have a good night everyone!

[Caroline Angus](#)01:12

All pictures of Cromwell were destroyed. Even the Holbein painting has been painted over three times, so most of Holbein's work has been ruined. The Holbein painting was also painted when Cromwell was very ill, which doesn't help the enduring image of a fat old man. Cromwell was lively, held parties bigger than Henry, dressed in bright fashions and held dances. He was old but never boring. Fat? Don't we all gain as we age?

Cromwell had an enormous family, and they all lived with him at Austin Friars. Gregory and Jane were his only surviving children. His sister Katherine died in about 1517, but her husband Morgan and their three sons Richard, Walter and Gregory all lived with Cromwell and changed their surnames to Cromwell after Morgan died. Cromwell's sister Elizabeth and her husband Christopher lived at Austin Friars with their children William, Christopher and Alice. Cromwell's sister-in-law Joan and

her husband John were very close to Cromwell, and ran Austin Friars, along with their daughter Joan, and Joan's mother Mercy. Cromwell also had many many cousins

[Caroline Angus](#) 24/10/2020 01:15

Cromwell was an Englishman-Italianite, embraced was one of their own in London. No one ever let go of a friendship with Cromwell

[Caroline Angus](#) 24/10/2020 01:16

Cromwell's goal of creating the Imperial alliance always alluded him. he tried so hard, but no Imperial brides would accept Henry. He never stopped wanting an alliance between England and the Emperor

[Caroline Angus](#) 24/10/2020 01:19

Easily sum up his fall? Henry's marriage to Anna angered the Emperor, as he feared a reformist alliance between the German States and England. In a war in Europe, the marriage meant Henry had to fight in Germany's behalf, and the Emperor would attack England. Henry got scared and blamed Cromwell. The threat fo war appeared between Henry signing the marriage agreement in October and Anna's arrival in January. The situation was only Duke Wilhelm of Cleves' fault. Henry needed a scapegoat to appease the Emperor. Cromwell was that scapegoat

[Caroline Angus](#) 24/10/2020 01:20

Cromwell never loved anyone but his wife. There were certainly many Italian girls in his past, surely, he was a straight man. But no one worth remembering it seems

[Caroline Angus](#) 24/10/2020 01:21

The Cromwell and Chapuys relationship is very curious. Cromwell let his guard down with Chapuys, a rare thing