

# ATTAINDER OF QUEEN KATHERINE HOWARD

1542

In their most humble wise beseech Your most royal Majesty the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and all other your most loving and obedient subjects the Commons of this, your most high court of Parliament assembled; that where, besides any man's expectation, such chance has happened by Mistress Katherine Howard which Your Highness took to your wife, both to Your Majesty chiefly and so consequently to us all that the like we think has scarce been seen, the likelihoods and appearances being so far contrary to that which by evident and due proof is now found true...

Of and for which treasons being manifestly and plainly proved, as well by the confession of the said Queen and other the said parties as by diverse other witnesses and proofs, the said Francis Dereham<sup>1</sup> and Thomas Culpepper<sup>2</sup> having been lawfully and truly and according to the laws of the realm convicted and attainted, and the said Queen and Jane, Lady Rochford,<sup>3</sup> be lawfully indicted, insomuch that Thomas Culpepper and Francis Dereham have justly suffered therefore pains of death according to their merits as by the records thereof more plainly at large may appear; it may therefore please Your Highness of your most excellent and accustomed goodness, and for the entire love, favour, and hearty affection that Your Majesty has always heretofore born and yet bears to the commonwealth of this, your realm of England, and for the conservation of your most excellent Highness and posterity, and of the good peace, unity, and rest of us your most bounden and obedient subjects, to grant and assent, at the most humble desire and petition of your loving and obedient subjects the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, that this their lawful indictment and attainders of such as have lately suffered may be approved by the authority of this present Parliament.

And that it may be enacted that the said Queen Katherine and Jane, Lady Rochford, for their said abominable and detestable treasons by them and every of them most abominably and traitorously committed and done against Your Majesty and this your realm, shall be by the authority of this present Parliament convicted and attainted of high treason; and that the same Queen Katherine and Jane, Lady Rochford, and either of them shall have and suffer pains of death, loss of goods, chattels, debts, farms, and all other things as in cases of high treason by the laws of this your realm have been accustomed granted and given to the Crown.

And also that the said Queen Katherine, Jane, Lady Rochford, Thomas Culpepper, and Francis Dereham, and every of them, shall lose and forfeit to Your Highness and to your heirs all such right, title, interest, use, and possession which they or any of them had the twenty-fifth day of August in the thirty-third year of your reign, or any time since, of, in, or to all such their honours, manors, meases, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, remainders, uses, possessions, offices, rights, conditions, and all other their hereditaments of what names, natures, or qualities soever they be; and that all such rights, title, interest, use, and possession which they or any of them had or of right ought to have the said twenty-fifth day of August, or any time since, of, in, or to the same honours, castles, manors, meases, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, remainders, uses, possessions, offices, rights, commodities, and hereditaments, by the authority aforesaid shall be deemed vested and judged to be in the actual and real possession of Your Majesty, without any office or inquisition thereof hereafter to be taken or found according to the common laws of this your realm.

33 Henry VIII, c. 21

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<sup>1</sup> Francis Dereham admitted to an affair with Katherine Howard before she met Henry VIII, and was accused of having contracted marriage with her. If proved, the latter charge would be the legal equivalent of marriage, since Howard and Dereham had consummated their relationship, and Katherine would thus be, at best, a bigamist. Dereham was hung, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn on 10 December 1541.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Culpepper was accused of engaging in an affair with Katherine Howard after her marriage to Henry VIII. They spent many nights alone together, though both denied engaging in sexual relations. An incriminating letter from Catherine to Culpepper sealed their fate, and he was beheaded the same day Dereham was executed.

<sup>3</sup> Jane Boleyn (1505–1542), Viscountess Rochford, was the sister-in-law of Anne Boleyn and lady-in-waiting to Queen Katherine, and helped the Queen arrange secret meetings with Thomas Culpepper. After her arrest and imprisonment in the Tower, she suffered a mental breakdown. She was executed moments after Queen Katherine on 13 February 1542.