

Mary Stuart. A play by Friedrich Schiller



Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland



Mary was queen of Scotland at the age of six days. She married the French Dauphin and became thus queen of France too. She also claimed the English Throne for herself - thereby getting into conflict with Elisabeth I., the English Queen. After revolts Mary had to flee from Scotland and asked Elisabeth for help; but Elisabeth imprisoned her for 19 years. The play shows the last days of Mary before her execution.

Elisabeth I., Queen of England



Elisabeth I. rules England, but she has to face Catholic assassins all the time because she is protestant and, even worse, she is the daughter of Anna Boleyn, who was executed by Henry VIII, because of adultery. That means Elisabeth is no legitimate child but a "bastard". Therefore some people think she has no right to be queen and should be replaced by Mary, who is not only catholic but also a Tudor and legitimate child.



Hanna Kennedy is Mary's loyal nurse

The Men



Lord Leicester: Elisabeth's favourite is at the same time Mary's friend. He is playing a double game for his own benefit.



Talbot is Mary's custodian. He is very correct and just does his job in protecting his prisoner



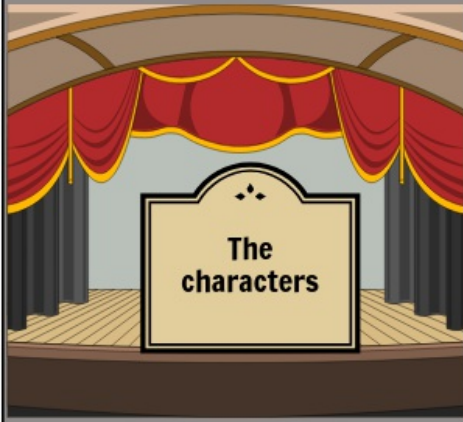
Lord Burleigh is Elisabeth's consultant. He is very loyal toward her and wants Mary to die: the sooner the better.



Talbot, also a consultant, but he doesn't like injustice and believes in humanity instead. He thinks it is not right to kill Mary.

Mortimer was invented by Schiller. He has no historic model. He is an enthusiastic who gives his life for Mary.





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The characters



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