

HENRY 1

From Love, Liz by Lauren Grove

French and flirty Henry, the duke of Anjou, 19, writes a letter to Queen Elizabeth I asking for her hand in marriage.

HENRY: My belle Elizabeth! I am Henry, Duke of Anjou. It is with deepest pleasure that I write to you an official proposal of marriage. Oh, please say yes, my queen! I would worship you with my body, mind, and soul! I am a little bit younger than you, it is true. I am nineteen and you are... Well, a true Frenchman would never reveal a woman's secrets, or her age. But do not worry at our petite age difference. You can be la puma. A cougar. Oui? Your friends will be so jealous!

I am also Catholic, it is true, but do not hold that against me. Catholics can be very fun. I hear you Protestants are a bit, how do you say, puritanical? Oui? We will have to change that, ma chere! We French like to indulge in life. Is it not better to live life to the fullest? And I promise you, my little fleur Anglais, if you marry me, your life will be very full...

My mother is in favor of the match, and who would not want Catherine de Medici as a mother-in-law? I hope I can visit you soon to ask for your hand in person. Or perhaps you can visit me in France? You will love this country, as assuredly as I love you. I promise to show you a very good time, mon amour. England is a wet, gray little island. You deserve the sun. I can be your sun king, ma choupette. I will brighten your mornings. I will warm your afternoons. And I will scorch your nights...

Adieu for now, until I receive your reply. Signed with my own hand, your adoring Henry.