

# **ELIZABETH 1**

**From *Love, Liz* by Lauren Grove**

*Queen Elizabeth, 20s, explains to her friends why she is reluctant to marry.*

ELIZABETH: Lord Cecil brought me a petition from the House of Commons today. They urge me to take a husband as quickly as possible. And it's not just my councilors; it's all anyone can talk about at court. Everyone wants to know who the "lucky" man will be. But why do I have to marry at all? Certain events in my childhood made it impossible for me to equate marriage with any sort of security. My father, he... Well, you know how the old rhyme about his wives goes:

"Divorced, beheaded, died.

Divorced, beheaded, survived."

That little rhyme is not so clever when it's your own mother who was the first beheaded. Poor Kate Howard was executed just a few years later. And they say my stepmother Catherine Parr was the one to survive... until she remarried and then died in childbirth. Marriage is a dangerous business for women. But my councilors beg me to at least consider marrying. Well, of course I'll consider it! I consider it every day. I know what's expected of me. It's just never something I wanted... Being in love is well and good. I'm all for it. I love love! I just have no desire to ever marry. I'll be happy if my epitaph reads, "Here lies a gracious queen, having reigned long and well, lived and died a virgin."