

SCENE THREE: Germany, Anne of Cleves' home

ANNE is doing embroidery.

WILLIAM enters.

ANNE: Do I have to marry Barry the Ape?

WILLIAM: His name's Henry the Eighth!

ANNE: Yes. I'm not interested in marriage or babies. I want to be a fashion designer.

ANNE shows WILLIAM her embroidery.

WILLIAM: That's actually very good.

ANNE: Thank you, but have you heard the rumours about that Barry the Ape?

WILLIAM: Henry the Eighth!

ANNE: Yes. People say that he's completely mad.

WILLIAM: Don't listen to rumours. He's very rich, he wears the most wonderful hats with silk braids and peacocks' feathers and panthers' fur!

ANNE: I'm more worried about heads than hats brother.

Where *is* England anyway? Is it near here?

WILLIAM: England? No, it's an island. A *tropical* island.

ANNE: Really?

WILLIAM: Yes. The weather is warm, the beaches are sandy – and the food! The English have the best food in the world!

ANNE: Oh. (*ponders*) Why do you want me to marry this guy anyway?

WILLIAM: It would be good for the country, sister.

ANNE: I don't understand.

WILLIAM: The land we Dukes of Cleves rule is small, and we have powerful enemies, like Emperor Charles and the King of France. If we make a marriage alliance with Henry the VIII, our country will be stronger and our people will not be threatened by foreign soldiers.

ANNE: Oh.

WILLIAM: But it's fine – if you want to stay at home with mum rather than help the country by marrying a handsome rich powerful king that's no problem. Have a think about it though: Tropical island! Hats!

WILLIAM exits.

ANNE: (to audience)

What do I do? This isn't fair. I don't want to get married!

I will have to do whatever my husband tells me – what if he's not very nice? But, on the other hand, my mum and dad didn't know each other before they got married and they had a happy life.

My brother says this will be a good thing for our land and also – he says this England is a tropical island and that Barry the Ape is a great King.

I'll do it. To England! He can't be *that* bad.

ANNE exits.

SAMPLE PAGES