

Kingly continuity:
the history leading to "Exploding the Moment." *

KING HENRY I born circa 1068, two years after the Norman conquest of England. Short, stocky, barrel chested, black hair. He seized the throne when his brother William died in a hunting accident. A harsh but effective leader, strengthened the justice system and encouraged ecclesiastical reform. First wife **Matilda of Scotland**, second wife **Adeliza of Louvain**. He ruled from 1100 until his death in 1135.

King Henry II born in 1133. Red-haired, freckled, bow legged from riding, scruffily dressed. Famous for his energy and drive. Piercing stare, bullying, temper outbursts, impulsive. Laid the basis for English common law. Married **Eleanor of Aquitaine**. He ruled from 1154 until his death in 1189.

King Henry III born in 1207. Strong build, a drooping eyelid, mostly amiable, flashes of temper. Known for his piety, lavish religious ceremonies, generosity to charities, extraction of huge sums from Jews in England, and the Statute of Jewry. Married **Eleanor of Provence**. He ruled until his death in 1272.

King Henry IV born in 1367. Suffered from a disfiguring skin disease. At his coronation, anointed with holy oil purportedly from the Virgin Mary. Faced a number of rebellions. First wife **Mary de Bohun**, second wife **Joan of Navarre**. He ruled from 1399 until his death in 1413.

King Henry V born in 1386. Very tall for his time (6'3"), ruddy complexion, face scarred from battle. Military successes in the Hundred Years' War against France, which

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he initiated. Married **Catherine of Valois of France**. He ruled from 1413 until his death in 1422.

King Henry VI born in 1421. Timid, shy, passive, well-intentioned. Averse to warfare and violence, he inherited the Hundred Years War. Suffered military failures and mental breakdowns. Miracles were attributed to him; regarded as a saint and a martyr. Married **Margaret of Anjou**. He ruled England twice and was the (disputed) king of France from 1422 - 1453. He died in 1471; may have been assassinated.

King Henry VII was born in 1457. Tall and slender, small blue eyes, bad teeth, a sallow face and fair hair. Extremely intelligent, detail-oriented, shrewdly decisive. Seized the crown in 1485 and restored power and stability to the monarchy following a civil war. Married **Elizabeth of York**. He ruled until his death in 1509.

King Henry VIII born in 1491. Charismatic, attractive, an extravagant spender. He ushered in the divine right of kings and expanded royal power. Married six times; the annulment of his first marriage to **Catherine of Aragon** resulted in the Church of England separating from papal authority. Beheaded two of his wives, **Anne Boleyn** and **Catherine Howard**, for alleged adultery. He ruled until his death in 1547.

King Henry Ford born in 1863. Persistent and shrewd. The Ford Motor Company revolutionized transportation and mass production, making him one of the richest men in the world. Known for his pacifism during World War I. Hired large numbers of immigrants and Blacks, fueling a great migration from south to north. Had

a virulent and obsessive hatred of Jews. Married **Clara Jane Bryant**. He ruled until 1945 and died in 1947.

King Henry Ford II born in 1917. Charismatic, egotistical, roguish with a rowdy grin, an extravagant spender. Espoused a divine right of corporations (“the king can do no wrong”). Married three times, first to **Anne McDonnell**, second to **Maria Cristina Vettore Austin**, third to **Kathleen DuRoss**. He ruled from 1945 until his death in 1987.

Henry Ford II was devoutly devoted to corporate profits. He lobbied against vehicle safety regulation. *See* the next fiction, “Exploding the Moment.”

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*Most information is from Wikipedia.