Queen Elizabeth I of England

People may think that history and the life of Queen Elizabeth I was boring, but actually it is quite interesting. Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and was the half sister of Mary, or Bloody Mary as most people know her. One of Queen Elizabeth I of England’s famous quotes is: “I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England, too.” Like anybody, Queen Elizabeth had strengths and weaknesses and troubles to cope with.

Some of her weaknesses were like anyone else’s, such as the fact that she was terrified of mice and had a very bad temper. In fact, her temper was so bad that she chucked one of her slippers at the servant who was with her in her bedroom. But others where nothing like people have now days, like when her sister, Mary, had been queen, Elizabeth was locked up in the Tower of London for two months. Elizabeth had been terribly afraid, that someone would come and kill her any day. She was always ready for when they did come to take her away and kill her.

Despite her challenges, Elizabeth was blessed in so many ways. In November of 1558, while Elizabeth was sitting under a tree reading, a messenger rode up to her. Elizabeth thought that he was going to take her to be executed, but when he told her that Queen Mary had died, she was very surprised. Now, Elizabeth was the new queen and everyone rejoiced! She was favorably educated and could speak fluent English, Flemish, Welsh, Scottish, Irish, French and Greek. It was easy for her to talk to some of the ambassadors from other countries herself.

When she was queen, Elizabeth was highly recommended to marry in order to have an heir to the English throne. She thought of many men, but would not marry the one she finally decided on. His name was Robert Dudley. She also arranged a marriage with the French Duke of Alencon, but they did not follow through with the marriage because he died before they could marry. When Elizabeth was twenty-nine, she became sick with smallpox. Would she recover, or would her court have to find a new heir? Thankfully, she recovered.

In summary, she was called the Virgin Queen because she was the first unmarried queen of England. Her nickname gave her the honor of having the state of Virginia named after her. Elizabeth had ruled on her throne for about 45 years. She had been a great leader. Elizabeth may have had the body of a “weak and feeble woman,” but she was England’s best queen. So, maybe her life isn’t so boring.

Sources: