



Lady Jane Grey is best known as the 'Nine Days Queen' and her story is one of great sadness. Historically it was when she was born, but it is thought that it was either in 1515 or 1516 and she was the granddaughter of Henry VIII. Growing up as the daughter of the Duke of Suffolk meant that she had a privileged but very Protestant upbringing. She was very devout, learning several languages fluently, including Latin, French, Italian and Spanish.

In 1553 Jane married Lord Guildford Dudley, son of the 1st Duke of Northumberland who was one of the most powerful men in the country. That same year that year, King Edward VI, who dyspeptic and he wrote a will in which he stated that Lady Jane Grey was to succeed him to the throne. This was because Mary, a Catholic, was becoming queen. It is thought that Jane was very reluctant to go ahead with this idea, but had little choice.

Edward died on 7th July 1553 and just four days later on 19th July, Jane was proclaimed Queen instead of Mary. However, Mary had a great deal of support and Lady Jane's supporters quickly deserted her. By 29th July Mary had taken over and was proclaimed Queen of England before Lady Jane Grey even got to her ranking officially crowned. One of the many historians about think of Lady Jane as being a Queen of England.

Mary imprisoned both Jane and her husband in the Tower of London. In November she was found guilty of capital offences in 'Treason the Queen', which was 'High treason'. The punishment for this was death, either by beheading or burning at the stake on Tower Hill as demanded by Queen Mary. However, Mary spared Jane life and instead sentence her to be buried in the Tower of London.

Before going to her own execution, Jane gave her husband's final looks and final wishes, one of which, Jane was blindfolded and led to the block. 'Her executioner took her and asked for Jane's forgiveness, which she gave 'most willingly'. She was then beheaded. Still a young girl in her death, she had been fully educated by both her father and husband who used her to gain political power for themselves.