

# Catherine of Aragon

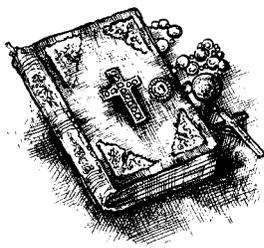
## 25 April 1502 Ludlow Castle

The day of the funeral was awful. It was raining so much that it looked like heaven was crying too. Prince Arthur was so young. His parents King Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth were devastated. Since the day he was born they had been preparing Arthur for the life of a king and now he was dead. His young widow Catherine of Aragon was crying too but she was not sure if she was sad for Arthur or because she was worried about her own future.

After the funeral, which she watched from afar, she was called to the library room where the king and his wife were waiting.

“Dear Catherine, we know that this is incredibly sad for you as well as for us, so you don’t have to return to London yet. You can stay here at Ludlow as long as you want but of course you are also welcome to come with us. Unfortunately, we will have to take care of prince Henry so we must leave you here alone.”

Catherine thanked them and went to her rooms.



# Katarína Aragónska

## 25. apríla 1502, Hrad Ludlow

Deň pohrebu bol príšerný. Pršalo tak husto, že sa zdalo, ako keby aj nebo plakalo. Princ Arthur bol ešte taký mladý. Jeho rodičia, kráľ Henrich VII. a kráľovná Alžbeta, boli zdrvení. Už odo dňa, keď sa narodil, pripravovali Arthura na rolu kráľa a teraz bol mŕtvy. Jeho mladá vdova, Katarína Aragónska, tiež plakala, len si nebola istá, či to bolo smútkom za Arthurom alebo zo strachu o svoju budúcnosť.

Po pohrebe, ktorý sledovala z diaľky, ju zavolali do knižnice, kde na ňu už čakal kráľ so svojou ženou.

„Milá Katarína, vieme, že rovnako ako pre nás je to aj pre teba nesmierne smutné, a tak sa ešte nemusíš vracieť do Londýna. Môžeš zatiaľ ostať tu, v Ludlowe, ako dlho budeš chcieť, ale, samozrejme, môžeš ísť aj s nami. Bohužiaľ ťa tu však budeme musieť nechať samotnú, pretože sa musíme postarať o princa Henricha.“

Katarína poďakovala a odišla do svojich izieb.

She sat by the fire to warm up and started to think. It had been only four months since she got married to Arthur. They were slowly getting to know each other but he was really shy. They had known that they were going to marry since they were both three years old. It was a political match and Catherine grew up knowing that one day she would become queen of England. When they were a little older, they started to write each other letters so they could become friends.

The first couple of letters were boring but suddenly something had changed, and they were so full of poetry and life that she was slowly falling in love with Arthur.

When she first met him the day she arrived in England from Spain, he did not even look at her. She thanked him for the beautiful letters and that was when she found out that she had been corresponding with his younger brother Henry.

The brothers had a fight over the letters, but Henry said that he wrote to Catherine to find out if she was right for his brother. He wrote to her to make sure that Arthur would be happy. Arthur believed him but maybe he just did not want to fight, so they made up and never spoke about it again.

Their life together in Ludlow castle was calm. Catherine and Arthur were sent there by his parents to get to know each other after the wedding. Catherine was glad. She could slowly get used to living a very different life from the one she lived in Spain. The weather was almost never sunny, the food was not as tasty, and she missed exotic fruits and vegetables. She also had to wear many layers of clothes and the English did not wash as often as the Spanish. Everything was so new to her.

Posadila sa k ohňu, aby sa zahriala, a začala premýšľať. Boli to len štyri mesiace, odkedy sa za Arthura vydala. Pomaly sa spoznávali, ale on bol skutočne plachý. To, že sa vezmú, vedeli od obdobia, keď mali obaja tri roky. Bol to politický zväzok a Katarína vyrastala s vedomím, že sa raz stane anglickou kráľovnou. Keď boli o niečo starší, začali si písať listy, aby sa z nich stali priatelia.

Prvých zopár listov bolo nudných, ale naraz sa v nich niečo zmenilo a boli také plné poézie a života, že sa do Arthura pomaly zamilovala.

Keď sa s ním prvý raz stretla v deň, keď prišla zo Španielska do Anglicka, ani sa na ňu nepozrel. Poďakovala sa mu za krásne listy a vtedy zistila, že si celý ten čas písala s jeho mladším bratom Henrichom.

Bratia sa pre listy pohádali, ale Henrich povedal, že Kataríne písal, aby zistil, či je pre jeho brata tá pravá. Písal jej, aby sa uistil, že Arthur bude šťastný. Arthur mu veril, ale možno sa len nechcel hádať, a tak sa uzmierili a už o tom nikdy nehovorili.

Ich spoločný život na hrade Ludlow bol pokojný. Katarínu a Arthura tam poslali jeho rodičia, aby sa obaja po svadbe vzájomne spoznali. Katarínu to potešilo. Mohla si pomaly zvykať na úplne iný život, než aký žila v Španielsku. Počasie takmer nikdy nebolo slnečné, jedlo nebolo také chutné a chýbalo jej exotické ovocie a zelenina. Tiež musela nosiť mnoho vrstiev oblečenia a Angličania sa neumývali tak často ako Španieli. Všetko bolo pre ňu také nové.