

Script two

Mary's downfall can be traced to the murder of her second husband Lord Darnley in February 1567.

There were suspects, including agents acting on behalf of Mary.

Whether or not Mary was involved, her failure to secure a conviction for Darnley's murder weakened her.

People believed that she had known about, approved of, or even planned the murder.

Some even claimed she had sought Darnley's death as revenge for his involvement of the murder of her secretary, David Rizzio, the previous year, a man she had been rumoured to be having an affair with.

It was Mary's third husband – the Earl of Bothwell – that led to her losing her grip on the Scottish crown.

In April 1567 Bothwell and other important nobles made an agreement designed to appease the different factions.

To make sure this worked, Bothwell would marry the Queen.

Bothwell abducted Mary to force their marriage on 15 May, a move which lost him the support of the nobility.

Once Bothwell was married to Mary he stopped people being able to see her, allowing him greater control over the running of government.

Angered by this, some of these nobles started a propaganda campaign against Mary before rebelling.

Mary was imprisoned and then forced to abdicate in favour of her bay son James.

She managed to escape and gather an army to fight back against the man appointed to rule Scotland on James' behalf – her half-brother, the Earl of Moray.

But Mary's forces were defeated at the Battle of Langside and she fled to England.