

(MAGGIE *shreds that guitar.*)

CLEVES.

BESSIE ON THE BASS!

(BESSIE *slaps that bass like nobody's business.*)

PARR. And killing it on the keys, we've got Joan!

(JOAN *hammers the harpsichord.*)

ARAGON. And with beats so sick they'll give you gout, IT'S
MARIA ON THE DRUMS!!!!

(*Bang bang bang go the drums under MARIA's
holy sticks.*)

(*End of onstage-band section.*)

START
↓

CLEVES. So you came here tonight to party with us old
skool

SEYMOUR. Really, really old school... (*She laughs at her
own joke. No one else laughs. She moves on swiftly.*)

BUT WE'RE NOT HERE TO HAVE FUN

ARAGON. Uh-uh

SEYMOUR. We've got a serious score to settle

HOWARD. Cos you see, [^{Lafayette}~~London~~],

THE PROBLEM IS: THERE'S...

ALL.

SIX

HOWARD. ...of us, and we know you've all got your
favourite

ARAGON. Yes everyone always wants to know ‘who’s the most important wife?’

CLEVES. And they’ve been arguing about it for centuries

PARR. We’ve heard it all:

ARAGON. “Who lasted longest was the strongest”

BOLEYN. “The biggest sinner is obvs the winner”

SEYMOUR. “Who had the son takes number one”

CLEVES. “Who was most chaste shall be first-placed”

HOWARD. “The most inglorious is victorious”

PARR. “The winning contestant was the most (*Said to rhyme with contestant.*) Protestant... (*Correct pronunciation.*) Protestant...”

ARAGON. But tonight we’re gonna answer your questions once and for all

BOLEYN.

AND TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU REALLY
REALLY WANT...

...to know.

SEYMOUR. That’s right! We’re here to help you figure out which of us is

CLEVES. The queen of the castle (*Bam.*)

SEYMOUR. The rose among the thorns (*Bam.*)

HOWARD. The Thomas Cromwell amongst the royal ministers between 1532 and 1540

(*Bam bam bam.*)

ARAGON. But how the purgatory are they gonna choose their leading lady?

BOLEYN. Well hold up! (*The music abruptly holds up.*) If this is gonna be a fair competition, they're gonna have to judge us by the one thing we have in common...

CLEVES. Exactly – the Queen to take the crown should be the one who had to put up with the most trouble from the man who put a ring on it (*Brassy 'Single Ladies' Bam.*)

HOWARD. So [~~London~~ ^{Lafayette}], we're gonna hold a little contest for you

BOLEYN. And the rules are simple:

PARR. The Queen who was dealt the worst hand

SEYMOUR. The Queen with the most hardships to withstand

CLEVES. The Queen for whom it didn't really go as planned

ALL. Shall be the one to lead the band (*Bam.*)

ARAGON. So, what do you think, [~~London~~ ^{Lafayette}], are you ready to choose your leading lady? (*Loud screams of 'yes' from the audience, just audible over their even louder applause.*)

↑
STOP HOWARD. We said are you READYYY? (*Standing ovation, weeping, flowers thrown on stage, etc.*)

ALL.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

TO THE CORONATION

WHO WILL TAKE THE CROWN,

BE THE POP SENSATION?

EV'RYBODY KNOWS THAT WE USED TO BE SIX WIVES

(*Variously.*)

SIX WIVES

SIX WIVES

SIX WIVES

SIX WIVES