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The Wars of the Roses

The Wars of the Roses were a series of civil conflicts that span all over Medieval England from 1455 to 1485. Those conflicts were fought between two houses, the House of Lancaster, and the House of York when they both claimed the throne through descent from the sons of the late King Edward III, who died of stroke in 1377, and Edward "The Black Prince", who unfortunately died of dysentery in 1376, shortly before his father's death. Even though Edward III had three surviving sons, The Black Prince's son, the ten-year-old Richard II succeeded to the throne in 1377. When that generation was skipped from the throne, Edward III's surviving sons made two separate families. Henry III created the House of Lancaster, whose sigil was a red rose, and Edmund of Langley founded the House of York, whose sigil was a white rose. That struggle to fight over the throne was famously called, the Wars of the Roses.

In the year 1399, decades before the conflict, the Lancasters gained the throne when Henry IV overthrew his cousin and King, Richard II, taking over his over to become the new king until the year 1413 when the Henry IV died of illness, his crown was gifted to his heir to the throne, Henry V. But unfortunately, in 1422 during a military campaign to grow his army, he died of dysentery, leaving the crown to his infant son, Henry VI. While growing up as a king his whole life full of people who advise him how to be king and with desperate help from the French, Henry was convinced to marry Margaret of Anjou, who then became the Queen consort of England in 1445. Margaret was a ruthless woman and really does not trust the king's most closest friend and advisor, Richard, 3rd Duke of York. After gaining the king's trust more than Richard of York, Margaret of Anjou told Henry VI to not trust on Richard, even when he warned

about France going to war with the Lancasters. So then Henry VI exiled Richard to Ireland. And during exile, Richard of York had enough time to build an army while the Lancaster powerhouse was getting corrupted and chaotic by Queen Margaret. But when King Henry VI grew insane, Richard was once again his advisor and appointed as the Protector of England. After Henry VI recovered from his breakdown and the Queen convinced him to reverse York's reforms, leading to Richard of York to flee but he had the power to form another army and then he designated his heirs and himself to succeed Henry, but unfortunately, Richard of York died in battle to overthrow Henry VI.

After the death of Richard of York in 1461, his youngest son, Edward IV took the claim as the new king and then captured former King Henry VI hostage, which made Margaret of Anjou and his reportedly cruel son, Edward of Westminster to flee. Edward IV eventually had made a fatal flaw for backing out on marrying a French princess to gain allegiance with France and instead married the widow of a minor house. His action made his supposed ally, Richard Neville, the 16th Earl of Warwick an outcast, making him allied to the Lancasters. In 1470, with that alliance the Earl of Warwick had with the Lancasters, they eventually brought back Henry VI back to the throne. But shortly after a battle to recapture the throne resulting to the death of Edward of Westminster and putting Henry VI as a prisoner and literally rot him in prison, Edward IV took claim of the throne again until 1483 when, with unknown reason, Edward IV died and the crown was supposed to be for his twelve-year-old son, Edward V in 1483 but then was declined from service because Richard III found out the young boy's illegitimacy because of his father marrying the woman he wasn't supposed to, so Richard III was then declared king in 1483 until 1485 when Henry Tudor, a direct descendant of the first duke of Lancaster founded an army and landed in Wales for an invasion to overthrow Richard III, defeated the Yorkist forces, and made the House of Tudor wipe out all the claimants to the throne. With such an astonishing victory, Henry Tudor was then declared the new king of England as Henry VII, thus ending the 30 year conflict between two families.

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