

PAMELA TAYLOR

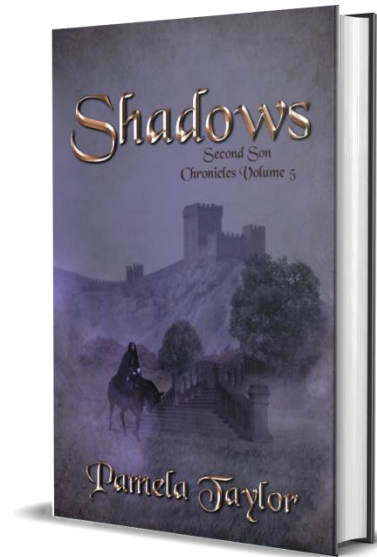


Guess what?

You haven't long to wait. My publisher is releasing Volume 5 of the Chronicles sooner than usual – **15 April 2021!** So if you're in the USA, get your taxes done early so you can settle in with *Shadows* as soon as it arrives.

The designer must have been reading my mind because I'd been secretly hoping he'd choose purple for one of the covers. Can't wait until my author copies arrive so I can see it in the flesh. It's available for pre-order now wherever you order your books – if you order directly from the publisher, you can get a 15% discount with promo code PREORDER2021. (This link will take you straight to the page for ordering –

<https://www.blackrosewriting.com/historicaladventure/shadows> .)



And so, to whet your appetite, a tiny excerpt from the first chapter:

As I work my way through the documents on my desk, first Gwen, then Rupert and Catherine wander in and sit talking quietly among themselves. I've almost finished reading the next to last one when Mother walks in. "Isabella wants to come home," she says cheerily as she crosses the room to join the others.

"Why not?" I remark offhandedly, reaching for my quill and dipping it in the ink pot.

"Why?" The immediacy and vehemence of Rupert's response draws everyone's attention and causes me to drop a large blob of ink on the pristine page in front of me. This will cause my secretary no end of grief, for the poor man fervently believes that history will judge our reign on the quality of our

records. Personally, I hope we'll be judged on the quality of our achievements, though I'm sure future historians will relish as much as I do the ease of reading his immaculately prepared documents. No doubt, there'll be a clean version of this one awaiting my signature tomorrow, and though he will say nothing to criticize his king, his dismay at my carelessness will be palpable. I like him enormously and am grateful for his diligence, so I'll offer him some words of consolation, even if a full royal apology would be something of a breach of court etiquette.

Looking up, I notice that Rupert's expression is one of deep concern, his brow furrowed. "Why shouldn't she come home, Uncle? After all, she's a member of this family. How could I object?"

"It isn't a good idea, Alfred."

"I'm going to need more than that, Uncle. Would you feel the same way if it were Beatrix?"

"Would that it *were* Beatrix."

"I still don't understand."

"Alfred, just leave well enough alone. Father sent her away with good reason. Let's not resurrect the ghosts of the past."

In the coming weeks, there'll be a contest on the Chronicles website for the chance to win one of three signed Advance Review Copies. Keep an eye out on social media and/or my websites for when the contest launches, and brush up on your Second Son trivia. I'll be dropping hints from time to time during the contest to trigger your memory.

An invitation from my publisher

As you know, I don't share your information with any third parties. But when my publisher asked about the possibility of extending his offer to my readers, it seemed reasonable to give you the opportunity to make your own decision. So what follows is his invitation:

I'm the owner of Black Rose Writing and publisher for one of your favorite authors, Pamela Taylor, and I'd love for you to join our exclusive subscriber list at <https://www.blackrosewriting.com>.

There is no catch or cost – just great free and discounted content, targeted specifically to your favorite genres.

Regards,
Reagan Rothe / Creator, Black Rose Writing

Here's hoping your 2021 is off to a good start, that you'll soon have access to the Covid vaccine, and that it won't be long before we can begin to see hints of normalcy returning.

Happy reading!

Pamela

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