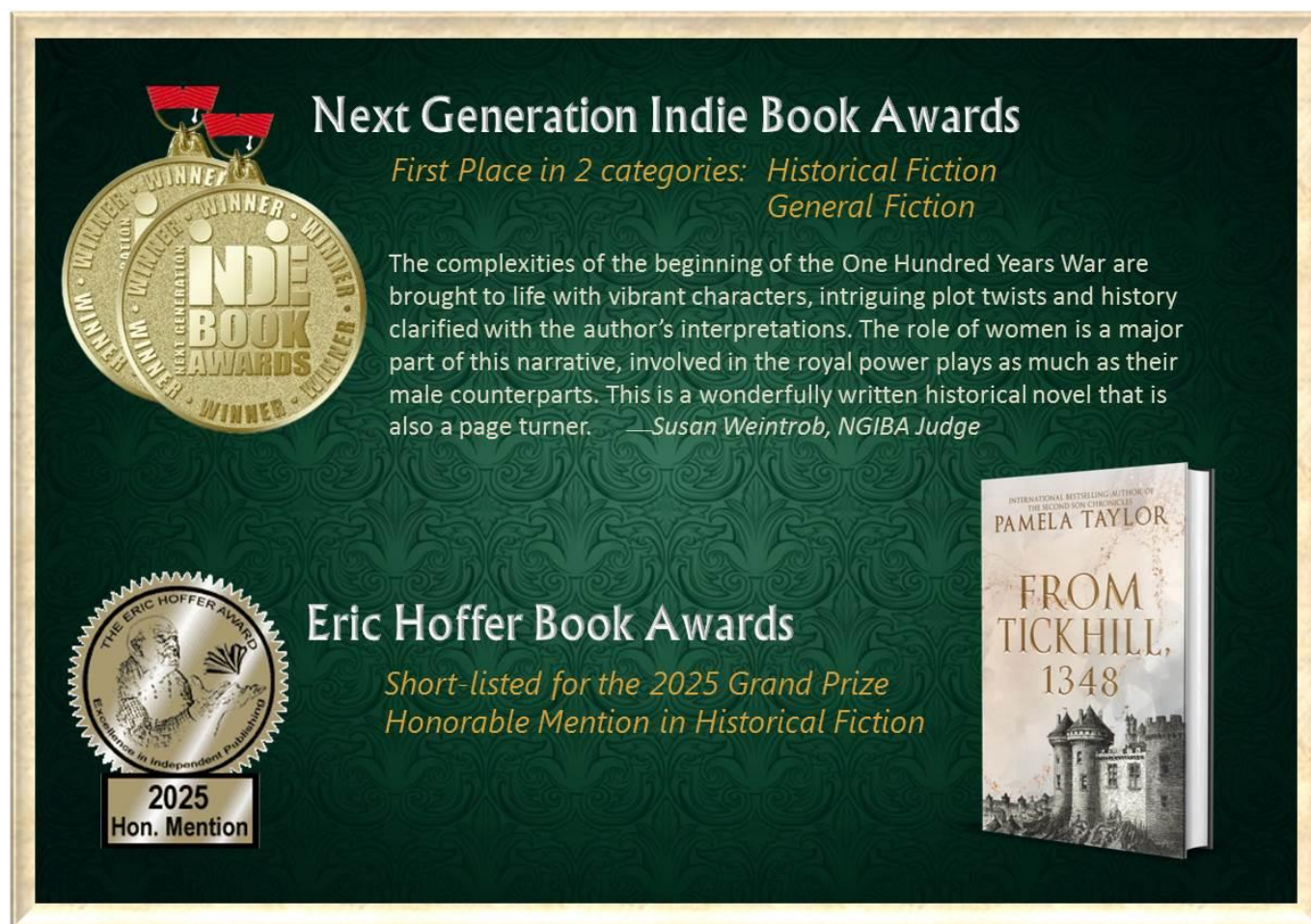


Pamela Taylor

A WONDERFULLY MAGICAL MONTH WAS MAY

To paraphrase Sally Field's Oscar acceptance remarks, "I can't deny the fact that they liked it!" For my novel to be recognized by two prestigious awards contests from among hundreds and hundreds of submissions was so unexpected and quite deeply moving.



So to celebrate, I'm giving away two more copies – audiobook or eBook, so everyone's eligible, regardless of where you live. Click [here](#) to enter. Deadline for entries is June 19th.

In addition, Amazon selected *From Tickhill, 1348* for a special eBook promotion on Amazon.com and Amazon.ca for the entire month of June. If you don't already have your copy, click [here](#) to take advantage of the promo.

READING

Starting research for another novel, so I'm back to non-fiction: the Hundred Years War, the Isle of Man, and knights of the Edwardian phase of the Hundred Years War. Hardly stuff I'd recommend for casual reading, but I'm poking around for the makings of a good tale. Way too early for hints as to where this might ultimately be going, since I don't have it figured out for myself yet :-))

WATCHING

I found myself wishing for a bit of something closer to the era of my stories recently, so I went back to the *Cadfael* series. I found it on Britbox, but it may be available elsewhere, depending on where you live. (Netflix tells me it's not currently available in my country, so maybe that means it's available there elsewhere.) Based on Ellis Peters' *Chronicles of Brother Cadfael* (20 novels in all), it stars Sir Derek Jacobi as the eponymous Benedictine monk. As a crime solver, Cadfael is something of a 12th-century forensic detective. First aired in 1994-1998, the series is wonderfully authentic in its depiction of both monastic and secular life during the period of English history known as The Anarchy.

Then I found something much more modern but quite delightful that **is** on Netflix. In *Monsieur Spade*, Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade has left his life as a private detective behind and moved to France to enjoy a pleasant, crime-free retirement. But, as you might imagine, the underworld won't leave him alone. The writing is excellent – one can imagine Hammett himself might have penned some of Spade's dialogue. So is the acting. Clive Owen is completely convincing as Spade, and his heavily American-accented French is perfect for the character. Spoiler alert: There's a bit of a *deus ex machina* in the final episode that's rather a surprise, but ultimately the resolution of all the crimes and personal relationships is quite satisfying.

MAGGI SAYS



Last month, I had to have my teeth cleaned. It's really strange. You don't get any doggie-breakfast, then you go to the vet. And there, some people mess around with you a little, and then you take a nap. But when you wake up, you feel really weird. Kinda groggy. And still sleepy even though you just had a nap.

But then Mom came to pick me up, and Tay was waiting at the door for me when we got home, and I got all wet food for dinner and some special soft treats. And the next morning, I wasn't sleepy anymore and got doggie-breakfast right on time and then we went for a walk.

TIME FOR A TEASER

So we're just under six months out from publication date for *The Last Priest of Tintagel*. I've had a chance to see the first cut at the cover, but it's still undergoing some tweaks, so it's not time for a cover reveal yet. That should happen later this summer, as we get close to pre-order time.

But how about a sneak peek at the back cover copy?

Remember all that research I did last fall in Oxford, Exeter, and Tintagel? Well, this might help connect the dots between Oxford and Tintagel. Stay tuned in coming newsletter editions for where Exeter fits in.

Piran Chegwin had known since he was just a boy that he wanted to be a priest—to bring comfort and care to ordinary folk in a little parish church. So when his father manages to scrape together the money for him to study theology at Oxford, it seems his future is set. That is, until he encounters Martin de Villiers, an ambitious, self-important fellow student who takes an instant dislike to Piran. Piran's only offense? Having been born a Cornishman. But to Martin's eyes, it's an offense that must be set right.

Journey with Piran from Oxford to the papal court in Avignon to the wind-swept headland of Tintagel as powerful men try to protect him from slander, violence, and even the Black Death. Will they succeed? And will Piran ever realize his boyhood dream?

In the meantime, wishing you happy reading!

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