

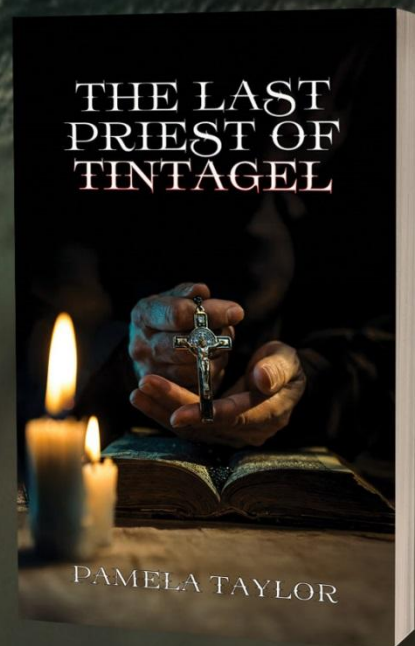
Pamela Taylor

With the holiday weekend now in the rearview mirror, I think it's sort of traditional to wonder where the summer went. I know exactly where mine went, and it was quite busy. The final push to get next year's book into the hands of my editor. My publisher's annual author gathering. A week in France followed by four days in the UK doing research for the next story I have in mind. Final manuscript revisions based on my editor's feedback. And submission of that manuscript to my publisher. Oh, and review and final approval for the cover for my December release. Never a dull moment in the life of a novelist ☺

Speaking of that cover . . . For me, it was love at first sight. What do you think? I hope it will tempt you to want to know what's inside.

Not sure yet when it will be available for pre-order, but it should be soon.

Piran Chegwin always wanted to be a priest, but Martin de Villiers—a self-important schemer who dislikes Piran merely because he's Cornish—stands in his way. From Oxford to Avignon to Tintagel, powerful men try to protect Piran from slander, violence, and even the Black Death. But will they succeed?



READING

Airplane time is always good for catching up on one's reading. For me, this trip, it was Alison Weir's latest, *The Cardinal*. The early pages are a bit expository, and I was concerned it might read more like a biography than a novel. But that was probably necessary to quickly move through Tom Wolsey's younger years and get him to the priesthood, where his rise to power began. Weir describes this book as an exploration of Wolsey the man rather than another

narrative of the events in Henry VIII's court, and she delivers. Those events are just the backdrop in a deeply personal tale of what made Wolsey tick – and the very private, secret life he led off the world's stage.

WATCHING

To quote Monty Python: "And now for something completely different." And just as quirky as the Pythons were. *The Residence* (on Netflix). It has every trope of every murder mystery, even down to episode titles taken from famous murder mystery films. And every spoof of every trope of a murder mystery. And even spoofs the spoofs. Set in the White House during a state dinner for the Australian prime minister, it features a birdwatching detective, Kylie Minogue playing herself, an unknown actor playing Hugh Jackman, quirky relatives of the President occupying the third floor of the mansion, a plethora of White House staff, and former US Senator Al Franken as a fictional chairman of a Senate Committee investigating the investigation of the murder. And somehow it all works.

WRITING

That manuscript I mentioned earlier? That was the Second Son Chronicles prequel, *The Abbot, The Knight, and The King*, coming in April 2026.

So now it's time to turn my attention to what comes after. Time to assimilate the results from my most recent trip and the non-fiction reading from earlier this summer and see what flows out, who the characters are, and what they have to say about their world. It all has to marinate in my head for a bit before the shapes begin to emerge. And while things marinate, I'll share with you in future newsletters some of the things I found most interesting during the trip.



TAY TALK

Since Maggi's birthday was last month, I decided we should both be in the picture. She's fourteen now. She let me have some of the treats Mom got for her to celebrate, so we both had a fun day.

Our friend, Sara, came to stay with us again this time while Mom was gone. We like her. She lets me sit in her lap and she gives good pets and we get to sleep in our own beds and run around our back yard. And she even takes us for walks when it's not too hot. She's like Mom, though – when the sidewalks are too hot for our feet, she tells us we have to wait until later. I don't mind, 'cause when it's really hot, all that black coat on my back gets really hot too, so sometimes it's nicer to stay cool indoors.

TIME FOR YOU TO WEIGH IN

I've been thinking lately that the subject line for these emails is really pretty boring. Yes, it tells you precisely what you're getting, but maybe it's rather unimaginative? So I'd like your input. I've put a private page on my website ([click here](#)) where you can let me know what you think. Vote for one of the ideas I've thought of, suggest an idea of your own, or even let me know if you prefer what I've been doing all along. I'm really looking forward to your feedback.

In the meantime, wishing you happy reading!

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