

Pillars sequel	
Prologue: 1327	
A group of children, up to some mild mischief, witness a murder. For fear of punishment, they swear to keep it secret. The murderer enters the monastery as a novice monk.	
1. The children see the murder.	It is All Saints' Day (1 November), a Sunday. There is compulsory archery practice after church. Merthin, Charis and Ralph sneak away. They are too young for archery, but Merthin has made a bow. They go into the forest, knowing they will all be flogged if they are found out. Merthin cannot hit anything, but Ralph is a natural. He shoots a dog or cat. PoV Charis. Merthin is an inspirational ideas man, Charis a completer, Ralph a bully. Wulfric, Annette and Glynis might also be in town. Also Philemon? Then they hear a noise and see the knight.
2. Anthony & Cecilia	PoV Godfrey, who is the prior's ambitious personal assistant, about to go to Oxford. Anthony is just back from Gloucester and gives them the political news and gossip. Needs a dramatic issue between prior and prioress that will prefigure later conflicts. The monastery is broke, largely because of Anthony's poor management. The nunnery is wealthy.
Part I: 1337	
The town is in crisis. Each major character has a plan to solve the crisis. In each case he is blocked by the dead hand of the establishment—always personified. All conflicts emotional as well as material.	
1. Charis fails to persuade Anthony to rebuild the bridge	Conflict: Charis v Anthony & Godfrey. Romance between Charis & Merthin
2. Ralph and Wulfric fight	
3. Merthin offends Alwyn	Conflict: Merthin v Alwyn &
4. Glynis is sold	
5. Godfrey slapped down by Anthony	Godfrey has an assistant, Philemon, who hero-worships him and does his dirty work. There should be someone who opposes Godfrey right from the start. The sub-prior, David. He hates Godfrey. On his side: Thomas Langley, who is shrewd about men.
6. The bridge collapses	
7. The rescue effort	
Part II: 1337-1339	
A false dawn. The collapse of the bridge, and the associated deaths seem to provide an opportunity for a break with the past. New first chapter: Harold becomes leader of a gang?	
1. Godfrey becomes prior	He must be clever, charming, and have some kind of principles. Is Thomas Langley the one who recognises Godfrey's fatal weaknesses from the start?
2. Glynis marries Wulfric	Glynis's relationships: Wulfric, Ralph, Annette, Perkin
3. Merthin starts work on the bridge.	
4. Godfrey clamps down.	PoV? Maybe this is: Charis fights against Godfrey's clampdown
5. Harold rapes Annette	More on what Harold is doing. Perhaps he rapes

	Annette earlier, then becomes an outlaw, the leader of a gang.
6. Charis petitions the king	It is Philemon who spreads the accusation of witchcraft
7. Merthin leaves town	This should also be the fulfilment of an ambition, as well as an expression of disgust

Part III: 1348

Merthin's return inspires a new upsurge of energy—which is stifled by the establishment—until the plague strikes.

1. Merthin & the crooked bridge	Merthin has returned for love of Charis.
2. Charis fails to regain control over the nuns' assets	First case of the plague
3. Ralph marries Philippa	
4. Merthin & the leaning tower	
5. Charis's assarts	A whole family dies of the plague
6. Wulfric takes an assart	Wulfric and Glynis have two sons. One is solid but prone to righteous indignation, like his father; the other is crafty but determined, like Glynis. They will play characteristic roles in the Peasants' Revolt.
7. Charis investigates Thomas Langley	The plague spreads
8. Merthin refused borough status	
9. Godfrey flees	The plague dies away

Part IV: 1349

At first there is a complete social breakdown. Then the heroic characters begin to rebuild their lives—against the opposition of selfish and short-sighted establishment figures.

1. Social breakdown	The tensions released by this need to be build up in the previous part. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heighten Charis-Merthin romance• Rich-poor tension after a bad harvest• Godfrey being ultra-repressive• Philemon a target of hatred• Ralph lording it over Wulfric?
2. Ralph murders Philippa and becomes the earl	More about their life together. Her strength should appear in earlier chapters,.
3. Charis begins to revive her farms	
4. Ralph's opposition	
5. Merthin's work on the tower depends on funds from Charis	While the town's status is anomalous, they cannot effectively fight Ralph; so once again Merthin applies for borough status
6. Wulfric gets back his farm	
7. Merthin gets borough status	A new prior comes along.

Throughout 1348, Merthin tries to persuade Charis to quit the nunnery. She is tempted, but says No. She is finding all other fulfillment in her job. (but perhaps she has tried lesbianism and it didn't work?)

Part V: 1361	
Restored prosperity leads to renewed claims by the priory and the aristocracy; but the peasantry and the merchants have got used to a different way of life. Nevertheless, the establishment is winning—until the plague strikes again.	
1. Philemon becomes prior and tries to clamp down. Charis opposes him but the bishop backs him. Then the second plague strikes.	
2. Wulfric wins his freedom after the second plague strikes.	Some demonstration that he no longer loves Annette?
3. The spire.	Philemon and Harold try to stop the building. They squeeze the priory finances so that Merthin runs out of money.
4. St Katherine	
Part VI: 1377-1381	
In this concluding part, all the tensions of the novel, only partly resolved so far, come to a climax. Peasants and merchants win a measure of freedom from priory and aristocracy—but at the cost of lives. Merthin has his spire, but not Charis. Ralph is killed, and Philemon humbled. Charis is effectively queen of Kingsbridge.	
1. Wulfric wins copyhold. Then the poll tax threatens everything he has built up.	
2. Charis urges caution	Charis trying to mediate to prevent bloodshed
3. Ralph enforces the Statue of Labourers with characteristic brutality	
4. Rebellion. Wulfric's elder son is a local leader. In the end he is killed.	Show how this is the only possible outcome to an intolerable situation.
5. Spire finished	
6. Langley is Edward II	What is the significance of this? Philemon knows the entire Langley story. Does Merthin enter the monastery in the end?