

Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, Author of *One to Watch*

1. What inspired you to write *One to Watch*?

I read a news article about a photography exhibition by David Magnusson. Magnusson had published his collection of images entitled *Purity* through [Bokförlaget Max Ström](#) in 2014, but for some reason I didn't stumble across it until 2016.

I was immediately drawn to the images posed by young girls with their fathers. I didn't set out to write *One to Watch* to criticise anyone's faith, and I don't wish to be drawn into any discussion about religion. However, I was fascinated by the slightly unsettling photographs because the whole concept seemed so alien to me personally, and I wanted to explore it further.

As I read more about Magnusson's relationship with his photography subjects, and then researched more about how the "purity pledge" movement grew in the United States, and the promises the fathers make as part of their daughter's pledges, I developed the idea of a teenage girl in England taking a "purity pledge" – only to be found murdered hours later.

2. The writing style of *One to Watch* is different to that of the previous books in the series, although it still keeps the reader turning the pages. Can you describe how your writing methods changed for this book?

I was keen to avoid having to have a serial killer in every single book in the Kay Hunter series as I didn't want to pigeonhole the books or myself creatively.

One to Watch was harder to write in some respects because it I was trying to emulate some of the older murder mystery books I enjoyed reading as a teenager, without losing the sense of pace that modern crime thrillers demand.

3. The idea of secrets is strong in your book. What about that idea inspired you?

I'm a firm believer in every single character of mine having a motivation for what they're doing, and keeping something secret is a huge motivation for a lot of people.

I found it entertaining that each suspect Kay Hunter uncovers has a secret, and these are only revealed as the investigation progresses, even between family members and business associates – you really don't know who to trust.

4. What was the most challenging part of writing this book?

I do have to set aside the research in favour of story sometimes. I'm a stickler for detail and because the Detective Kay Hunter series of books are police procedurals, this is something that readers expect of me.

However, as a storyteller I've got to keep one eye on the pacing at all times and so in the case of how certain procedural matters are set out, I did find myself working very hard to deliver a balance between a reader's need for entertainment and maintaining a sense of realism so I didn't get into trouble with my police officer experts!

5. How did you come up with the title?

All the titles in the Kay Hunter series include the word "to" as part of the branding, and so with *One to Watch*, the title didn't present itself until one of the characters said something that nailed the whole concept for the book.

It often happens that way with my novels, so I've learned not to worry too much if I'm halfway through writing a book and have no idea what to call it.