

## **Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *Assassins Hunted***

### **1. What can you tell us about *Assassins Hunted*?**

Eva Delacourt has been in hiding for three years after her fiancé was assassinated in cold blood outside the British embassy in Prague.

She thought she was safe.

But someone in the mysterious Section has betrayed her, and now she's on the run for her life, sworn to protect the six-year-old boy she adores.

Her enemies are closing in, and the odds are *not* in Eva's favour.

For Eva, the nightmare is just beginning...

### **2. What made you want to write *Assassins Hunted*?**

Following the success of the Detective Kay Hunter series, I was able to leave my part-time job and become a full-time writer in 2017, which gave me the perfect opportunity to go back through some writing ideas that had been fermenting for a while.

I love writing my Dan Taylor spy novels, and I also have a real connection with Kay Hunter, and so that got me thinking: what if I could combine the two?

I had a (very!) rough draft of *Assassins Hunted* in my ideas folder – a lever arch file that contains novels that have a few key scenes written together with a rough synopsis, but which I hadn't had time to develop on top of my Kay Hunter commitments.

Reading through the scenes I'd written over the course of 2015 and 2016, I realised that Eva Delacourt was a character I *really* wanted to work with and see where her story led her, and so the series was born.

### **3. What's the difference between the Dan Taylor and Eva Delacourt spy thrillers?**

Whereas Dan has brawn on his side as well as brains, Eva is quite diminutive in size and, like Kay Hunter, tends to use her wiles rather than her strength to solve problems.

What interested me most when developing Eva's character was her utter focus on keeping Alex safe – it's that “mummy bear” instinct we hear about time and time again when a woman's child is in danger.

Eva's history is a lot tougher than Kay Hunter's, and that gives her a harder edge – although she isn't perfect by any means

I think one of my early reviews nailed it perfectly upon reading *Assassins Hunted*: “I love Kay. She is a fierce woman. Well, you have created a total bad ass in Eva. She is smart, tough, and yet still human with human flaws”.

And that, for me, is what is most important about my characters – I don't want them to be perfect. I needed Eva to be good at what she does, but like Dan Taylor her skillset only goes so far. She needs backup.