

## **Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *Cradle to Grave***

### **1. What can you tell us about *Cradle to Grave*?**

When a faceless body is found floating in the river on a summer's morning, Detective Kay Hunter and her team are tasked with finding out the man's identity—and where he came from.

The investigation takes a sinister turn when an abandoned boat is found, covered in bloodstains and containing a child's belongings.

Under mounting pressure from a distraught family and an unforgiving media, the police are in a race against time—but they have no leads, and no motive for the events that have taken place.

Will Kay be able to find a ruthless killer and a missing child before it's too late?

### **2. Which took shape first: plot, character, or setting?**

Usually, I'll get an idea while I'm mooching around scanning through various news websites from around the world, or I'll overhear something on the radio, or perhaps a snippet of an overheard conversation or flippant remark.

With *Cradle to Grave* however, the idea just popped into my head one day when I was writing my last standalone novel, *The Friend Who Lied*: What if a dead man was seen floating along the River Medway one fine summer's day and when Kay turns up, she finds out that his face has been shot away?

That was it. That's all I had.

### **3. Were there any surprising research avenues you had to explore for this book?**

The most important fact I had to make sure I got right was how long it would take a dead body to float from point A to point B along the Medway River.

I'll never forget the surprised reaction from the local office of the Environment Agency when I emailed them for help ☺

They were very kind though and worked out all sorts of calculations to confirm that, yes – where my victim fell into the water would fit in with where his body washed up the next day!