

## **Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *Gone to Ground***

### **1. What can you tell us about *Gone to Ground*?**

While attending a crime scene on the outskirts of Maidstone, DI Kay Hunter makes a shocking discovery – a victim that has been brutally cut to pieces, his identity unknown.

When more body parts start turning up in the Kentish countryside, Kay realizes the disturbing truth—a serial killer is at large and must be stopped at all costs.

With no motive for the murders and a killer who has gone undetected until now, Kay and her team of detectives must work fast to calm a terrified local population and a scornful media. But when a third victim is found, her investigation grows even more complicated.

As she begins to expose a dark underbelly to the county town, Kay and her team are pulled into a web of jealousy and intrigue that, if left unchecked, will soon claim another life.

### **2. Did you choose the (usually) calm and beautiful county of Kent in England for the setting, or did it “choose” you?**

Prior to emigrating to Australia, I lived on the outskirts of Maidstone in a suburb called Weaving.

It was a natural choice of setting for the Kay Hunter series as I was so familiar with the locations and still have friends in the area who can assist with fact checking.

There are a number of places around Maidstone that lend themselves to plot ideas, too –with 350 miles of coastline, beautiful countryside, and a wealth of fascinating history, I’ll never be short of story ideas.

### **3. Your background includes working as a TV and film extra and a freelance producer for the BBC. As different as those experiences**

**seem from writing, how have those careers helped you with writing books?**

I think it all comes down to storytelling. I've always been surrounded by it, and having studied screenwriting here in Australia, it's something I apply to my novels. The structure afforded by screenwriting certainly helps with plotting and understanding story beats to keep readers turning the pages.

**4. Why do you believe the Kay Hunter crime thriller books have become so popular, and what draws readers to them?**

I think it's the characters. That's why I get hooked on series I like to read – I have an investment in what happens to those people and how they cope with what happens to them.

With the Detective Kay Hunter series, I have a resilient detective who has been through the wringer personally but has a loving partner (Adam, a vet) who supports her and she's a real team player. I think that's important, too – she's not a lone wolf, and her team of detectives are as integral to the stories as Kay herself.