Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *Hell to Pay*

1. What can you tell us about *Hell to Pay*?

The storyline behind *Hell to Pay* was actually going to be the first book in the Kay Hunter series, but as the story evolved and I got used to this new character of mine, other ideas for investigations kept popping into my head. I very much wanted to pursue the storylines behind *Scared to Death, Will to Live,* and *One to Watch* first.

In the end, I decided it'd add a nice twist to proceedings if a sub-plot developed under the first three books, which then culminated in a reveal in a book of its own later on in the series.

I'm delighted with the way the series has worked out, because the feedback from readers has been that they've loved having that element of additional mystery underneath the police procedural aspects.

I didn't want to drag it out for too long, though and that's why the sub-plot is resolved in *Hell to Pay* although the ramifications of Kay's investigation resonate through to book 5, *Call to Arms*.

2. How did you come up with your protagonist Detective Kay Hunter?

I took a long hard look at what's been done before, to make sure Kay was different to every other detective out there. I knew that she'd been through a lot, but I wanted to make sure readers could feel she was someone they'd relate to.

It's also why her other half, Adam, is a vet – I very much wanted Kay to have a safe home environment because she deals with so much on a day-to-day basis in her job.

Supporting Kay in her work are a team of dedicated detectives – it was important to me to show that Kay isn't a loner; she has people around her that support her and help to solve the investigations, so it's more like CSI or NCIS than your typical detective fiction.

3. What do you enjoy most about writing crime thriller books?
Everything! I love it when an idea strikes and you go hell for leather chasing it down and getting it onto the page, as well as the editing process as you delve deeper into the character development and settings. I really enjoy the research, too; I love to learn new things, and so I've got the best job in the world.