

Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *Look Closer*

1. What can you tell us about *Look Closer*?

Will Fletcher seems to have it all – perfect job, perfect life. Then in one act of extreme violence, his world turns upside down.

A bungled assassination attempt on a London street uncovers a disturbing conspiracy fuelled by organised crime and political ambition. Now, Will finds himself on the run, pursued by a dangerous enemy who will stop at nothing to protect his employer's past.

With the killer closing in on him, Will is running out of time to deliver his own version of vigilante justice and expose the corruption. As the web of lies and deceit unravels, Will knows the answer's out there.

All he has to do is look closer.

Everyone has secrets. Everyone lies.

2. What inspired *Look Closer*?

I wanted to take a step back from my spy thrillers and see if I could go back to basics – write a thriller that features an ordinary man in extraordinary circumstances.

Without giving away the plot, I spent some time reading about organized crime in the UK.

The plot was sparked by an image I had in my mind of a man holding a photograph where nothing was quite as it seemed. The finished novel is very different from that initial idea, but the urgency of having to follow clues to solve the mystery remains.

Of course it still includes my trademark twists and fast pace, but it was fun dipping my toe into a conspiracy thriller for a change.

3. Tell us a little bit about your main character, Will Fletcher

One reviewer pointed out that Will is “no Jason Bourne”, and that’s great, because he’s not meant to be. He’s an archivist working for a large museum in London who is suddenly thrust into a political conspiracy and completely out of his depth.

The only things he knows about how to survive are what he’s seen in films, so he’s only marginally ahead of the bad guys most of the time.

He’s desperate to find a way out of the mess he’s been caught up in, and the pace is relentless – he has to think on his feet, while all the time he’s being pursued by people who want to kill him.

4. What type of reader do you think would most enjoy *Look Closer*?

I’ve already had one reviewer compare this to *House of Cards*, which was extremely humbling, but I think if readers enjoy political conspiracy thrillers with all the slow bits taken out, I think they’ll get a real kick out of *Look Closer*.