

## **Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *None the Wiser***

### **1. What can you tell us about *None the Wiser*?**

When a parish priest is brutally murdered in cold blood, a rural community is left in shock – and fear.

New to the Vale of the White Horse, Detective Sergeant Mark Turpin discovers the murder bears the hallmark of a vicious killer who shows no remorse for his victim, and leaves no trace behind.

After a second priest is killed, his broken body bearing similar ritualistic abuse, the police are confronted by a horrifying truth – there is a serial killer at large with a disturbing vendetta.

As fear grips the once tranquil countryside, Mark and his team race to uncover a tangle of dark secrets and lies before the killer strikes again.

In doing so, Mark finds out that the truth is more twisted than he could ever have imagined...

### **2. *None the Wiser* begins a series featuring Detective Mark Turpin. What can you tell us about it?**

The Detective Mark Turpin series is set in the Vale of the White Horse, a picturesque corner of the Berkshire/Oxfordshire border that is steeped in history from Bronze Age settlements through to Second World War airfields and more.

The locations and settings are as much a character as the people in these stories, and they have a slightly different feel to them from the Kay Hunter series.

When we first meet Mark, he's emerged from a turbulent time with Wiltshire Police and has moved to the Vale in order to try to make some sense of his life and ease back into work. His sabbatical ends abruptly with the vicious murder of a parish priest.

### **3. How many books have you got planned featuring Mark?**

It'll be an ongoing series because I have so much fun writing about the characters.

I visit Abingdon, where Mark is based, every couple of years since being back in the UK for a bit and wander around, and from those visits I usually gain 2-3 new ideas for Mark and his team that I want to explore.

### **4. What gave you the idea for this new series?**

I had some ideas going around in my head for detective stories that wouldn't fit in the Kay Hunter world simply due to the locations and settings.

I lived in the Vale of the White Horse area where the series is set while I was playing guitar in bands in my 20s and my dad grew up there, so what with all that and visits to grandparents when I was growing up, I'm very familiar with all the landmarks and locations.

Originally, the Kay Hunter series was going to be set there – or so I thought. Kay Hunter had other ideas, and that series moved to Maidstone...

### **5. How can we expect Mark's character to evolve over the course of the series?**

He's still finding his feet in his new role in Oxfordshire, and readers will see how he's struggling with that in book 2, *Her Final Hour* but his working relationship with his colleague DC Jan West is the anchor that holds him steady.

I'm having a lot of fun writing about the two of them – they're like chalk and cheese.