

Question and Answer with Rachel Amphlett, author of *Under Fire*

1. What can you tell us about *Under Fire*?

When an explosion rocks a Qatari natural gas facility and a submarine disappears on the way to being decommissioned, Dan Taylor is convinced the UK is next in the terrorists' line of fire.

As Britain enters its worst winter on record, Dan must elude capture to ensure the country's energy resources are protected. At all costs.

In an action-packed adventure, from the Middle East through the Mediterranean to London, Dan and his team are on a quest which will test every choice he makes. Assisted by the enigmatic Antonia Almasi, Dan realises he faces an adversary far greater than he ever imagined.

And not everyone is going to survive.

2. Where did you get the idea for *Under Fire*?

While I was researching *White Gold* there was a particularly nasty winter in 2010 in the UK. I'm a bit of a nerd when it comes to poring over news websites so I filed the story away, thinking that was something I might use in future.

Once *White Gold* was published, I dug out the story and started researching other news sites from the time and it transpired that the British government nearly ran out of gas supplies during that winter because demand was so high.

I spent a couple of months reading government research papers, think-tank articles and the like, and that got me thinking – what if it happened again, and someone used that situation to blackmail the British government? *Under Fire* spawned out of that research.

3. Tell us about Dan Taylor

Dan was the protagonist in my debut crime thriller, *White Gold*, and so many people asked me if I was writing about him again, I sort of felt obliged to! I wrote *Under Fire* in such a way that someone can pick it up

as a standalone read though, so it doesn't matter if you've only just discovered him.

He's a bit of a rogue, has his own way of doing things and although he respects authority, he doesn't *always* do what he's told.

After suffering from PTSD for many years, Dan's now helping with research into new explosive devices when he receives a call for help. He's unwittingly thrown in at the deep end, with the UK Government threatening prosecution for what he got up to in *White Gold* but also from the terrorists that seek to destroy the UK's energy reserves.

4. If someone had the power to step into your creative mind, what would they see?

A lot of pixies running backwards and forwards with bits of paper in their hands, stressing about where to file it for future use...

5. If you had to sum up *Under Fire* in three words, what would they be?

High octane action!