

Killing It by Asia Mackay

4 stars

A fast-moving thriller with a difference.

Lex Tyler has just become a mother - but she is a new mother with a definite difference. She is also a killer, a dedicated assassin in her Majesty's secret service. Her return to work, with all the usual worries of abandoning your baby for the first time, is not a normal one. She is tasked with a new mission, the target inevitably to take out a Russian. To do this Lex has to get close to the target's wife, Dasha, a London 'yummy mother' with ambitions to be the yummiest of them all amidst London's elite mother set.

The essence of the story is how Lex manages to pursue her dangerous task, while still juggling the endless worries of new motherhood. There are many twists and turns as the question is soon being asked, has she been betrayed by a colleague in Platform 8? Or is someone trying to show her that a mother with a small baby is no longer suitable to be an assassin?

This is a fun and exciting book to read with many amusing moments, such as her daughter Gigi being provided with a bulletproof pram cover. It all sounds authentic, and there is certainly a great deal of background knowledge of the assassin's complex job. However, I did find certain drawbacks as I read. There was just a bit too much for me of Lex's endless anxiety of risking her daughter being a motherless child. It must have been obvious from the moment she returned to work that this was a definite probability. I also found the husband almost boringly perfect and surely a trifle stupid? How could his wife, working in 'Data', get so many injuries and work such peculiarly long and erratic hours? He never seemed the slightest bit suspicious. Her side-kick Jake was far more exciting and romantic, but her solution to their relationship was not really believable.

Despite this Lex Tyler's character shows great potential and could easily develop to rival James Bond.

Jane

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.