

## THE SECRETS ASSASSIN

By Rachel Loveday

I started collecting secrets when I was just six years old.

I've been told or more yelled at several times that I am a parasite, I'm evil, that I'm a horrible human being. I'm subjected to this nasty name calling due to my job as a columnist and photographer for the papparazi. Although the people, yes including celebs that call me these nasty names are the ones who are caught having affairs or breaking the law or just behaving badly by me. And that's because I'm good at my job, too good. In the business I'm known as "The Assassin."

Killing secrets and exposing the truth, as I like to call it and not to mention justify it has always come naturally to me. The first time was when I was six and stole my then-sixteen year old sister's diary and not-so-innocently told my whole family that my sister was pregnant. I didn't exactly know what pregnant meant back then, my parents did give me a bit of a birds and the bees talk, but not the whole thing and not very clear or factual. Anyway, I almost ruined my sister's life, but eventually my parents did come around and now my sister is happily married with three kids.

Of course I felt bad about the whole "telling-my-parents-that-my-sister-was-pregnant-before-she-did" thing, but again killing secrets and exposing the truth came naturally to me and because it came naturally, it was fun. Not all secrets were as a huge as my sister's. In high school I exposed cheating boyfriends, girls with eating disorders, the questionable intentions of teachers and a principal who took drugs. Even though I go looking for secrets, I do think the secrets sometimes find me, that they actually want to be found, that they're screaming at me for help.

I'd like to think I'm doing some people a favour—they're finding out who their idols, loved ones, colleagues, bosses and authority figures really are. I actually considered becoming a private investigator, but there is something about uploading my photos and articles onto the internet for the world to see that brings me such joy, probably a little too much joy, but joy nevertheless. I'm not just some cookie-cutter Hollywood secrets assassin; I was actually born in Australia and graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Sydney. But no-one cares about your qualifications or your life when you're the one behind the camera, taking pictures of other people's lives. That being said, I do love my job and besides I've got secrets of my own that I want to stay hidden.

And on that note, I'm off to work: another day, another dollar.