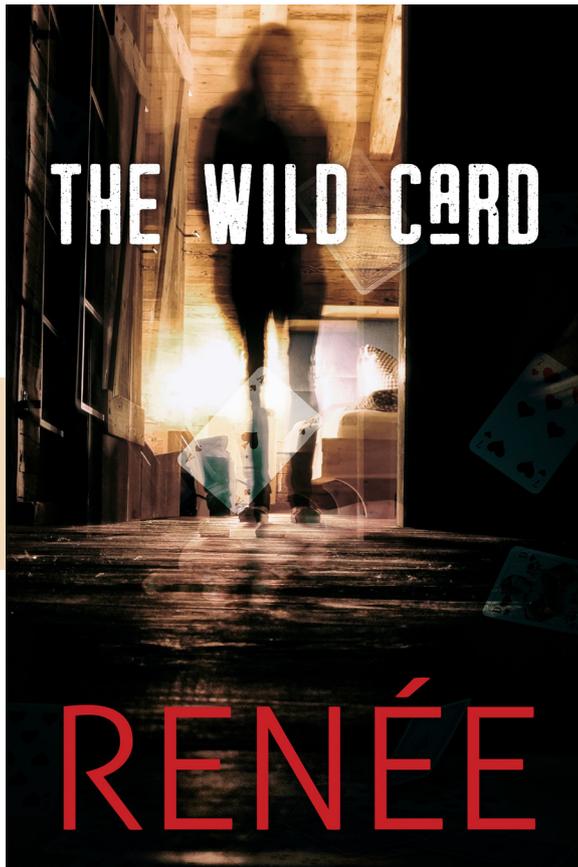


THE CUBA PRESS ADVANCE TITLE INFORMATION



RENÉE

THE WILD CARD

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Sure thirty years is a long time. Sure the case was closed. Well, never really a case as such. Fifteen-year-old brown girl tops herself, who cares? Turn the page. That bloody notebook, thought Club. God knows what was in it. Who knew that little bitch could even write?

SELLING POINTS

- Award-winning author of women's and lesbian fiction
- Appearing at Nelson's Writers Festival and LitCrawl Wellington
- Provocative crime fiction



Renée ONZM, Ngāti Kahungunu, is one of Aotearoa's writing rangatira, who turned 90 this year. A novelist, poet and playwright, who lives in Ōtaki, she was recently awarded the

Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement and the Playmarket Award for significant artistic contribution to New Zealand theatre. In 2017 she published her bestselling memoir *These Two Hands* and this year her first crime novel *The Wild Card*.

Ruby Palmer has been dealt a rough hand. She was left in a kete at the back door of the Porohiwi Home for Children when she was a baby, and then at seven she discovered that Betty – who stopped the bad stuff happening to Ruby at the Home – has drowned. Now in her thirties, Ruby suspects her friend was murdered — her only lead is a notebook that uses the symbols on playing cards to tell a story she can't understand, but there are other clues too: the man in the balaclava who attacks her when she starts to investigate, and break-ins at the local theatre where Ruby is playing Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. As Ruby goes deeper into the mystery of Betty's death she starts to find answers to questions about herself that she hadn't dared ask before. To discover the truth, she needs to find the wild card, and fast.



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