



## Wild Cards: A Twisted Novel 3: Dark Romantic Standalone

*R.C. Stephens*

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## **Wild Cards: A Twisted Novel 3: Dark Romantic Standalone** R.C. Stephens

She grew up with love but tragedy took everything away from her. He was forced into a life that he hated and was drowning in darkness. They both lost hope... They both looked for ways to numb the pain... To him, she was unpredictable and alluring. To her, he was a dark knight with a shady past. What happened next was unexpected. Their chance encounter was not chance anymore. As their worlds collide and their impenetrable walls are infiltrated, these two dark souls are forced to face the one thing on earth that scares them the most... Love.

## **Wild Cards: A Twisted Novel 3: Dark Romantic Standalone Details**

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Author : R.C. Stephens

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## **From Reader Review Wild Cards: A Twisted Novel 3: Dark Romantic Standalone for online ebook**

### **Renee says**

Having read the entire series, I know Luc. Yes I didn't know if there could be any redemption for him. While I understood being brought up in the mob couldn't have been easy, I struggled for a little with his character. I was wrong. the author flipped the entire character and made me fall for him. What happened with the mob family in the past makes me conflicted with hating Luc.

The story of Vicky was DARK. OMG I loved it. Yes it was a bit edgy and that is why I enjoyed reading it. What a messed up life Vicky had. I was thrilled the way it played out.

There is an awful lot of this to love so grab book 1 and get going. The writing style is great, the story was great, it was steamy and dark, so what are you waiting for?? Read it now

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### **XxTainaxX says**

Luc and Vicky are two broken people trying to find their way in the world. They find eachother and though they resist at first, end up surpassing their problems into a deeper connection. This is an emotional read. They are very flawed characters but what they have with eachother is what the universe determined they needed to heal. Good plot twists and development not to mention sexy as hell scenes.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

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### **R.C. Stephens says**

I loved writing this story. To me these characters represent the reality of the difficult road to falling in love especially for those who have been burned in the past. When writing this story I felt every ounce of their despair and hope. Their need to find that special someone that they know they can depend on no matter what. I think deep down we all need that reassurance that if we fall there will be someone to catch us and love us unconditionally.

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### **Drue DePompei-Hoffman says**

While it is not necessary to read the first 2 books, I am glad I did. I gave me a more indepth feel for everything that Luc went through and how far his journey was.

Vicky is the perfect woman for Luc they are both battered souls and able to connect with each other on a much deeper level. But the demons of their pasts keep resurfacing.

The only thing I would have liked would have been more of Vicky's best friend Nessa, after a certain point in the book she seemed to kind of get lost in the story and I really liked her character and I hope if there are

more books planned for this series that one is her story.

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### **Lauren says**

Even after the changes to this book I still loved it! The feels! This book has it all! Where do I start? This is the first 'dark' romance that I've ever read and if I'm honest, after reading the prologue I was unsure whether or not to carry on. (I say dark romance but it is only one scene that this applies too. This scene is completely necessary to their epic love story.) All I can say is I'm so glad I did! Luc has definitely joined my list of alpha males! Love this book!

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### **Amy says**

Wild Cards  
RC Stephens  
3.5 stars

Wild Cards is Luc's story a few years later however you don't need to read them to know what is going on. Luc is leaving the world that is mob run after a brutal past and losing too much. He is seeking comfort in a new life and therapy. Luc considers himself a monster. He hasn't engaged in physical contact, drugs or alcohol in over two years but the parties; he hosts them and watches.

Vicky is damaged by the events in her past. She was on the move to heal and then her world fell apart. New York is her only hope or so it seems. The letter her mother left her blew her world apart. She doesn't believe in love she only believes in bad men and the way to find solace is at the parties.

Both Luc and Vicky has very damaged past. If you have triggers over rape please do not read this book. There is one incident but its very graphic. The past also comes back to haunt Vicky about mid point in the book.

I really think this book has more potential than the story given. There were several frustrating moments for me and I wanted Luc and Vicky to move on. Sometimes its enough already of the torment and the self bashing. The end seemed a little rushed but again it was a decent read. Im not really a BDSM or sex party type read so its sometimes difficult for me to say if it was great. I find myself doing more of the "who would do that" type of mind set. Don't get me wrong I love me some steamy stuff but some of this was over the top for me as far as I want more of a story line.

Like I always say having said that if you like the BDSM and Sexy Party type read then this is for sure something you will want to click up. Thanks for the ARC for the honest review!

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## **Dilushani Jayalath says**

*\*I kindly received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\**

I didn't even finish the book. I really did not like this book at all. This is my style of books I normally read (contemporary adult) but still everything about the book was bad for me. I'm not in any way against the style of writing either. It's just I did not like the characters in the book. They were all annoying and not slightly likeable at all.

First let me begin by saying about the main character Vicky. She annoyed me a lot. It was ok for her to go off the book for a while. I agree she had a lot to take in with her mother dying and finding out her cheating bf fucking another girl. I was totally ok with the part but the way she continued fucking up her life and people still kept calling how good and studious and all that bullshit annoyed me. Yes, people have their own way of coping and it's hard to come back from such a big trauma. I sincerely sympathised with her on losing her mother for cancer but afterwards the way she handled everything? Nope. I did not like it.

**"She was good and pure"**

Ok that seems like a nice enough quote about a person right? but let me take you to the other one and you can see for yourself how good and pure she is.

**"I felt a little taken aback when my first thought was to find a random hot guy and fuck him. Tim the doorman perhaps...I know there's something very wrong with that"**

YES!!!! There is something seriously wrong with that. It's ok that she wants to fuck somebody, I mean it's natural reaction of human beings but just because you are "totally crushing" after another guy you don't randomly go around sleeping with other who are handily available to you. These kind of situations were plentiful in the novel and I hated it. Let's see her choice of friends now.

Nessa, Nessa who showed the wild side of the world.

**"You will meet her; she is a great girl. My best friend, she introduced me to the sex clubs and they made a dark world feel a little brighter for brief moments"**

She needed to fill the aching pain in her heart and one night stand maybe ok but continuing it? I can't believe that I said that a one night stand was ok. What is wrong with me? Back to our problem here. how can Nessa be a great girl if she introduced her to such a world and then left her alone? I mean she was raped thanks to this life that made her 'dark world a little brighter'!!!! Then there's Luc. I agree he was the most likeable person in this story. But that doesn't mean I totally like him. He was flawed true, but I liked how he handled his problems. Unlike all the characters in this book. Maybe I liked Bryce even a bit. Though he bought in the news of a new daughter quite quickly. Like I mentioned before the way Vicky treated Luc was totally horrible. My first example for that is mentioned above when Nessa almost went to screw the doorman to relieve her wanting him. Luc that is not the doorman. Then there is this quote.

**"Luc thought I should fear him, what he didn't realise was that I felt safe having this broken ogre beside me"**

Wait i thought Luc was this hot guy all women looked at and wanted to fuck? Why is he an ogre? My little English vocabulary has taught me that ogre means a hideous creature. Not hot guy. Im sure the author wanted to show that despite being broken that Vicky sill liked him. It just didn't have the effect she wanted. This other quote is the same.

**"He maybe a nice guy that attended sex parties but he was also in business with that asshole on the fortieth floor"**

For now forget the latter part of that quote but nice guy who attended sex parties?

I guess that's enough about Vicky. I'm going to talk about Luc. Like I mentioned before he was a nice guy but it's just that the way he thought of Vicky annoyed the shit out of me (I sound like some jealous ex :D )

**"Honestly, Vicky, and I don't know why I am being so open with you. Let me get this out that I have never been this open with a woman before, but I will consider it part of my personal growth.."**

Good for you Luc. Cuz you pretty much bared your soul out to a woman you met only two or three times. I think it was twice. It's just i was too quick he told her everything that he has never told anyone. I guess part of it was cuz he was lied to and he lied before and it ended horribly. Still I didn't like it.

I guess that was enough of ranting on about how I didn't like the book. Bottom line I didn't like so much I didn't even finish it and I rarely go around not finishing a book. It just doesn't seem right. Maybe one day I'll come back and read it gain. If I'm bored that is. Other than the fact that the characters annoyed the shit out of me I got to say the writing style and stuff were pretty good. There were slips here and there where Nessa texted Vicky when she was with Luc, telling she came and the next minute when Luc knew it was Nessa even without Vicky telling him who texted her. Those were a few in the little bit I read. Ok I read more than half of the book, 62% to be precise. For me it seems like the author was trying to be like other New Adult authors out there, showing how two utterly broken people too can find their happily ever after but it just did not work for me.it just fell flat for me. I hope her other books will be better. The only reason I guess i gave it a 2-star cuz her writing style was ok.

**\*Edit\***

As i thought, I couldn't stay without finishing a book. So I don't feel any better than I did before about the book. Maybe just a little. The (view spoiler) was totally unwanted. Seriously and the DEA thing? It's like the author wanted to make it look all dangerous and stuff but everything was just too much. Too many elements in one story making me confused by the end. I still don't like the book :/

**\*Re-edit\***

Maybe I was bit too harsh on this review. I don't know why i feel like that. I've never edited a review as much as I have this one. Maybe I might give this book a bit more than 2 stars. Something in the back of my mind is saying that I'm being a bit too unfair on this one. Ughhhhhh!!! This sux!

**New Ratings=2.5 stars**

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## Lauren-marie says

I wanted to like this. I really did. I didn't know what to expect when I first started this as I hadn't read the first two in the series. After the prologue I was completely engaged and had high hopes for this book. Sadly this didn't live up to my expectations. This book has great potential. I love the idea of the story line. We had two broken souls and a man from a mafia family. Like I said great idea and something that I would usually enjoy. Unfortunately for me the story was pretty slow paced most of the way through. I found that it really picked up its pace around 80% of the way through and will say that I did enjoy the last bit of this book. I don't think the way it was written helped. For me everything seemed to be over pronounced. Although I liked the characters, they did lack depth. They both had a dark past and awful things had happened to them. Both Luc and Vicky coped in their own ways and I can see why what happened to them fucked them up a little, but all they seemed to do was wallow in self pity for far too long and I just wanted to scream at them to move on! It kind of made me a little depressed reading it.

Like I said, this has great potential and I can see why people would like it I normally like something along these lines), but I guess sadly this was not for me.

\*I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review

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## Caro says

“Wild Cards” is the story of Vicky and Luc. Both have endured very cruel things and cross each other's paths continuously.

Unfortunately this was a **DNF** for me. There were a lot of things that didn't work. First, the beginning of the book. Sure, there's this warning from the author and I can say I've already read a lot of “dark” stuff in books. But this was just too much. And I feel the need to warn here myself, too – BE AWARE, there's a very violent and disturbing rape-scene at the beginning of the book, in which the female MC is violated physically and mentally BADLY.

Then there was the writing. R. C. Stephens seemed to not be very keen on punctuation marks. There was one sentence I had to read a few times, until the sense sank in:

*“He sat on the long chair with his legs in front of him fully erect.”*

Um, ok? Without a comma, this sentence says that his legs are fully erect. And there were quite a few things that really sat wrong with me in regard of grammar (switches in present and past tense) and typos.

And last but not least – the insta-attraction. Sometimes it works, other times not so much. This book is a great example for the author dictating us readers what to feel/think of the MC's relationship. I want to FEEL my books, FEEL how the MC's fall in love, struggle, the good moments and the bad! But sadly, I felt nothing in “Wild Cards”. I had zero connection to the characters, their stories or their relationship.

**Please remember, that this is only my very personal opinion and everyone should try the book for themselves, maybe it'll be a new favorite... I refrain from rating “Wild Cards”, since I gave up reading at the 42% mark.**

\*\*\* A copy of "Wild Cards" was kindly provided by author R. C. Stephens in exchange for an honest review.  
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## **Bobbi says**

Let me start off by letting you know that there is sexual abuse in this book, so if reading about this topic will be an issue for you, do not read this book.

I thought the storyline for this book was great! It was well thought out and well written. The characters were well developed with enough history to understand them and why they do what they do.

I could have given this book a higher rating, but what held me back was the conversations between characters. They were too proper and not real enough. I could connect with the characters during their inner dialogues, but once they opened their mouths to speak, that connection was lost. It was as if a different person was speaking. Yes, there are people in this world who speak this way, but with these characters and their backgrounds, the only person I expected to speak this way was Bryce. I didn't expect them to speak like they were from the "hood" or anything like that. Just not as proper as they did.

I loved the story and the characters. How even though they had a rough life or had unfortunate things happen to them, they could still pick themselves up and want to better themselves. To get back on track and obtain the things that just yesterday they could only dream about. And they remained themselves throughout the whole story. Vicky just wanted her father, not what he could do for her. And that stayed true throughout the book. Yes, she took a couple hand outs, but when you change your mind about going back and only have the clothes you packed, well, you do need to accept a few things. But she didn't go wild. Luc was a different story. He had everything already. He just had to find his way back to himself and realize his own self worth and what he deserves in life.

All in all, a great book that I highly recommend you read!

*\*ARC received from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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## **Itsy Bitsy Book Bits says**

When a bad decision at a sex party sends her to the hospital Vicky Molina realizes the error in her way and she just wants to go home. What awaits for her there is not something she ever could have expected. The death of her mother hit her hard but the two years after have treated her unkind and been harder than ever. Finally working up the nerve to go to New York City and meet someone she takes off and doesn't look back. Old habit die hard though as they say. Her first night in the city and she finds herself at a sex party in a swanky apartment. What's with the green eyes and handsome face of a stranger that won't leave her mind?

Luc Blanchard now Luc Lebaum has a dark and seedy past. He doesn't touch woman, drugs , or alcohol. What is it about the green eyed beauty that walks through his front door the first night of him hosting a



party? With his connections to the French mob he doesn't let anyone in to his life. Why did he take her back home? Especially on his bike? He doesn't touch woman, it his body has different ideas. Two years is a long time without being with someone. The pain of his past and the weight of his choices hold him hostage but his , however brief, leave from the family means a lot to him. New York City is a long way from France. His father however has a long reach.

Follow Vicky and Luc as they fight against themselves to find a second chance. Can Luc forgive himself for his past as everyone else involved already has? Can Vicky over come her grief and let him in? What does Luc's father have to say about the budding romance. What about Vicky's ? When tragedy strikes again in Vicky's life can she handle it? Will some surprising news along the way help or hinder her? What happens when a second chance at love gets shattered because of a past too strong to over come.

Wild Cards by RC Stephens had me captivated from word one. RC Stephens has a way with words that makes you feel everything these people do within the story. Find out if the wild card is a good bet.

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### **Edelmira says**

5 AMAZING STARS !

I love this story so much. It was beautiful, emotional, and heart-wrenching story. It literally captivated me in so many ways.

This story is about two broken souls experienced a painful past.

Later, they found each other with so much love and second chance with life.

I think Wild Cards will stick with me for a very long time and definitely a great reread for me. :)

R.C is such an amazing author. Her stories are always so incredible to read. I see myself a little bit in every female leads she writes.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND !!!! GRAB A COPY NOW !

\*I was given an ebook copy from New Adult Book Club / Author in exchange for an honest review.\*

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### **Sharamebeth79 says**

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. The opinions in this review are my own. I enjoyed read R.C. Stephens book Wild Cards. I found it easy to identify with Vicky Molino. I felt that this book was a great way to escape and vicariously try things that I had not heard about before. This book covers some material intended for people eighteen and over as well as being for entertainment purposes. Vicky has a very steamy imagination and a lot of courage to try out steamy scenarios. Vicky is on a journey for answers I this book and I felt for her with everything that she is going through in this story. I would recommend this book to other readers and I encourage them to have their own fun with reading it.

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### **Melissa Mendoza says**

**Title:** Wild Cards

**Author:** R.C. Stephens

**Series:** Twisted Series, Book #3

**Release Date:** October 7, 2015

**Genre(s):** Dark Romance

**Page Count:** 310

**Heat Level:** 4 flames out of 5

**Rating:** 5 stars out of 5

**Blurb:**

She grew up with love but tragedy took everything away from her.

He was forced into a life that he hated and was drowning in darkness.

They both lost hope...

They both looked for ways to numb the pain...

To him, she was unpredictable and alluring. To her, he was a dark knight with a shady past. What happened next was unexpected. Their chance encounter was not chance anymore. As their worlds collide and their impenetrable walls are infiltrated, these two dark souls are forced to face the one thing on earth that scares them the most... Love.

**Review:**

“His smile was beautiful and light. This man needed to smile more, he was too damn intense all the time and now I understood why. ‘I like your smile.’ I tilted my head to the side and grinned at him. ‘I like you,’ he answered.”

5 stars!! Beautiful story and so well told!

I’m a huge dark romance lover, and I will say this teetered on the edge of dark, and I loved every page! Your heart breaks for the characters as you learn about their backgrounds and story! I wanted to jump in my kindle and hug them!!! Luc and Vicky were perfect for each other, almost like magnets! They fit together perfectly!! I’m in love with this series and I can’t wait to read more!

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Melissa from Alpha Book Club

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**Darlene Avery says**

ARC review:

Wild Cards by R.C. Stephens

Wild Cards is definitely not for the faint of heart. It is brutal, gritty, and raw. With scenes that will tear your heart and soul apart.

Luc is coming of age in a world run by the mob and lives under the constant brutality of his own father.

Vicky is trying to find a way to bury the emptiness inside of her, and seeks out sex parties and other activities to try to fill the void within her.

Both Luc and Vicky are very flawed characters, however they are both looking for more. The question is, will they find that 'more' they need with each other, or will they only end up destroying each other even more.

This is a very difficult and brutal read. Yes, there is hope and friendship and redemption within these pages, but it is buried within the heartache and travesties that both of these characters face.

If you enjoy dark and raw reads, this one is for you.

3.5 stars

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