



# Wildcard

*Marie Lu*

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Emika Chen barely made it out of the Warcross Championships alive. Now that she knows the truth behind Hideo's new NeuroLink algorithm, she can no longer trust the one person she's always looked up to, who she once thought was on her side.

Determined to put a stop to Hideo's grim plans, Emika and the Phoenix Riders band together, only to find a new threat lurking on the neon-lit streets of Tokyo. Someone's put a bounty on Emika's head, and her sole chance for survival lies with Zero and the Blackcoats, his ruthless crew. But Emika soon learns that Zero isn't all that he seems--and his protection comes at a price.

Caught in a web of betrayal, with the future of free will at risk, just how far will Emika go to take down the man she loves?

## Wildcard Details

Date : Expected publication: September 18th 2018 by G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

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Author : Marie Lu

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## From Reader Review Wildcard for online ebook

### Sandra says

Haven't even read the first book but I already want this too. It's just the Marie Lu effect on me: I always need more and more and more.

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### Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

3.5\*

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### Emily May says

*That's the difference between the real and the virtual. Reality is where you can lose the ones you love. Reality is the place where you can feel the cracks in your heart.*

2 1/2 stars. Wow, I'm really not sure how to rate this book. I think it was pretty poorly-paced with weak characters, but I also liked some of the exciting twists and turns Lu took.

My experience with this book actually makes me wonder if I was in a really good mood when I read Warcross. **Emika is so bland.** Was she always this bland? I'm not sure. All I know is that she had absolutely no agency or independent thought in Wildcard. This book sees her being used as a pawn by everyone - her motivations seem always tied into what Hideo or the Blackcoats want.

Emika responds to events as they occur, seemingly without any drive or feelings of her own. As someone who really likes to connect with the narrator or protagonist, it was a little difficult to stay engaged at times.

There were two things that drove the plot of Warcross for me and kept the pages turning: 1) The action of the Warcross game itself, and 2) the dynamic between the Phoenix Riders. The first of those is, of course, completely absent in Wildcard, but there's also a disappointing lack of the second. The Phoenix Riders don't feature for a huge chunk of this book, with the focus instead being on Hideo and Zero (and, I guess, Emika, except it feels like she does nothing).

The Zero aspect of the story is fairly interesting, and I'm glad we got to see what happened to him. In fact, discovering his story is what about 75% of this book consists of. **The last 25%, however, felt soooo long.** I think these later chapters were supposed to be a concentrated stream of action leading to a dramatic climax, but it feels like it goes on forever, dragging out an ending that already seems inevitable.

Okay, and I'm sorry to keep reiterating this point, but **what exactly does Emika do in this book?** She literally acts as a mouthpiece and a go-between. She witnesses things happening to other characters, and she

seems to have very little opinion on some of the morality issues Lu brings up. I swear Wildcard could just as easily have been told by an omniscient narrator and little would change.

Perhaps my problem with this sequel is that the exciting action and the diverse Phoenix Riders in Warcross disguised problems I might otherwise have had with it. Once you take those things away, Emika Chen struggles to carry the story.

CW: Suicide (nothing graphic); drug abuse.

Anti CW: (view spoiler)

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## **Sabaa Tahir says**

I like sweets. You all know this. Ice cream is one of my favorite sweets. I do not take my ice cream lightly. When I get ice cream, you can bet that I'm gonna savor it.

Well the other day, I was at a restaurant reading Wildcard and I ordered ice cream. It arrived and then it melted. Why? Because I WAS SO IMMERSSED IN THIS BOOK THAT I COULDN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE BECAUSE THAT'S HOW GOOD IT IS.

Marie did an amazing job writing this conclusion to a fantastic duology. The character development is remarkable, the heartbreaking bits are soul-crushing, the happy bits made me grin like an idiot. There's one specific villain in here who I wanted to kick in the face, and the entire thing was so cleverly plotted. It is a WONDERFUL book and I highly recommend that everyone read it.

But Marie, you owe me ice cream b/c it's 100% your fault that mine melted before I could eat it.

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## **? jamieson ? says**

that cover is uh ... it's something

(the more I look at it, the less I hate it .. so there's that?)

Anyway I'm gonna start designing Marie Lu's covers bc I'm sick of her good ass books getting done did dirty in the graphic design department

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## **Angelica says**

**Update!**

**We got a cover y'all...And it's kinda ugly.**

And honestly, I'm kinda disappointed but also not too surprised I don't know what it is but I'm just not feeling these covers. But hey, at least it stuck to the same theme as Warcorss! At this point, that's all I can ask for.

How do you guys feel about the cover?

**Update:**

**It's got a title y'all!!!!!!!!!!**

I'm so pumped for this book!

Book one had me like:

Waiting for books two like:

My review for book one: [HERE](#)

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## **Stacee says**

I went into this one without a refresher on Warcross, but found that I didn't quite need it. It was easy to slip back into this series and I was eager to settle in and see what happened...but I wasn't even close to being ready.

Emika is still an awesome MC. She's strong and loyal and I loved how she is compelled to do the right thing, no matter how dangerous. Of course there are some of the same characters from Warcross, but I won't mention anything there.

Plot wise, I didn't know what to expect and I was blown away. It's a slow delicious peel back of reveals and I was captivated the entire time. Yes, I'm being vague on purpose because spoilers.

Overall, this series has been intriguing from the start and this ending was everything I could have wanted and a few things I didn't know I needed.

**\*\*Huge thanks to GP Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers for providing the arc free of charge\*\***

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**leah says**

THINGS TO DO BEFORE I DIE:

1. Own and read every single book Marie Lu writes.

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**Elise (TheBookishActress) says**

I always forget this about myself: if I don't love the characters of an opening book, I should not read the sequel to said book. Even if I loved the ending. Even if I rated it a 3 1/2. That is not how I work. Read The Young Elites instead. but anyway, **review to come!!**

and seriously, what the fuck is this cover.

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**Ashley Nuckles says**

THIS WAS SO FRICKEN GOOD! Such a great ending that wrapped everything up so perfectly! While I didn't read it in one sitting like I did Warcross, I still enjoyed every second of it, and Marie Lu continued to blow my mind all through the second book :)

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**Em says**

When I die, I want Marie Lu to lower me into my grave so she can let me down one last time.

**Finishing this book was a personal achievement but you can't really brag about that at dinner parties.** It's just...the kind of book you read, and it fills you with the wrong things: you use a lot of energy to get through each chapter, and in the end, you feel emptier and less comfortable than ever.

I loved Warcross, and it floored me to read this book and experience such a sudden shift—I feel as though a script had been shuffled and I'd been handed the wrong pages. The utter wrongness of it, the way it won't fit in my head, keeps coming back to me again and again, as if I've only just read it. I was SO excited and SO full of an unnamed wanting that I couldn't wait to read this book. Honestly, there has to be some fundamental law of the universe against sequels that don't live up to their prequels, and if there isn't, I want it written somewhere that I am conscientiously objecting.

The concept and execution in this book are so divorced as to bear no relation to one another. But the biggest problem with the story was the pacing. It takes a long time for the plot to really kick in, trusting on the reader to be invested enough in the possibilities of the story to make it there. Unfortunately, there isn't really an infinite store of patience to be had, and every page lasts for what is likely only a minute but seems to drag across several years. Eventually, the boredom quickly swallowed my enthusiasm so that what was left simply felt like utter indifference.

I must've really liked Emika Chen at some point—but I can no longer accurately place her in my head. She gets just enough attention to make it clear she's important, but that importance never really goes anywhere. We're expected to believe that she is the fulcrum around which the fate of everyone turns, yet now that I think about it, days later, with the clarity of thought necessary to step back from my disappointment and truly look at what she has done, I realize that her contribution to the narrative racks up to a sum of exactly 0. The people actively attempting to see the pathway out of their problem and into a solution is everyone else but her. Same thing for Hideo: he only haunts the edges of the story but never gets quite enough focus to mean much. I was so artfully uninterested in whatever outcome they bring about until we reach the ending and I realize with enormous indignation that they get to collect all the benefits without having done any of the work. Seriously, what the hell did they actually *do*?

I was also disappointed that at one point, what seemed like the lead-up to a thrilling Warcross game didn't materialize at all—actually, there is a *huge* shortage of Warcross in this book. I guess the book was less interested in that aspect than I was, and cast it off relatively quickly in favor of pursuing a less enjoyable narrative cobbled together with few plot twists that—when taken all together—didn't quite reach the high water mark set by the first novel, and building up to an ending and denouement that somehow skirt the edge of taste to be *ludicrous* and not the least bit satisfying.

It's really a sad thought, but there's a saving grace: **Emika's team**. I was so excited to know them and know the gestalt of who they are, and fortunately for me, we do! Learning about Tremaine and Roshan's backstory, Hammie's family, Hammie and Asher's relationship was about the only thing that buoyed my spirits.

Seriously. Has anyone else ever been so disappointed by their most anticipated book that they've had the sudden urge to just disappear to another country, erase their history, re-write their identity, and become a mysterious figure who has never been photographed but occasionally appears in paintings done by unknown artists?

Because that's how I feel about this book in general.

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## Camile Souza (This Chamber of Books) says

Okay, so I've been seeing not so great reviews for this and I'm officially *scared*. Pls don't hurt me by being bad, book. **PLEASE**.

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So apparently I have a hate-to-love relationship with the covers for this series lol

Ain't love a funny thing? When I first saw them, let me tell ya, I was not a fan, but I like book one *so much* that it makes me believe I actually like both covers now haha

September is not near enough, gimme Wildcard nooow!

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**destiny ? howling libraries says**

**update march 26, 2018:**

WE HAVE A TITLE! I love it!

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I need it nowwwwww

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**Mari says**

**Update #9**

\*DEAD\*

**Update #8**

WELL.

FUCK.

**Update #7**

You know you're trash for a character when you read a simple quote of them talking for about 3 seconds and you squeal like you've just been gifted a ticket to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

**Update #6**

ARE YOU HEARING ME SCREAM????????!!!!

MY BTS BIAS IS IN MY MOST ANTICIPATED BOOK EVER AND I'M SLOWLY DYINGGGG

**Update #5**

That moment when you see all these people with Wildcard arcs and you die a little inside.

#### **Update #4**

I admit I was confused at first and didn't really like the cover. But as it happened with the Warcross one, after looking at it for a bit I'm seriously so happy about this cover! I guess both covers just are not my style but I can see where they're coming from and I appreciate them so much.

This cover totally **SCREAMS HIDEO** and I'm HERE FOR IT!!!

(It probably also refers to Zero but this girl is blind when it comes to this series and can only see Hideo everywhere. Sorry not sorry)

#### **Update #3**

THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

COVER REVEAL ON MONDAY!!!!

YAAAASSSSS

#### **Update #2**

O

M

G

THIS TITLE IS EVERYTHING

I LOVE IT

I CAN'T

I don't know why I'm hyperventilating because it's so simple and I don't understand why I didn't think about it in the first place, but I am. Hyperventilating I mean.

Wake me up when we have a cover. Or on September 18. Because the wait will kill me if I think too much about how badly I want to read this book right now.

#### **Update #1**

Definitely a title!! I can't guess so I'm waiting for the reveal tomorrow :D

GameOver would be AMAZING tho.

#### **Update #0**

OMGGGGG I'M SCREAMING!!!

IS IT MONDAY YET?? I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE GET! Title? Official publication date?? Cover???

I'M DEAD.

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**may ↗ says**

Marie, sweetie, honey, I love you... but you HAVE to get new cover designers. you and Emika Chen deserve better

also I read the excerpt and it was literally just the words “Someone is watching me” that gave me chills. I love Marie Lu

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so is no one talking about the fact that THIS HAS A TITLE NOW!!!!!! and a release date!!!! September 18, baby!!!!

(I'm sorry for the excessive exclamation marks but if you can't tell, I'm very excited!!!)

also, **I'll be taking no Easter eggs but these this Easter Sunday**, the Easter Bunny can go home, Penguin is here (look at the whole thread for context!!)

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