Girl Gone Missing

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/anne_giangiulio/110/
Fiction / Crime Fiction / $15.95

CASH PULLED HERSELF UP AND OUT OF HER BEDROOM WINDOW. She took off running barefoot, zig-zagging across the damp ground. She ran toward the plowed field, in the direction that led to town. Her foot sank into the cold wet dirt of the furrowed field. When she tried to pull it up, her front leg sank into the dirt even deeper. She threw herself forward, clawing at the mud with bare hands, hearing the heavy, labored breathing of the person chasing her. Fear forced her from her body so that she was soon flying above herself. She looked back to see who was chasing her, but all she could see was a body, the face obscured in the darkness. She looked down and could see herself stretched out in the mud below, buried to her knees, arms flailing. Some of her long brown hair was tangled up in her hands as she struggled to steady herself.

But the body changed abruptly: no longer herself struggling—not a short, dark-haired Indian girl—but a tall and bony blonde, who looked up at Cash and screamed, “Help me!”

“Cash Blackbear is a complex, courageous character, full of her own integrity.” —Linda Rodriguez, author of the Skeet Bannion mysteries

“Against the landscape of a 1970s college town, the disappearance of a classmate draws Cash into a web of dreams, deceit and danger. Heart-stopping, heartrending and heartening, often all at the same time.” —Linda LeGarde Grover, author of The Road Back to Sweetgrass

“I was so glad to have more Cash to read...please keep writing about Cash. I love her brains, her broken heart, and her intuition.” —Kirstin Cronn-Mills, author of The Sky Always Hears Me

MOST PEOPLE CALL RENEE BLACKBEAR—the nineteen-year-old Anishinaabe woman—“Cash.”

Why? Because she drives truck for cash. She plays pool for cash. She only pays with cash. Now she’s in college, thanks to Sheriff Wheaton, the guy who pulled her from her mother’s wrecked car when she was three. Cash has navigated through foster homes. At 13, she was working farms, driving truck. Turned out she’s smart, real smart, but she’s a duck out of water at Moorhead State. Her classmates seem to talk mostly about nothing.

One day Cash hears about a blonde girl in her Science class who’s gone missing. And then another. She begins to dream blonde girls calling out for help. They’re in Minneapolis, but she’s never been far from the Red River. She’s never heard of white slavery. And, then, suddenly, she’s locked inside a room with the lost girls. She needs to find a way out.

MARIE R. RENDON is a citizen of the White Earth Nation. Her novel Murder on the Red River won the Pinckley Women’s Debut Crime Novel Award, 2018. In honoring Marcie, the Pinckley judges acknowledged “Rendón’s sense of place and her creation of an unforgettable character who forged her own way in a challenging world.”

Murder on the Red River was also a Western Writers of America Spur Award Finalist 2018 in the Contemporary Novel category. It was translated into German and Italian. Marcie has written two nonfiction children’s books: Pow Wow Summer (Minnesota Historical Press) and Farmer’s Market: Families Working Together (Capstone). She was recognized as a 50-over-50 Change-maker by Minnesota AARP and POLLEN, 2018. With four published plays, she is the creative mind of Raving Native Theater. She curates community-created performance and stages Native scripts. Diego Vazquez and Rendon received the Loft’s 2017 Spoken Word Immersion Fellowship for their work with women incarcerated in county jail.

Most importantly, Rendon is a mother and grandmother.
GIRL GONE MISSING

A CASH BLACKBEAR MYSTERY

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GIRL GONE MISSING
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FIRST EDITION
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Rendon, Marcie R., author.
Title: Girl gone missing : a Cash Blackbear mystery / Marcie R. Rendon.
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2018049008

Book and cover design by the indomitable ANNE M. GIANGIULIO. Cover image by JOSEPH J. ALLEN.
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