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DRESSING FOR DINNER: RENÉE'S LITERARY
EXPLORATIONS OF THE CHANGING ROLES
AVAILABLE TO STRONG WOMEN IN NEW
ZEALAND SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Renée has defined herself as a “lesbian feminist with socialist working class ideals.” Throughout her oeuvre she has explored the changing roles open to strong women who assume a leadership position in New Zealand society. Among these possibilities is the development of strong bonding between women which can lead to the formation of non-traditional family units. Accordingly, the study of her accessible plays and prose, organised in chronological order of the times in which the fictional events were set, may follow that exploration in terms of a series of key motifs.

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<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>A. Introduction: The Development of Renée's Oeuvre</u>	5
1. The Early Years	5
2. Marriage and Explorations	22
3. The Emergence of a Full Time Writer	27
<u>B. The Approaches of this Thesis in Relation to Renée's</u>	
<u>Oeuvre</u>	56
<u>Chapter 1: The 1870s to the 1930s</u>	59
<u>Jeannie and Iris: The Unfinished Dress, the Table and the</u>	
<u>Hammer</u>	
The Unfinished Dress	61
The Table	75
The Hammer	83
Music as a Reflection of Theme	92
Granna's Riddle: The Link with the Past and the Aspiration	
for the Future	107
<u>Chapter 2: The 1950s to the 1980s</u>	115
<u>Young Jeannie, Sheila and Belle: The Debating Table</u>	
The Unfinished Dress	116
The Table	128
The Hammer	143
Music as a Reflection of Theme	152

Granna's Riddle: The Link with the Past and the Aspiration for the Future	159
<u>Chapter 3: The 1990s</u>	169
<u>Sonja, Daisy, Flora and Gertrude: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?</u>	
The Finished Dress?	170
The Table	172
The Hammer	180
Music as a Reflection of Theme	189
Granna's Riddle: The Link with the Past and the Aspiration for the Future	196
<u>Bibliography</u>	203
A. Primary Sources	203
B. Secondary Sources	206