

RAZOR'S EDGE

AMERICAN YAKUZA III



ISABELLA

AWARD WINNING, INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR

SUMMARY

Luce Potter lives by a code of honor. Push her and she shoves back, harder. There's only one problem: Luce has just found out that revenge is a knife that cuts both ways. Now that her lover Brooke has survived the attack on her life, Luce has only one thing on her mind, and his name is Frank. Unfortunately, someone walks into her life that she didn't see coming.

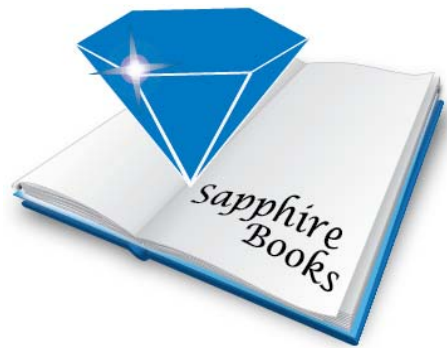
Brooke Erickson has survived an attack so brutal it's left a permanent scar on her soul. All she wants to do now is go home and finish recuperating with her lover, Luce Potter, by her side. An unexpected event puts Brooke at the head of the Yakuza family. Can she command the respect necessary to lead it through the crisis?

Luce and Brooke's worlds are upending. Can each do what's necessary to survive and return to a *new* normal?

RAZOR'S EDGE

AMERICAN YAKUZA III

ISABELLA



SAPPHIRE BOOKS

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

Razor's Edge - American Yakuza III

Copyright © 2017 by Isabella All rights reserved.

ISBN EPUB -978-1-943353-82-8

This is a work of fiction - names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons living or dead, business, events or locales is entirely coincidental.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without written permission of the publisher.

Editor - Shelley Thrasher
Book Design - LJ Reynolds
Cover Design - Michelle Brodeur

Sapphire Books Publishing, LLC
P.O. Box 8142
Salinas, CA 93912
www.sapphirebooks.com

Printed in the United States of America
First Edition – April 2017

Find out how you can get a FREE ebook at the end of this book!

This and other Sapphire Books titles can be found at
www.sapphirebooks.com

Isabella's other books

American Yakuza Series

[American Yakuza](#)

[The Lies that Bind – American Yakuza II](#)

[Razor's Edge – American Yakuza III](#)

Forever Faithful Series

[Always Faithful](#)

[Forever Faithful](#)

Executive Series

[Executive Disclosure](#)

[Surviving Reagan](#)

Scarlet Series

[Scarlet Masquerade](#)

[Scarlet Assassin](#)

Broken Series

[Broken Shield](#)

Erotic shorts

[Last Train](#)

Chapter Four

Luce let her gaze wander around the room, making sure the woman hadn't pilfered any of the small artwork that dotted the shelves and desk. Suddenly, the room looked different to her. She hadn't been in her office for any length of time, but something felt off. The importance of any business that took place here didn't seem to matter at the moment. Well, at least while Brooke was still in the hospital. Perhaps that would change as soon as Brooke was released and on her way to feeling better, but after losing both her grandfather and snatching her lover from the jaws of an impending death, something had changed within her. She couldn't quite put her finger on it, but she didn't have the time to psychoanalyze herself at the moment.

Ms. Wentworth's delicate hand had kept the dust at bay, and her to-be-done pile had miraculously minimized itself.

Finally, Luce settled her stern glare on the woman sitting on her tweed couch, which dwarfed her small, fragile frame, practically sucking her down into its grasp. She sat ramrod straight, as if her own body was constraining her, eyes forward, without as much as a glance at Luce. Luce swallowed hard, as the woman was an exact replica of a younger Luce. She had short, spiky blond hair and gaunt features, but her almond-shaped, jade-green eyes were the clincher. Composing herself quickly, Luce could only stare for a moment before she gathered her wits.

"I understand you wanted to see me, Ms..." Luce crossed her arms and leaned against her desk, the edge biting her in the ass. She finally softened her look at the intruder.

A soft whisper forced its way across the room. "Potter."

"Is this a joke?"

"I don't believe so," the woman said. Her accent was undeniably Japanese. Her demure, understated mannerisms and her refusal to look Luce in the eye only solidified what Luce was thinking.

"Okay, so who sent you?"

What came out of her mouth next sent Luce into a tailspin. "Our father."

"My father is dead. Would you try again?"

"I believe you are mistaken."

"What's going on here?" Luce studied the woman. Somebody was up to something, and Luce was sure she was being played. "I don't have time for games."

"I was told to deliver a message to you upon my arrival in America."

"Who sent you? Frank?"

The fragile woman lowered her eyes at the thunderous sound of Luce's voice. "I was told if I did not deliver the message, I would be killed." Her voice was barely a whisper now.

She began to unbutton her blue silk jacket, but Luce stopped her. "Look, I don't know what kind of game you're playing, but deliver your message and then leave."

The woman didn't stop disrobing. She stood and turned away from Luce. Without hesitation Luce pulled her Beretta and aimed it at the woman, who was now naked from the waist up. In her younger days Luce might've enjoyed the sight of a nearly disrobed woman. However, she'd put those days and that life behind her, for Brooke.

Neither of them moved. Luce gasped, lowered her gun, and stared at the tattoo on the woman's back.

"Jesus Christ."

“Hey, kid. How you doin’?”

Brooke roused herself from the sleep-induced fog that accompanied the oxycodone the doctors were giving her for the pain that never seemed to ease. On one hand, the haze was welcome. The drugs kept her from falling into those nightmares that kept invading the darkness, but they also seemed to keep her weak and immobile. On the downside, she didn’t have the energy to get up to even go to the bathroom.

Expecting to see the doctor, instead she made out Colby Water standing at the end of the bed. She knew Luce had placed at least one person to stand guard outside her door, and that made her feel cared for, but how did Colby get past Luce’s guard dogs?

“Hey...what are you doing here?”

“Well, I sorta expected to see Luce.”

“You just missed her. She got a call and had to jet to the office.”

Colby pulled the chair away from her bed and sat down. “Mind if I sit?”

“Aren’t you already?”

“Good point. How are you?”

“I’ve had better months.” Brooke’s eyelids weighed a thousand tons, and she struggled to keep them open. “What do you need with Luce? She’s not in trouble, is she?” She slurred her words.

“No, no, nothing like that. I’ve just got some intel I wanted to share with her.” Colby reached over and touched Brooke’s hand. Her face took on a gentle look, and sad eyes met Brooke’s. “I’m so sorry all of this happened to you, Brookie.”

“It wasn’t your fault, Colby.”

Brooke felt bad for Colby. They’d been lovers years ago, and she’d come down hard on Brooke when she found out Luce and she were involved. To say Colby had read her the riot act would be like calling the riots at a Trump rally a small get-together. Brooke wouldn’t call Luce and Colby friends, but they were mutually inclusive for the purposes of catching Petrov and Frank. Like one hand washing the other, they needed each other.

“I shouldn’t have given you a bad time. I should have trusted Luce, but...” Colby looked down at their joined hands. “I...let my feelings for you get in the way of doing the right thing. I’m sorry.”

Brooke, uncomfortable with the juxtaposition, patted Colby’s hand. “It’s all right.”

“It’s not, so please don’t say that for my benefit. I screwed up and trusted the wrong person, and that person turned out to be dirty.”

“Deputy Chapel was dirty?” Brooke hadn’t been told about any of the circumstances surrounding her kidnapping and stabbing. She just thought Frank had gone rogue and come after her to get at Luce. Waking up tied to the chair in the warehouse with Petrov standing over her, threatening to kill her, was the first time she’d known Petrov was involved.

She could tell by the way Colby avoided her gaze that her words rang true. Brooke patted Colby’s hand. It was her turn to be supportive. “You had no way of knowing, Col.”

“I should have at least listened with half an ear to what Luce was telling me and then checked her facts. Instead, Chapel sent me on some wild goose chase. It’s my own fault. I trusted my own command structure, and it almost cost you your life. I’m sorry for that, Brookie. Can you forgive me?”

“Colby, stop. Please. There was no way for you to know. You just saw Luce as this

Yakuza crime head and went with your gut.”

“That’s just it. I didn’t go with my gut. I went with my jealousy over Luce. She had someone I loved, and I couldn’t understand what you saw in her.”

Shocked, Brooke focused on Colby’s mouth, trying to figure out if she was dreaming or lucid. She hoped this was a dream, because Brooke had never met this version of Colby Water. If she had, perhaps they’d be together today. Hmm, scratch that. Brooke hadn’t been able to handle her womanizing. The arrogant, self-assured Colby was fine.

“Col, you just don’t know her like I do. She’s…” Brooke tried to find the right words to describe her lover without sounding too clichéd. “She’s honest, has a code of ethics you wouldn’t believe, adores her family, and would do anything for them. For Luce, family consists of the ones you pick, not those you’re born with. JP was an example of her not being able to cut off a branch in the family tree.”

“Did she kill him?” The question came out of thin air and floated out there.

Brooke wasn’t about to confirm anything for Colby. Besides, Luce had never told her what she’d done to JP, only that he was no longer going to be a problem for Luce or them. She’d explained in a cold, emotionless voice that Frank was next, even if it took her to her last breath to catch him.

“I don’t know, Colby. What does it matter?”

Brooke’s defensive tone should have told Colby to back off, but she didn’t.

“I’m just wondering, Brookie. It’s not a judgment call. Besides, she helped expose a dirty officer in the DOJ.” Colby gazed down at her hands and fidgeted. “I’m sorry. I should never have asked.”

This was that side of Luce’s business that Brooke had said she didn’t need to know about. Now she was sure she didn’t want to pry. Some things were better left unsaid.

Sammy and Momo burst through the doors, guns drawn. “Boss.”

“Get out,” Luce screamed and pointed at the door. “Now.”

“But Boss,” Sammy said, staring at the woman.

“Get. Out.” Luce pushed Sammy backward. “I’ll call you if I need you.”

Bowing and backing out of the door, Luce kicked it with her heel and slammed it shut. Turning back toward the woman, she noticed that her hands were clasped in front of her, her head bowed. She hadn’t moved.

The tattoo stood out against the porcelain skin. A jade dragon similar to the one on Luce’s front doors was etched on the woman’s back. Red eyes, the color of fire, popped out as if looking directly at Luce. In its talons, it held an open scroll with Hangul writing stretched down in individual rows. Luce wished she had paid attention in her Korean language classes. Now she had nobody but herself to blame for not being able to read what was clearly meant for her on the scroll.

As Luce studied the tattoo, she could only marvel at the intricate artwork displayed in front of her. Luce had an appreciation for fine art, and this was a tattoo of the highest caliber. But what caught her attention most was at the bottom of the scroll: the initials JP, John Potter.

Did you like the first 4 chapter of Razor's Edge? [If so you can pre-order it on Amazon, here.](#)

About the author

Award winning, international bestselling author, Isabella, lives in California with her wife and three sons. Isabella's first novel, *Always Faithful*, won a GCLS award in the Traditional Contemporary Romance category in 2010. She was also a finalist in the International Book Awards, and an Honorable Mention in the 2010 and 2012 Rainbow Awards.

She is a member of the Rainbow Romance Writers, Romance Writers of America and the Golden Crown Literary Society. She has written several short stories and just finished her next novel, *Aphrodite's Handmaiden*. She is current working on *Cigar Barons*. A family saga where - blood isn't thicker than water, not when it comes to a family dynasty. It's due out late 2017

Other Isabella titles available at Sapphire Books

Award winning novel - Always Faithful

ISBN - 978-0-9828608-0-9

Major Nichol “Nic” Caldwell is the only survivor of her helicopter crash in Iraq. She is left alone to wonder why she and she alone. Survivor’s guilt has nothing on the young Major as she is forced to deal with the scars, both physical and mental, left from her ordeal overseas. Before the accident, she couldn’t think of doing anything else in her life.

Claire Monroe is your average military wife, with a loving husband and a little girl. She is used to the time apart from her husband. In fact, it was one of the reasons she married him. Then, one day, her life is turned upside down when she gets a visit from the Marine Corps.

Can these two women come to terms with the past and finally find happiness, or will their shared sense of honor keep them apart?

Forever Faithful

ISBN - 978-1-939062-75-8

Life is what happens when you make other plans, and Nic and Claire have just found out that life and the Marine Corps have other plans for their lives.

Nic Caldwell has served her country, met the woman of her dreams, and has reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She’s studying at one of the nation’s most prestigious military universities, setting her sights on a research position after graduation. Things couldn’t be better and then it happens; a sudden assignment to Afghanistan derails any thoughts of marriage and wedded bliss. Another combat zone, another tragedy, and Nic suddenly finds herself fighting for her life.

Claire Monroe loves her new life in Monterey. She’s finally where she wants to be, getting ready to start her master’s program at the local university, watching her daughter, Grace, growing up, and getting ready to marry the love of her life. What could possibly derail a perfect life? The Marine Corps.

Will Nic survive Afghanistan? Can Claire step up and be the strength in their relationship? Or will this overseas assignment and a catastrophic accident divide their once happy home?

Broken Shield

ISBN - 978-0-9828608-2-3

Tyler Jackson, former paramedic now firefighter, has seen her share of death up close. The death of her wife caused Tyler to rethink her career choices, but the death of her mother two weeks later cemented her return to the ranks of firefighter. Her path of self-destruction and womanizing is just a front to hide the heartbreak and devastation she lives with every day.

Tyler's given up on finding love and having the family she's always wanted. When tragedy strikes her life for a second time she finds something she thought she lost.

Ashley Henderson loves her job. Ignoring her mother's advice, she opts for a career in law enforcement. But, Ashley hides a secret that soon turns her life upside down. Shame, guilt and fear keep Ashley from venturing forward and finding the love she so desperately craves. Her life comes crashing down around her in one swift moment forcing her to come clean about her secrets and her life.

Can two women thrust together by one traumatic event survive and find love together, or will their past force them apart?

American Yakuza

ISBN - 978-0-9828608-3-0

Luce Potter straddles three cultures as she strives to live with the ideals of family, honor, and duty. When her grandfather passes the family business to her, Luce finds out that power, responsibility and justice come with a price. Is it a price she's willing to die for?

Brooke Erickson lives the fast-paced life of an investigative journalist living on the edge until it all comes crashing down around her one night in Europe. Stateside, Brooke learns to deal with a new reality when she goes to work at a financial magazine and finds out things aren't always as they seem.

Can two women find enough common ground for love or will their two different worlds and cultures keep them apart?

Executive Disclosure

ISBN - 978-0-9828608-3-0

When a life is threatened, it takes a special breed of person to step in front of a bullet. Chad Morgan's job has put her life on the line more times that she can count. Getting close to the client is expected; getting too close could be deadly for Chad.

Reagan Reynolds wants the top job at Reynolds Holdings and knows how to play the game like "the boys". She's not above using her beauty and body as currency to get what she wants. Shocked to find out someone wants her dead, Reagan isn't thrilled at the prospect of needing protection as she tries to convince the board she's the right woman for a man's job. How far will a killer go to get what they want? Secrets and deception twist the rules of the game as a killer closes in.

How far will Chad go to protect her beautiful, but challenging client?

American Yakuza II - The Lies that Bind

ISBN - 978-10939062-20-8

Luce Potter runs her life and her business with an iron fist and complete control until lies and deception unravel her world. The shadow of betrayal consumes Luce, threatening to destroy the most precious thing in her life, Brooke Erickson.

Brooke Erickson finds herself on the outside of Luce's life looking in. As events spiral out of control Brooke can only watch as the woman she loves pushes her further away. Suddenly, devastated and alone, Brooke refuses to let go without an explanation.

Colby Water, a federal agent investigating the ever-elusive Luce Potter, discovers someone from her past is front and center in her investigation of the Yakuza crime leader. Before she can put the crime boss in prison, she must confront the ultimate deception in her professional life.

When worlds collide, betrayal, dishonor and death are inevitable. Can Luce and Brooke survive the explosion?

Surviving Reagan

ISBN - 978-1-939062-38-3

Chad Morgan has finally worked through the betrayal of her former client and lover, Reagan Reynolds. Putting the pieces of her life back in order, she finds herself on a collision course with that past when she takes on a new client, the future first lady. Unfortunately, Chad's newest job puts her in the cross-hairs of a domestic terrorist determined to release a virus that could kill thousands of women.

Reagan Reynolds has paid for her sins and is ready to start a new life. Attending a business conference in Abu Dhabi gives her the opportunity to prove to her father and herself that she's worthy of a fresh start. Her past will intersect with her future at the conference when she accidentally comes face-to-face with Chad Morgan.

Time is running out. Will Reagan confront Chad? Can she convince Chad she's changed, or will death part them forever?

Scarlet Masquerade

ISBN - 978-0-982860-81-6

What do you say to the woman you thought died over a century ago? Will time heal all wounds or does it just allow them to fester and grow? A.J. Locke has lived over two centuries and works like a demon, both figuratively and literally. As the owner of a successful pharmaceutical company that specializes in blood research, she has changed the way she can live her life. Wanting for nothing, she has smartly compartmentalized her life so that when she needs to, she can pick up and start all over again, which happens every twenty years or so. Love is not an emotion A.J. spends much time on. Since losing the love of her life to the plague one hundred fifty years ago, she vowed to never travel down that road again. That isn't to say she doesn't have women when she wants them, she just wants them on her terms and that doesn't involve a long term commitment.

A.J.'s cool veneer is peeled back when she sees the love of her life in a lesbian bar, in the same town, in the same day and time in which she lives. Is her mind playing tricks on her? If not, how did Clarissa survive the plague when she had made A.J. promise never to change her?

Clarissa Graham is a university professor who has lived an obscure life teaching English literature. She has made it a point to stay off the radar and never become involved with anything that resembles her past life. Every once in a while Clarissa has an itch that needs to be scratched, so she finds an out of the way location to scratch it. She keeps her personal life separate from her professional one, and in doing so she is able to keep her secrets to herself. Suddenly, her life is turned upside down when someone tries to kill her. She finds herself in the middle of an assassination plot with no idea who wants her dead

Scarlet Assassin

ISBN 978-1-939062-36-9

Selene Hightower is a killer for hire. A vampire who walks in both the light and the darkness, but lately darkness has a stronger pull. Her unfinished business could cost her the ability to live in the light, throwing her permanently back into the black ink of evil.

Doctor Francesca Swartz led a boring life filled with test tubes, blood trials, and work. One exploratory night, in a world of leather and torture, she is intrigued by a dark and solitary soul. She surrenders to temptation and the desire to experience something new, only to discover that it might alter her life forever.

Will Selene allow the light to win over the darkness threatening the edges of her life? Two women wonder if they can co-exist despite vast differences, as worlds collide and threaten to destroy any hope of happiness. Who will win?

Sign-up for the Sapphire Newsletter and get a free book.
Join by going to <http://eepurl.com/b2arHn>

