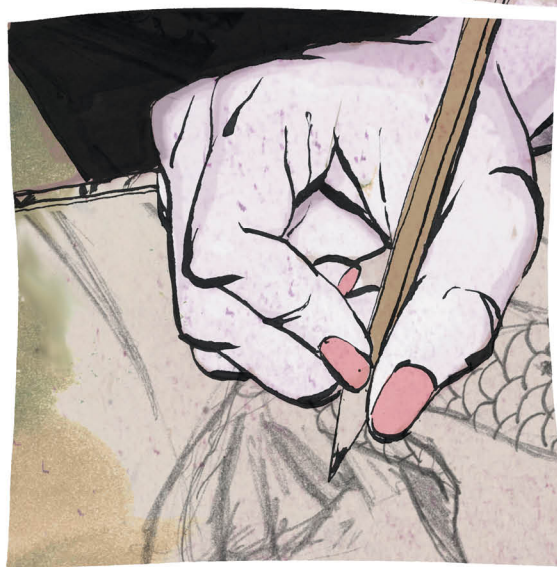


# YEARS AGO...













# PEARL

PEARL TANAKA IS HAVING A LATE-NIGHT FOOD CART SNACK WITH HER FRIEND KIM WHEN SHE MEETS RICK, WHO ADMIRES HER VERY SPECIAL TATTOO. THIS MEETING IS INTERRUPTED WHEN TROUBLE-MAKERS FROM A YAKUZA CLAN CRASH THE FOOD CARTS TO ASSASSINATE RICK AND HIS FRIENDS.

PEARL SURPRISES EVERYONE BY PULLING OUT A SMALL GUN AND TAKING CARE OF THE SITUATION QUICKLY.

PEARL IS A VERY TALENTED TATTOO ARTIST FOR ELITE MEMBERS OF THE YAKUZA, INCLUDING HER IMMEDIATE BOSS, MR. MIKE. PEARL'S FATHER HAD PROTECTED HER FOR MANY YEARS BUT IS NO LONGER AROUND TO DO SO. MIKE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTS PEARL TO DO MORE THAN JUST TATTOOS FROM NOW ON.

BEFORE PEARL CAN PROCESS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, RICK, WHOSE LIFE SHE SAVED AT THE FOOD CARTS, ENTERS HER TATTOO PARLOR, HAVING FIGURED OUT WHO SHE IS AND WHERE SHE WORKS.

# ISSUE 2





