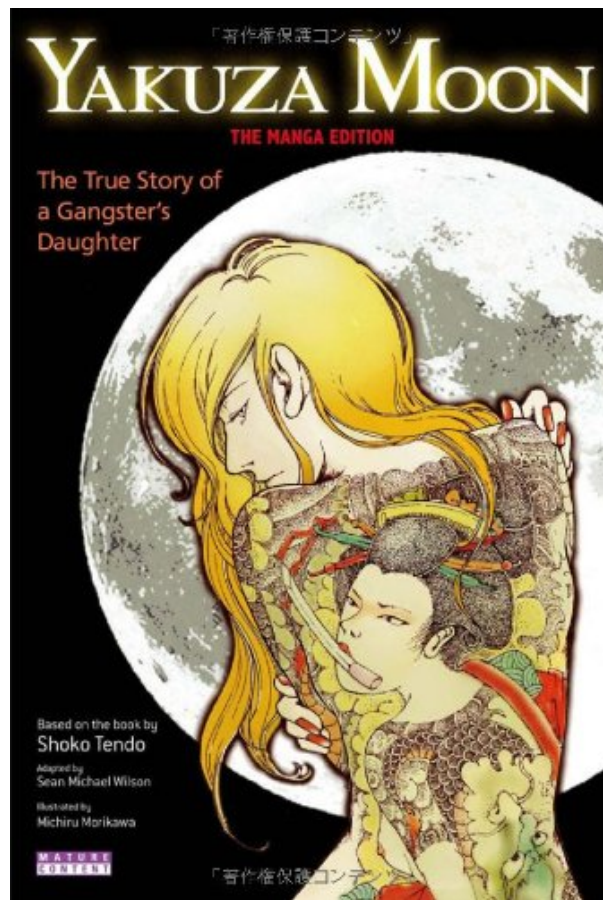
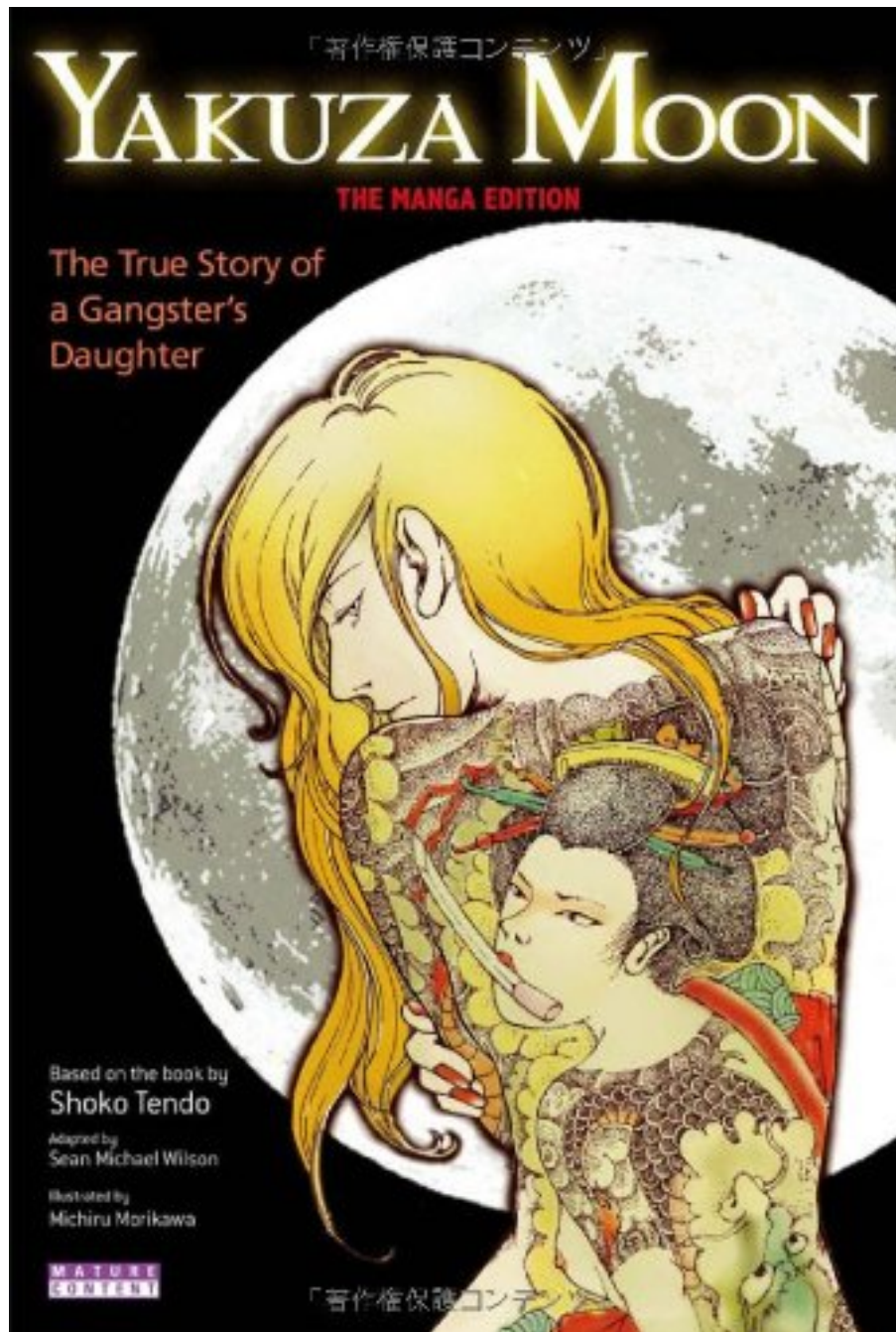


YAKUZA MOON: MEMOIRS OF A GANGSTER'S DAUGHTER BY SHOKO TENDO



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From Publishers Weekly

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As the adapters of this novel into manga, we are very pleased with the good reception so far. We tried to keep the manga close to the original story, with the permission and involvement of Tendo-san herself. Hopefully though our visualised version can add something too, to show more of the real world of the young Tendo, and the subtle emotional journey she went on as the daughter of a yakuza in modern Japan.

Thanks!

Sean Michael Wilson and Michiru Morikawa

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BY SHOKO TENDO PDF

Born to a wealthy and powerful yakuza boss, Shoko Tendo lived the early years of her life in luxury. However, when she was six, everything changed: her father was jailed, and the family fell into debt. Bullied by her classmates because of her father's activities, and terrorized at home by her father, who became a drunken, violent monster after his release from prison, Tendo rebelled. As a teenager she became a drug addict and a member of a girl gang. At the age of 15 she spent eight months in a juvenile detention center after getting into a fight with another gang.

During Japan's bubble economy of the eighties, Tendo worked as a bar hostess, attracting many rich and loyal customers, and earning money to help her family out of debt. But there were also abusive clients, one of whom beat her so badly that her face was left permanently scarred. Her mother died, plunging Tendo into a depression so deep that she tried to commit suicide.

Somehow, Tendo overcame these tough times. A turning point was getting a full-body tattoo with a design centered on a geisha with a dagger in her mouth, an act that empowered her to change her life. She quit her job as a hostess. On her last day at work, she looked up at the full moon, which became a symbol of her struggle to become whole, and the title of the book she wrote as an epitaph for herself and her family.

The paperback edition of *Yakuza Moon* features 16-pages of never-before-seen photos of Tendos youth, family, and tattoos, as well as a new foreword by the author, describing her life since the book was first published four years ago.

"Emotionally complex and thoroughly heart-rending, this book is recommended for anyone searching for a more thorough and personal understanding of Japanese society. Publishers Weekly

- Sales Rank: #2368794 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Kodansha USA
- Published on: 2011-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .50" w x 8.90" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Thanks!

Sean Michael Wilson and Michiru Morikawa

Most helpful customer reviews

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

The Life of a Yakuza Daughter

By The BookWorm

A great read, was hard to put down once I got started. Not at all the type of life you would expect from a family that was once very powerful.

Her child hood bullying, drug use during her teen years, and horrible relationships with men in the past serve as a warning that just because a life style may appear to be glamorous does not mean that it is.

Told with shocking truth, Shoko Tendo's memoir is a great read.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Surprisingly Good

By B. Wolinsky

My father used to go to Japan on business all the time in the 1980's. He marvelled at how little crime there was compared to New York. But no country is truly crime-free. Even in Japan, there were troubled kids who got in trouble with the police. This book is about that; what happens to Japanese kids from dysfunctional families.

Yakuza Moon opened my eyes to a whole lot of things I never knew about Japan. The Yakuza aren't folk heroes the way the Italian Mafia are in their neighborhoods. Everyone, including neighbors, teachers, and classmates, despised her father. She's a pariah in her neighborhood, beaten by her father at home, and when her father loses the house (and his standing in the criminal underworld) there's nowhere for her to go. She can't go to school, and has no choice but to work in sleazy bars.

The ending is a happy one, fortunately. She does have a career, has a child, tattoos herself (as a way of gaining control of her body) and makes her peace with life. Despite having no education, she does a pretty good job writing this book.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Nice first try.

By Caie

This was supposed to be a weekend business trip filler. It ended up just a 4 hour plane ride and a few more hours in the hotel. I gave it 4 stars though because I couldn't put the book down. But I am a voyeur and this book really delivers on the exhibitionism. This is really just a Jerry Springer story with a happy ending. However, I am a Japanophile, so this book held my interest more than the same story about a girl from say, Hamilton, Ohio would have. I met several girls like the author while living in Japan and I can say the story does ring very true. This is a great, fast read if you are into Japanese culture, otherwise you may find it a bit maudlin.

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