FIRE

OF

Vengeance
Contents

Prologue ........................................................................................................... 2
Chapter 1 ........................................................................................................ 5
Chapter 2 ........................................................................................................ 7
Chapter 3 ........................................................................................................ 8
Chapter 4 ...................................................................................................... 11
Chapter 5 ...................................................................................................... 12
Chapter 6 ...................................................................................................... 15
Chapter 7 ...................................................................................................... 16
Chapter 8 ...................................................................................................... 18
Chapter 9 ...................................................................................................... 20
Chapter 10 ................................................................................................... 22
Chapter 11 ................................................................................................... 24
Chapter 12 ................................................................................................... 25
Epilogue ......................................................................................................... 27

Title: Fire of Vengeance

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We would like to happily donate this book to the sick children at Princess Margaret Hospital and hope that all of the children get better soon.
Isabelle Bronco’s mother and father sit listening to the weather reports on the radio when they hear a door slam downstairs. They all heard someone walking around smashing dishes and tipping liquids everywhere. In complete confusion, Mr Bronco silently got up from his seat but he quickly sits down again when he sees a Jerry can bounce across the bottom of the stairwell. They huddle together in absolute shock and despair when they hear a match light. Instantly they realize what is happening. Someone has broken in and is attempting to burn down the house. The fire could be heard crackling straight away as Mr & Mrs Bronco desperately search for an escape other than the stairway. Owen the goanna is staring straight at the best exit but in panic, Isabelle's parents completely forgot about Owen when the smoke starts pouring up from bottom floor. They start coughing rapidly as they try to recall the technique of avoiding the smoke. They carefully lie down onto the floor and start crawling - but this didn’t help their coughing. Their lungs started to hurt as they desperately crawl towards the emergency exit they had built into the house in case of a flood in the creek. The goanna was trying his hardest to tell them where the best exit was but as hard as he tried he just couldn’t get the words out.

Eventually Isabelle’s parents made it to the emergency exit but as they opened the hatch they heard an extremely loud ‘crash!’ coming from the bottom floor. Suddenly the floor collapsed beneath them and they fell into the kitchen below. Mr Bronco quickly acted and turned on the kitchen tap. The smoke was getting thicker every second and Isabelle's parents both found themselves falling in and out of consciousness. Then it all went black.
Chapter 1

One hour earlier...

Isabelle Gronco’s long brunette hair brushed across her face as she gets out of her warm, cosy bed. She let out a dramatic 'sigh' as she remembered she had to go to gymnastics. She walked over to her pink clothe drawers and picked out her favourite costume to wear when she goes there. As she walks away she almost forgot to put on her lucky charm that she wears whenever she goes out to her gymnastics classes.

After a few minutes she was ready to go, when she heard her mum shout from downstairs;
"Isabelle, your coach had to go out to repair some equipment so your classes will be an hour late"
"So what are we going to do?" asked Isabelle.
"Well, if you want we can call into Uncle Benji’s shoe shop and get some new shoes for gymnastics."
"Oh yes please!" Cried Isabelle.

On their way to Uncle Bens shop they spotted a pet store that had just recently opened up.
"Can we please get a pet? We haven't ever had any sort of pet and I'm 17 now, I think I'm old enough." asked Isabelle.
"Well I guess that it would be nice to have something to have around the house. Let's go in and have a look shall we?" answered Mrs Gronco.

In the pet shop, Mrs Gronco and Isabelle both were looking at the furry puppies when a sleeping goanna in the corner of the room caught Isabelle's eye.
"Owen." she said.
"What?" replied Isabelle's mum.
"That's his name; Owen." Repeated Isabelle. "It's a lizard Isabelle why would you want to get a lizard?"
"Well I studied these back in school and they are goanna's, not lizards. But they are very peaceful creatures and tests show that when they are in danger they try to protect their owner more than they try to protect themselves."

"Wow, that's very clever." Exclaimed her mum

Mrs Gronco turned to the shopkeeper and asked for the price.

"419 pounds." Answered the shopkeeper.

"419 POUNDS!" Repeated Isabelle's mother. "Well Isabelle, if you want to get this pet, you won't be able to get those shoes you wanted."

"Okay mum, but can we still go to see Uncle Ben for advice?" asked Isabelle. "No because your gymnastics should be about to start." Replied Mrs Gronco.

When they got to the gymnastics training, Isabelle was so excited to get out and tell her instructor about her new pet, she forgot to say goodbye to her mum!
Isabelle leaped off the vault with great power into a perfect landing on the mat. Her coach clapped and cheered. "That's three perfect landings in a row, that's absolutely fascinating!" the coach exclaimed. "I think you have almost mastered the vault, now try the uneven bars."

Isabelle ran up towards the lowest bar, leapt with great height, the wind rushed past her face, and her hands landed perfectly on the bar. Using all her force, she lifted her body up with her arms and began swinging around the bar. Once, twice, three times and finally let go of the bar and swung into the air, almost hit her head on the highest bar, but she managed to catch the bar with one hand and swung around the highest bar. Isabelle let go of one hand and twisted her body around in the air, almost one full rotation. She stopped swinging and landed on the ground, stumbled a few times, but eventually landed on her two feet. "You're going to have a massive advantage in the competition next month with those skills" the coach said excitedly. "Try the pommel horse now." Isabelle placed both her hands on the pommel horse and lifted her body up onto it. She placed one hand on the ring and lifted her body into the air. She was holding her whole body up in the air with one hand. She began spinning her body around, doing flips and tricks.

She stood on the pommel horse, gracefully jumped off it and was flying through the air, "HONK HONK", Isabelle looked out the window and saw a familiar pick-up truck. She lost concentration and landed on her arm. "I haven't seen Uncle Ben in ages, why is he here?" She asked to herself.

Uncle Ben walked inside and picked up Isabelle from training. "See you later Coach" said Isabelle. "See you then" replied the coach.

Isabelle and Benji got into his pick-up truck and drove home. Benji didn't live far away but he never came to visit because he was far too busy for that. The pick-up truck turned down the road and they were just about home.

The scenery on the way home was absolutely beautiful, and the trees were all so grown and lush, for some reason she didn’t take in any of the beauty on the way into gymnastics.

The pick-up truck got to the front gate and Isabelle hopped out and got the mail, she then walked back to the house. Isabelle was looking at all of the wonderful life of all the trees,
lush green paddocks and all of the trees were dripped the tiniest specks of water onto the grass below.
Isabelle looked around and saw the wonderful lush life all around her, she turned around and realised that where her house used to be, there was now a pile of charred and blackened bricks. The words stung her ears as her uncle was not joking about the fire. She wept.
Chapter 3

Isabelle reached into her pocket and grabbed out her phone, she looked at a picture of her and her family and a tear formed in the corner of her eye.

She began walking towards the house and started looking through all of the rubble. Benjie and Isabelle grabbed the fallen down front door and dragged it away from the remains of the house.

“Wait there for a moment” Benjie told Isabelle, he reached inside and lifted a charred piece of wood onto the burned bench top and held up a slight bit of the fallen down roof.

Benjie and Isabelle walked inside and were looking through all the rubble. Isabelle stated to get teary so Benji hugged her to make her feel better.

Isabelle ran into her room to look for her pet goanna, Owen, and he was gone. She raced out to the kitchen.

“Benji, have you seen Owen?” Isabelle asked.

“No sorry, Isabelle, have you checked the laundry?” replied Benji.

“Nope, not yet but I’ll check there now” Isabelle sobbed.

Isabelle dragged her feet through the rubble and sobbed as she walked into the laundry to continue trying to look for Owen. The laundry was all dark and everything inside was covered in ash. She grabbed out her phone and turned on the flashlight to check for Owen.

Benjie came into the laundry and hugged Isabelle because Owen was still not found.

“Come on Isabelle, let’s go check outside” said Benjie.

They walked outside in the cold, crisp air to continue the search for Owen. They searched around the outside of the remains of the house but there was still no luck.

Isabelle looked all around the floor and couldn’t find him anywhere. She looked top to bottom, over and under everything but there was still no sign of him. Isabelle was getting freaked out now and very worried because she really wanted to find Owen but she didn’t know anywhere else to look.

Isabelle and Benji had almost lost hope.
“Come on Isabelle, let’s look in one last place and if we don’t find him I’ll buy you a new Goanna” Benji said to Isabelle.

Benji and Isabelle looked in Isabelle’s room one last time. Isabelle looked high and low, left and right but still no sign. Isabelle began to cry.

After all this looking Benji was busting and had to go to the toilet. He went to the toilet and there on the floor was Owen, laying stomach up, heavily breathing and panting like he needed a drink badly.

“ISABELLE” Benji screamed “I’ve found Owen, in the bathroom, quickly, come on!”
Chapter 4

Benji and Isabelle rushed to the vet, thinking that Owen the Goanna has a 3rd degree burns and a broken leg. On the way there, they saw smoke and thought that it was nothing, but they went past a bush and thought that it was a natural bushfire and said that they would come back after they had Owen to the vet to investigate.

When they got to the vet, the vet said that if they didn’t get there when they did, Owen would have been DEAD! Isabelle and Uncle Benji left Owen in the vet and went to investigate the bushfire because they thought that it was lit deliberately but they didn’t know exactly, but Isabelle knew that she needed to go to gymnastics so she asked her Uncle Benji to drive her to her gym.

When she was at gym she noticed a strange man watching her as if he was keeping an eye on her, and so Isabelle was curious at what the man would do. About an hour later Benjamin came and picked up Isabelle, Isabelle was about to tell her uncle about the man but Benjamin quickly interrupted her telling her about what he found, he found lighters and petrol that had been used by someone. Isabelle told Benjamin about the guy that was watching her at gymnastics and ben said that if he watches you again tell your coach.

About an Hour Later...

Isabelle woke up laying on the ground and said "Where Am I?"

Her uncle replied and said “You are in my pick-up truck because you passed out thinking about your parents.”

“Oh did I” Said Isabelle.

Benji made found a fruit salad for breakfast. After breakfast they went back to her parents’ house to investigate because she reasons that she has missed something because she found petrol and lighters on the last scene and she thinks there is something there to find the culprit.

A moment later there was a noise of a twig braking and as soon as they heard the noise they turned around a saw a shadow and ran immediately to the shadow and found out that it was a dog that had been lost in the bush. Anyway they kept on looking through the bush trying to find some evidence that her parents weren’t dead but had no luck.
She went down to the creek and started throwing rocks and pebbles into the lake to get her anger out of her system.

She went to the gym to practice her tricks and flips because it was the school holidays and she was practicing to get into the states in a couple of months but once again a guy was watching her practicing she tried to tell her coach but she couldn’t find him he had gone missing!
Chapter 5

The next day...

She went back to the gym to train and try find her coach but had no luck... Again she started to think that the man took her coach, but she thought that was absurd he could be sick. So she gave up on looking for the coach and she started training. She did backflips, front flips, cartwheels and somersaults, after a vigorous 2 hours of trainings she wanted to train more. Her uncle Benji insisted on getting her out of gym practice.

“Why are you taking me out so early?” said Isabelle in confusion.

“We need to get the valuables from your burned down house for keepsake and so no one steals it” said Benji.

“Uh, okay then!” said Isabelle, who wanted to do more gymnastics.

A few hours later they got the valuables from the burned out house.

“Hey guess what, you can finish off your gymnastics, we’re an hour early in schedule.” Said Ben in happiness.

“Awesome” Said Isabelle in excitement.

As they drive by both of them notice the beautiful agriculture surrounding them.

“I haven’t noticed this before, this is great!” said Isabelle.

“Are you serious? I still acknowledge it and I’ve noticed it for more than ten times” said Uncle Ben as he exaggerates.

As they drive back to the gym, they see old burnt houses that look just like her parents' house which reminded her about how her father said something like “I Will Get Revenge” which didn’t make much sense then, but now she might think that her father is the person making all the fires but it doesn’t make any sense. "Why would he light his house on fire it just doesn’t make any sense?" Isabelle asked.

“Where did this town come from” Said Benji.

“I don’t know” said Isabelle in surprise.
“Have I taken the wrong turn” Said Benji.
“I don’t know but where is that smoke coming from?” Said Isabelle scared.
“I don’t know” said Benji.
Isabelle and ben keep driving getting closer and closer getting a picture in there head of where the fire is actually coming from!
“THE GYM!” Yells Isabelle.
Ben drives as fast as he can to investigate what is happening to the gym.
“What if the coach is still in there” Says Isabelle frightened.
Ben soon gets to the scene and runs out of the truck and hearing yelling and screaming inside the gym. Isabelle soon realises that her friend Clare is still inside with other gymnasts.
“Clare is still inside!” Yelled Isabelle.
Ben runs inside looking for Clare before the gym collapses. He is holding his hand over his mouth so he doesn’t inhale smoke. He finds Clare trapped with a balance beam on top of her, so Benji quickly lifts it off her and lifts her up by the arms and carries Clare outside the burning gym. He notices the other gymnasts in the charcoal filled gym so he quickly grabs them all and drops them outside on the lush green grass which is now filling with ash.
A shiny yellow car rolls into the parking lot and a man gets out.
“Coach you’re okay!” screamed out Isabelle in excitement.
“What happened?” said the Coach.
“The gym got burned down but everyone is ok” says Isabelle.
Clare walks over to Isabelle and says.
“Sorry but there has been too many fires, it is getting to dangerous and my mum and dad doesn’t want our house to burn down so I have to move.”
“Oh ok, I’ll miss you” Says Isabelle.
Chapter 6

After nearly being burnt alive Isabelle went to the creek to have some time out. All she could think about was her parents being hurt. She put her feet in the water and looked at a picture of her parent that they had given her for her birthday. Her uncle came out of the house and spoke to her. She told him of the time that her parents had given her a goanna.

That reminded her that she needed to pick up Owen from the vet. As she walked down the street she tried to figure out what was happening to her family. Her mum and dad had died she had almost been caught in a fire in the gym. And she only her uncle Benji to help look after her.

When she got to the vet there was Owen sitting in the in his cage. When she went over to him the vet said.

"What happened to him?"

"He was caught in a house fire".

"And my parents are dead and I do not know what to do".

"I am sorry to hear that".

When she go home Isabelle was worried that her uncle had gone out and she would be home alone. So she went the creek for some time. When she got there she sat by a tree and fell asleep.

When she woke up she found a note on the tree with a picture of fire on it. She got up and walked back to the house.

When she got back to the house she noticed that a petrol can had been moved and a bonfire had been made ready to light. Isabelle then decided to pour water over the bonfire so it would not light. And set a video camera ready to record. Then she heard the back door open she ran over to the kitchen.
"Hello anybody home."

"Who is this" Isabelle screamed...

It went all silent all she could hear was footsteps and then the door slammed shut Isabelle ran out the door but there was no one there. As she ran inside she fell over hurting her arm badly.

"Help, Help" Isabelle screamed.

As Isabelle stumbled inside her uncle was standing in the kitchen.

"Why did you run out the door like that you could have been badly hurt?" Benji Asked

"But the guy was here he walked into the house." Isabelle replied

"No that was me when I came home from work." Benji replied

"You have to be careful" Ben said

"But why? Isabelle replied

"Because your house was burnt down and we do not know what will happen next." Isabelle’s Uncle replied

"I saw someone at the gymnasium he was watching me as few minutes before you picked me up." Isabelle Replied

"I think a lot more bad things could happen." said Isabelle

"Do you know what is happening" said uncle Benji.

"Yes" said Isabelle
Chapter 7

"Someone is out to kill us" said Isabelle.

We need to stop this we cannot let this happen to other people Isabelle thought to herself. She did not say anything as she thought that her uncle would think that he was crazy. Her uncle was thinking the same thing. He decided to say something. "We should stop this person." “We should, but how will we do it.”

As Isabelle left the room an idea came into her head what if they called the police to come and arrest this guy. But the more she thought about it the more it seemed like a bad idea. The more she thought about it the sadder it made her so she then decided to let her uncle find out how to catch the arsonist.

The next morning Isabelle went to her uncle asking him what they should do to catch her parent’s killer. "Uncle Benji what should we do about this person who is running around setting things on fire."

"What do you mean." said uncle Benjie.

"You said that we would catch the arsonist.” said Isabelle

"Do you want to get yourself killed?" Asked uncle Benjie

Isabelle thought that her uncle was right she should not get herself into this mess. But she was still not sure what to do. She wanted to catch her parent’s killer but she did not want to get killed. That is when she came up with an idea to help get her over what had happened to her family. She decided to go to her uncle’s shop and help him with making shoes.

When she got there she was looking at all the different types of shoes that her uncle had made. She was like a young kid in a candy store. She picked out every pair of shoes that she liked. Her uncle told her a story about each of them and how they were made. She thought that her uncle had a cool job. She wished that her uncle could give her a free pair of shoes.
When she saw a customer come into the store she went to serve them and they asked her to see the owner Isabelle called for her uncle he did not come. She walked down the back of the shop and found her uncle.

"There is a customer waiting to see you." said Isabelle

As her uncle walked towards the front they heard a bottle fall over. "What was that?"

BANG!!!
Isabelle could hear a loud noise coming from the front door, almost like there was someone there, watching their every move. "Wait, I can hear something at the front door, Uncle Benji, go either side of the door and wait." said Isabelle, as they were crawling closer and closer to the doorway.

As they saw the black silhouette running back to the big white van, they heard a rumbling sound, and then... tick, tick, tick, tick. "Oh... what is that" said Isabelle, still scared of the black silhouette creeping around there shoemaker shop. "Isabelle, run outside, NOW!" said her Uncle, as he knows that there's something wrong. They went sprinting as fast as they could and ran straight out the door. As soon as they ran out the door there was a huge explosion, rubble flew everywhere, glass flew at them like a bullet being shot out of a gun and both Ben and Isabelle were shouting for help. The flames as big as a large tree approached them, but they can't move as they were so scared they couldn’t move their legs.

"Help me!" said Isabelle as she was crying, her tears falling slowly to the ground, with blurred vision, they were trying to find Owen, but there eyes were blurred so much they couldn't see much at all, almost blind. They cannot move one muscle because of this, they fall to the ground and as Isabelle slowly fell in and out of consciousness, she saw the black shadow in the distance. She tried to yell out to the black clothed man but it was no use, she couldn't say anything. She was frozen with fear and so was her Uncle, except he had fallen and had blacked out already. As she slowly fell to sleep, she thought in her head about who did it and why did they target her.

When Isabelle was sleep, she kept having flashbacks about what she thought had happened to her mother and father, also having nightmares about the black silhouette, what was he doing there, was he the one who did all this, was the fire that killed her parents, the fire in the gym, the explosion.
She suddenly wakes up with fear and sees the shop, burned down, black charcoal surrounded the shop, nothing standing up. "Uncle Benji, wake up! Come on! We've got to go!" cried Isabelle, the tears running down her face like a waterfall. Uncle Ben woke up slowly in confusion; "Isabelle, you're alive!" their charred faces were happy that they both were alive, it was a miracle.

"Come on, we've got to go otherwise we'll be struck again" said Uncle Benji with a croaked voice. They found Owen in the Rubble, he was fine but still in shock. They didn't know what to do or where to go.
"Let's go to my house for the night, we can sleep there and wash off at the Creek bed just outside the house" said Uncle Benji. Isabelle and her uncle finally reached home, they fell down into their beds exhausted from the crazy day that had just passed." It's not every day that you are in an exploding shoe shop, is it?" Joked uncle Benji. "Yeah, I guess, that was hectic." Isabelle replied. But her mind was on other things. If someone is after us then why do they burn everything, why use arson when you could just use a knife? There must be a reason behind this. This whole business is very mysterious. She fell asleep, still confused about what had happened to her Mum and Dad.

Just about five minutes later she kept having flash blacks about the man in the black silhouette, her falling to sleep in the explosion, thinking she was going to die. The nightmares flashing past her mind so fast she couldn't handle it, she woke up immediately and saw Owen and Benjamin fast asleep, how could they have such a good sleep after that?

She went back to sleep after about thirty minutes later and started to dream the day her parents died. As Isabelle's Dad dropped her off at the gym, her Dad said, “Hey, have a good time alright, I know its practice but still." "I know Dad” said Isabelle as she keeps hearing her Dad say that every time she goes to practice. Her father had a nice and shiny blue car, he spent all his life savings on it, but it was worth it.

As Isabelle was doing her gymnastics and had a gut feeling, something was wrong.

When she finished gymnastics she walked outside the gym and found her Uncles pickup truck outside.

“Uncle Ben? What are you doing here?” said Isabelle in confusion. “The cops came to my place and said that your Mum and Dad are missing, most definitely dead, I'm sorry" said Uncle Benji.
Isabelle fell to the ground crying in fear and confusion. “Why! Who would do this!” cried Isabelle.

“Apparently it was your Dad's old friend who was fighting for the same job as him, your Dad got the job and now he's after the whole family” said Uncle Ben. " the cops are after him but he's disappeared too."

“Come on, let's go and see what happened to your house.” said Uncle Benji trying to cheer up Isabelle.

A few minutes later they drove up slowly to Isabelle's house and saw the blackness of the charcoal, the house was completely flat with bricks and other pieces of rubble.

They saw a furry thing in a distance, then, they finally figured out who it was, it was there pet Goanna named Owen, he was lying on a piece of brick, he wasn't even awake.

The flashbacks went flying through her head, the fire at the house, the death of her parents, the fire at the gym and the explosion of the Shoemaker Shop.
Chapter 10

Isabelle woke up and heard a rustle, she dismissed it, thinking "It's just a bird." she sat up in bed when she heard a muffled footstep, pricking up her ears she rolled out of bed and in one fluid movement she was on her feet, she move cautiously towards the door, her feet falling on the floorboards and rising again, moving forward. Her Gymnastics making her as agile as a cat. She saw a silhouette moving in-between the trees. She inhaled sharply when she realised that the man who stepped out of the trees was the same man who was watching her at the gym, the same man who destroyed the shoe shop the same man who had killed her parents!

Isabelle walked around the house locking the doors so the man couldn't get into the house. But then she remembered that the man didn’t need to get in, the fire would get them out. When she checked the back door something didn't seem right, the door was slightly open, Isabelle turned around to see the tall figure of the man, standing behind her. Isabelle screamed but her mouth was covered by a large hand. The hand was sweaty and clammy cutting off her breath, darkness ate at the edges of her vision. Isabelle’s mind began slowing down her eyes drooped, then the adrenaline kicked in, Isabelle jumped up and swung her legs over the arsonist's arm, she was now facing him she jumped up and thrust forward with her legs, her attacker doubled over and she ran out of the door into the woods by the creek. She dodged past trees and jumped over sticks. At a break neck pace she ran, but always behind her she heard the heavy footfall of her assailant behind her, she risked a backward glance and saw the man, he was fast! Isabelle’s feet carried her towards the creek, her feet splashed through the shallow water throwing up droplets, spattering her dress. Her pursuer hesitated at the water’s edge but then he ran with renewed strength.

Isabelle ran, her feet slapping the ground, she was tired the assailant was right behind her she knew it was over, the world around her spun, colours blended and the world began to turn into darkness. She fell down onto the hard, sharp rocks, she was completely out of breath, her adrenalin had run out and she felt exhausted. Her legs were cut and torn and they stung, her eyes were blurred with tears and she finally accepted that she was going to be caught and who knows what happens then? Would she be killed? Her eyes fluttered and finally closed.
The footsteps got closer and closer and closer and then Isabelle heard a bang and a thud, she opened her eyes and out of the shadows stepped uncle Benjie, in his hands there was a golf club, and he had knocked the arsonist out.

“I heard a muffled shriek.” Benji explained

“You woke me up, I knew there was trouble so I grabbed this golf stick and got running, I saw a man running away from the house, and I guessed that you got away, your gymnastics must’ve come in handy!”

As they were speaking the arsonist got up and began running, the chase was on.

Isabelle, now rested was back up. Together with uncle Benjie she ran after the arsonist, the forest lashed at them the and at one stage a branch sent ben staggering, but he soon caught back up to Isabelle and they kept on the trail of the arsonist. They had him on the run and he soon began to tire but so did Isabelle but uncle Ben was still going strong.

“How did you get so fast uncle Benji?” Isabelle wheezed.

“I’ll tell you another day young Isabelle.” Replied Uncle Ben, not puffed at all.

Just before the man tired he slammed into the door of a warehouse and stumbled inside, Benji went first into the warehouse, followed shortly by Isabelle. The warehouse was old and fallen into neglect. Cobwebs everywhere full of dust. The dust was stirred to life by their food steps as they walked past wooden crates made of rotting pine wood; it was a dark grey, with brown splotches. They
heard a creak and Isabelle moved closer to Uncle Benjie.

“I’m scared.” Whispered Isabelle

A movement caught the corner of Isabelle’s eye, she saw a man jumping over the crates, headed for them.

“Watch out.” She yelled out in shock.

The man landed on Benji and knocked him flat he stood up and faced Isabelle, she was frozen in fright. The arsonist threw a punch at her she dodged out of the way and the man’s hand thudded into the space where Isabelle was. He cried out in pain.

“The cheeky devil!” Yelled the arsonist.

Isabelle had jumped up onto the crate, he was stronger, but she was faster, way faster. The man climbed up on the crate and grabbed Isabelle’s ankle. Isabelle kicked out at the grabbing arm and jumped to the next crate the man followed but he did not land as lightly as Isabelle had. Isabelle jumped down to the ground landing softly on her small gymnast feet the man landed with a thud, Isabelle heard someone talking.

“Is this police, yes, okay, we are being assaulted, yes, the factory, be here soon, great, bye. Said the strange voice.

Isabelle now understood Benjie had called the Police, Benjie you genius! She thought.

The man had recovered and was back up throwing punches left and right Isabelle dodged them, but she soon tired. The man landed a punch on her shoulder and Isabelle felt a flair of pain on her shoulder. The man raised his arm to strike again, Isabelle couldn’t take another hit. The shadow of his arm was above her head.
Chapter 12

"Bang, bang" the warehouse door was shaking "Bang, Bang" the arsonist stepped back from Isabelle and ran. The door broke off its hinges and three men dressed in blue and white rushed into the scene. Isabelle was full of relief, all the stress and anger seemed to glide off her shoulders, and it was the police. Uncle Benji must have called them. Isabelle got up she was sore and her arm was in pain but she still managed to limp her way into the police car, she felt tired and decided if it was best if she caught some sleep.

The morning had come quickly and she found herself on the chair of the police station next to uncle Benji, she shook him and woke him up. "Huh" said uncle Benji "we've been asleep for hours it's twelve o'clock". Just as she'd finished speaking someone else walked into the room, it was a policeman. He was six foot six with dark brown hair and a neat uniform, Isabelle asked "who are you?", "Jake, I've come to tell you the interrogation is about to begin" " here I'll take you there". So Isabelle walked alongside him followed by Uncle Benji until they reached the room where the arsonist was.

The room was plain with cream walls and plain cold cement flooring. It had a table and two chairs at one sat an older looking policeman with grey hair and brown eyes and at the other sat the arsonist. Isabella could see him clearly for the first time. His dark black hair creeping over his head and his brown eyes staring straight through her. Isabella finally realises who he is she has seen him before.

"That's right you remember me" he said. “Of course you were just little then, but you remember!". He was right she did remember but only that he was packing the day Isabella's dad had started his new job at the newspaper press but that was all she remembered. The policeman yelled "Be quiet you have the right only to be spoken to, not to speak!” "Unless you are asked to speak" "got it?" "Got it" said the man. Now what is your name, "Christopher Lancey" he said. "What was you motive to arson against this family"

"It was a while ago but it all seems like yesterday” I had been working at the newspaper press since I was five my dad owned it so he used to let me run errands around the press I loved it but when I was twelve my dad had a heart
attack and couldn't run the factory anymore so he said to me when I turned eighteen I would inherit the factory and I would be able to run it". "But that day never came when I turned sixteen everyone that had worked there had abandoned it and there was no one to run it and no one to pay the bills, so the bank repossessed it and I could not afford to buy it back. When I turned eighteen I found out that the girl’s dad had bought the press and went there too empty my dad's office it was then when I saw how happy her dad was I was filled with envy. "It was supposed to be mine!" "I was supposed to be happy!" "Not her father". "So on that day I vowed to take revenge on that family!", “It wasn't fair!"

"Ok you psycho" said the policeman "we will decide what happens to you in court". The policeman got up and took out his handcuffs where he handcuffed the man and took him to two other men, they escorted him away. As they walked passed Isabelle a tear formed in her eye and uncle Benji said "Don't worry it’s over now, it’s over.
Isabelle woke up to the sound of her Uncle cooking the usual breakfast. She got out of bed and put her school clothes on. Uncle Benji was cooking bacon and eggs, her favourite she wanted to eat quickly as the term holidays had just finished and she hadn't seen her friends in ages. When she had finished she asked her uncle if she could walk to school he said yes and so she stuck her bag on her back and walked out the door with a simple goodbye. Her Uncle was glad that she was so happy to go to school after all of what had happened but he knew that it was only because it was a way to get away from it all.

It had been three months since that cantankerous man had tried to kill her. Everything felt like it was back to normal except her parents. They were nowhere to be seen. Everyone thought they were dead but there was no evidence to say they were but then again there was no evidence to prove them alive. "Ding, Dong" "Ding, Dong" the bell had rung to start the day, so Isabelle ran the rest of the way still pondering about her parents.

"Two people, a mother and father found alive with third degree burns. They were rushed off to St Mary's hospital at three am this morning". "St Mary's have been doing everything they can to help them, but risky operations will need to take place in order for them to fully recover. The hospital has not yet identified these people so if you have any information please ring the hospital at 0413487656 thank you for you’re...." Uncle Benji turned off the radio, smiled and picked up the phone.
17 year-old Isabelle Gronco is in trouble; her parents are thought to be dead in an arsonist attack and she is the next target. Her life is being held in the hands of her protective 35 year-old Uncle Benji (Benjamin Smith) as they are trying to find the criminal and find out why he targeted her.