***The Girl Who Drank the Moon***

***Chapter 31***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary in brief:***

In Chapter 31, “In Which a Madwoman Finds a Tree House,” back at Xan’s workshop, the madwoman arrives on the backs of her paper birds. She arrives but no one is home. She finds Luna’s drawings and realizes that her daughter is alive and is named Luna.

***Summary Part 1:***

The [madwoman](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-madwoman-adara) is used to being uncomfortable, but the [paper birds](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/symbols/paper-birds) cut her legs as they fly toward the swamp. She pictures her baby and remembers that long before she was born, her mother sacrificed a baby boy to the [Witch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/symbols/the-witch). Her mother used to have visions of that boy growing up, just as the madwoman dreams of her own baby. The birds let the madwoman down in the swamp. Her heart leaps as she tries to remember the name she gave her baby, and then thinks of the Sisters telling her that her baby wasn’t real. The madwoman knows this isn’t true, and thinks that the Sisters themselves were just following orders—there’s only one true liar in the Tower. She wonders how long she’s been mad.

***Analysis Part 1:***

As the madwoman thinks about her treatment in the Tower, she shows again how storytelling can be used to alter a person’s reality and change what they think is true—though, fortunately for the madwoman, she still knows that her daughter exists and was taken from her. Sharing visions of her baby with her mother suggests that these visions are something that all mothers of sacrificed children experience, again making it clear that the bonds between birth parents and their children are unbreakable in the world of the novel.

***Summary Part 2:***

The swamp appears to be empty. The [madwoman](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-madwoman-adara) tells the emptiness that she doesn’t remember her name, but she’s looking for her child. Noticing that the door is ajar, the madwoman approaches. She notices that the goats need to be milked and the chickens are hungry. Inside, she looks around. There are drawings of a monster, a dragon, and an old lady on the wall. One drawing is of a woman with black hair in a Tower, and it reads, “she is here.” The madwoman notices the signatures and realizes that her daughter’s name is [Luna](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/luna). The madwoman also realizes that Luna and her companions are in the woods, where, possibly, there’s a witch afoot.

***Analysis Part 2:***

It’s likely that on some level, the madwoman recognizes that Luna’s drawings and maps, especially those that say, “she is here,” reflect her own. This shows again how strong the bond is between birth parents and children. Importantly, however, the madwoman doesn’t interpret any of Luna’s drawings of her companions as threatening. This suggests that the madwoman will be open to understanding that Glerk, Fyrian, and Xan are also Luna’s family.