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

***Chapter 44***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary in brief:***

In Chapter 44, “In Which There Is a Change of Heart,” Xan has collapsed and she tells Luna that she is dying. Luna weeps but Xan assures her that she is not going to die right now—but that she will die soon. Luna feeds her grandmother starlight to give her strength when suddenly Sister Ignatia appears. Xan sees her and says, “Hello, Sorrow Eater” (355).

***Analysis(41-44):***

It seems as though the crow, although seemingly a random addition, has a strong and long-standing connection to Luna leading readers to wonder who he is and how they met. The crow questions whether or not Luna remembers meeting him, but Luna does not remember. Then, when the paper birds seem to be attacking her, the crow refers to Luna as “My girl” (343). These two short lines indicate that the crow is not a new friend, although the bird is new to readers. The question is who the crow is. There is reason to believe that the crow is an old witch or sorcerer who has remained transformed its entire time with Luna. Readers know that witches have the ability to transform themselves into animals and they can remain in that form for as long as their magic permits. Another possibility is that this crow was simply crow that Luna met back when she was five and did not have her magic locked away. Luna used to speak to animals without realizing it was a magical gift. The final possibility for the crow’s identity is that it was once a person but Luna accidentally transformed it into a crow, much like the accidental transformation she performed on Glerk when she transformed him into a bunny. Regardless of the crow’s origin, it is clear that it considers itself to be responsible for Luna and Luna trusts its advice on most things.

The last section manifested as a choreographed sequence of Luna’s caretakers, where one was leaving while the other entered, and this dance of opposite movement continues in this section with Xan recognizing the madwoman’s never-ending love for her missing daughter. Both women are shown lying on the ground in this section. Both women are weak and need Luna’s help moving. Luna goes to both women one by one. She offers help to each of them, and both women accept assistance. Xan shares the sad news of her upcoming death, saying that she has a mother who has never given hope of finding her again. This shows the deep love each caretaker has for Luna and the true love they each feel for Luna.

***Summary Part 1:***

[Luna](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/luna) pulls [Xan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/xan)’s frail body into her lap. Xan asks if Luna’s magic has started and says that she’ll die soon. She asks if the word “magic” stays in Luna’s head and explains that she locked it away to keep Luna safe. Luna says that she doesn’t want to talk about it unless it will make Xan well. Xan instructs Luna to collect the moonlight and feed it to her, as Xan did for Luna when Luna was a baby. She says that she thought Luna’s mother abandoned her. The [madwoman](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-madwoman-adara) whispers that they took Luna. Xan says she understands now. She was wrong to be incurious about the abandoned babies, but the Protectorate was so sad. She asks the madwoman for forgiveness and Luna asks if the children in the woods are the Star Children. Xan confirms this, and says that Luna was accidentally [enmagicked](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/terms/enmagic).

***Analysis Part 1:***

It’s telling that now that Xan is willing to talk to Luna, Luna doesn’t want to talk. This is because Luna is currently prioritizing her relationship with Xan over discovering new information, but this still illustrates how negative emotions make people incurious. The different ways in which Xan talks about how Luna ended up in the woods and how the madwoman says it happened (Luna was abandoned vs. Luna was taken) are also significant. This shows again how slightly different perspectives majorly influence how people perceive a story, and it helps Xan and the madwoman better understand each other.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Luna](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/luna) gathers moonlight and feeds it to [Xan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/xan). They both feel better, and Xan says that her magic is flowing into Luna. It’s time for Xan to die, especially since Luna has a mother who has always loved her. [Antain](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/antain) weeps and apologizes to Xan. Luna warns him to be careful and notices a rock rise up to hit him, but she glares at it and realizes that she’ll need to be careful. Antain asks if Xan is the [Witch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/symbols/the-witch) who demands a baby, but Luna insists she isn’t. Antain says that someone demands a sacrifice. Luna remembers Antain and says that he angered the old men.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Xan’s insistence that Luna will be fine, in part because her mother is here, shows that Xan isn’t precious or selfish about her relationship with Luna; she understands that Luna can develop a loving relationship with her birth mother without it threatening the relationship that Xan has with Luna. In this way, the novel shows that it’s possible to love many different people without compromising at all.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Xan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/xan) pulls herself to her feet, and [Luna](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/luna) sees that she looks older every second. She feeds her more moonlight. Xan says that they need to rescue the next baby, so Luna puts her arm around Xan and offers her other hand to the [madwoman](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-madwoman-adara). Her heart says, “she is here.” The woman takes Luna’s hand as the [crow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-crow) sits on Luna’s shoulder and the [paper birds](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/symbols/paper-birds) rise. They hear footsteps and Luna sees glowing, tiger-like eyes. Xan greets the [Sorrow Eater](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/sister-ignatia-the-sorrow-eater).

***Analysis Part 3:***

The combination of Luna, Xan, the madwoman, and their collection of birds suggests that together as a united family, these women have hope and the truth on their side—now, they know that Sister Ignatia is the Sorrow Eater and that she’s the one to blame for the horrors taking place in the Protectorate.