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

***Chapter 47***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary in brief:***

In Chapter 47, “In Which Glerk Goes on a Journey, and Leaves a Poem Behind,” Glerk visits with Xan after she passes. He breathes enough life into her to explain that everything in the world is connected to the Bog from which it was created. He invites Xan to join him and she accepts. The next day, Luna goes to the Tower to collect her grandmother’s body, but she is gone. Glerk left a poem on the bed that explains that they went into the world and into the Bog. He promises he will return.

***Summary Part 1:***

Later that night, [Fyrian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/fyrian) sobs and sleeps in the garden while [Luna](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/luna) returns to [Adara](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-madwoman-adara), [Antain](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/antain), and [Ethyne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/ethyne). [Glerk](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/glerk) thinks that things are as they should be, and slips to Xan’s side. He looks at her empty body, gathers starlight, and wraps it around Xan. Xan wakes up and asks where they are. She’s a girl and an old woman all at once. With a smile, Glerk tells her the story of the Bog creating the Beast. Xan sighs, and Glerk says that everything is bound by infinite love. Xan stands and asks if Glerk is taking her to the Bog. Glerk says that it’s all the same: The Beast is the Bog is the Poet is the World is the Poem, and they all love her. They join hands and walk toward the Bog.

***Analysis Part 1:***

By returning to the Bog himself and taking Xan with him, Glerk makes the case that the future and the past are intrinsically connected. As the Bog and the Poet, Glerk has the ability to write the future of the world and involve Xan in the process, just as she allowed him to join in the process of raising Luna and Fyrian. Xan returning to a lifelike state to enter the Bog also casts a more hopeful light on death, as it shows that death doesn’t necessarily have to be a sad thing, as Xan gets to be with Glerk forever.

***Summary Part 2:***

The next day, [Luna](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/luna) and [Adara](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/the-madwoman-adara) climb to the Tower. Adara puts an arm around Luna, but Luna takes her hand instead. When they open the door, crying Sisters greet them. [Xan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/xan) is gone. Luna realizes that to love is to lose. She sits down and finds a piece of paper. It has a poem on it about how the heart is built of starlight, time, and longing. The world spins as love reveals itself. [Glerk](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/characters/glerk) says that he’s gone, but he’ll return. Luna dries her eyes and folds the poem into a swallow. She steps outside, and the [paper bird](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-girl-who-drank-the-moon/symbols/paper-birds)’s wings shiver. Luna’s chest hurts, but she feels happy. She tells the swallow to see the world. It flies away.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Letting this paper bird go, just as Luna let Xan go and as Glerk let her go, allows Luna to make the final connection that to love someone is to lose them in some way or another. Now, she understands that she can both grieve and be happy, as there’s no limit to what her heart can hold. The paper bird taking flight from Luna’s hands suggests that going forward, Luna will spread hope just as Adara tried to do with her birds from the Tower.