

= Moon ( visual novel ) =

Moon ( styled as Moon . ) is a Japanese adult visual novel developed by Tactics , a brand of Nexton , released on November 21 , 1997 playable on Windows PCs . The game was described by the development team as a " Reaching the Heart AVG " ( ???AVG , Kokoro ni Todoku AVG ) . The story follows the protagonist Ikumi Amasawa , a girl who joins an organization called Fargo in the hopes of discovering why and how her mother died , who was a member of the same group . The gameplay in Moon follows a branching plot line which offers pre @-@ determined scenarios with courses of interaction , and focuses on the three female main characters . The game ranked twice in the national top 50 for best @-@ selling PC games sold in Japan .

Much of the staff that created the game later became the founding members of the visual novel brand Key . Moon was the starting point for Key 's origins , and was the first time the principal Key team was formed . A novel based on the game written by Midori Tateyama was released in July 1998 by Movic . The game 's original soundtrack was released bundled with D?sei 's soundtrack in August 2000 at Comiket 58 ; D?sei was Tactics ' first game . Moon has been referenced in other media not directly related to the game , such as in Tactics ' third game One : Kagayaku Kisetsu e , and in the second anime adaptation of Key 's first game Kanon .

= = Gameplay = =

Moon is a drama and horror visual novel in which the player assumes the role of Ikumi Amasawa . Much of its gameplay is spent on reading the story 's narrative and dialogue . Moon follows a branching plot line with multiple endings , and depending on the decisions that the player makes during the game , the plot will progress in a specific direction .

There are three main plot lines that the player will have the chance to experience , one for each of the heroines in the story . Throughout gameplay , the player is given multiple options to choose from , and text progression pauses at these points until a choice is made . To view all plot lines in their entirety , the player will have to replay the game multiple times and choose different choices to further the plot to an alternate direction . The player has to manually navigate through the corridors of Fargo to explore the surroundings .

The game is split into 20 sub @-@ parts each given a title in English written mostly in white where a portion of the title is displayed in red , and each cover a single day . There are seven endings to the game : a single true end , two normal ends , and four bad ends . In the original game , a bonus role @-@ playing game became available on the title screen after the game was completed at least once . This was later removed from the full @-@ voice DVD edition of the game . There are scenes in Moon with sexual CGs depicting a given heroine having sex .

= = Plot and characters = =

Moon 's story revolves around a mysterious organization known as Fargo . The protagonist of the story is a young girl named Ikumi Amasawa ( ???? , Amasawa Ikumi , voiced by : Ruru ) who discovers that Fargo was involved with the death of her mother Miyoko Amasawa ( ????? , Amasawa Miyoko ) six years before the story begins . Miyoko , who would often make special cream stew for her daughter , was a member of Fargo . Following this revelation , Ikumi joins Fargo to discover how and why her mother died while also slowly uncovering the group 's disturbing nature of harnessing psychic abilities through torture . Ikumi ultimately wants to take out her revenge against Fargo for killing her mother .

Ikumi had been one of ten girls her age that gathered at a seminar for people who wanted to join Fargo ; she had been ordered to get on a truck which would take the small group to Fargo , and on the ride , Ikumi meets two other girls with similar goals in mind as her . One of the girls is named Haruka Mima ( ???? , Mima Haruka , voiced by : Aya ) who joined Fargo in order to save her older brother . She starts to work with Ikumi for the sake of their mutual goals . The second girl is named Yui Nakura ( ???? , Nakura Yui , voiced by : Miya Serizono ) who is searching for her older sister

Yuri Nakura ( 中村 ユリ , Nakura Yuri , voiced by : Komugi Nishida ) who joined Fargo in order to obtain the ' invisible power ' , a kind of extrasensory perception . Yui has an optimistic personality which hides a gloomy past of which she has no memory of . Each of the girls have a strong will to complete their respective purposes , and they help each other along the way .

At Fargo , Ikumi meets others who are affiliated with the group . One such person is Y?ko Kanuma ( 神無 陽子 , Kanuma Y?ko , voiced by : Satomi Kodama ) , a modest believer in Fargo 's cause ; something happened in her past related to her mother . At Fargo , Ikumi lives with a boy known as " Sh?nen " ( 少年 , lit . Boy or Young man , voiced by : Arashi Tsunami ) . He helps Ikumi in her search for the answers regarding her mother ; it is never revealed what his true name is . Others include Takatsuki ( 高槻 崇 , voiced by : Matsuri Y?atono ) , a man in Fargo with an arrogant attitude , and Tsuki ( 月 , lit . Moon ) , the symbol of Fargo and the mastermind behind the entire operation ; he is the main antagonist .

= = Development and release = =

Moon 's production was headed by YET11 , the pseudonym of Tsutomu Yoshizawa . Planning for Moon was headed by Jun Maeda , who also worked on the game 's scenario with fellow writer Naoki Hisaya . Art direction and character design was provided by Itaru Hinoue , while the computer graphics in the game was supplemented by Miracle Mikipon and Shinory . The game 's soundtrack was primarily composed by Shinji Orito , with two tracks composed by YET11 , and one track each composed by Maeda and Ishisan . Excluding YET11 and Ishisan , the staff that created the game later became the founding members of the visual novel brand Key .

Moon was first released on November 21 , 1997 playable on a Windows PC as a CD @-@ ROM . Nexton released Moon Renewal on August 21 , 1998 with an improved game engine . AI System published the game under the title Moon Memorial Selection on September 14 , 2000 for a cheaper price . Nexton released Moon DVD LimitedEdition on July 12 , 2002 with added support for Windows 98 / Me / 2000 / XP as a DVD @-@ ROM ; this release was also called Moon DVD Final Version by Nexton . The DVD edition , and subsequent releases , also included full voice acting , two animated sequences at the beginning of the game , and improved graphics . A CD @-@ ROM version of the DVD edition titled Moon CD LimitedEdition was released on three CDs on September 20 , 2002 . Nexton released Moon DVDPG Edition was released in Japan on January 30 , 2003 playable as a DVD game . Nexton later re @-@ released the DVD edition with updated support for Windows XP / Vista / 7 on April 2 , 2010 .

= = Related media = =

A 256 @-@ page novel adaptation written by Midori Tateyama was released by Movic on July 31 , 1998 ( ISBN 4 @-@ 89601 @-@ 387 @-@ 5 ) . A 143 @-@ page art book including art from Moon and Tactics ' later game One : Kagayaku Kisetsu e titled Tactics Moon & One : Kagayaku Kisetsu e Settei Genga @-@ sh? ( ??????MOON . & ONE ~ ????? ~ ????? ) was published by Compass on October 31 , 1998 ( ISBN 4 @-@ 87763 @-@ 014 @-@ 7 ) . The game 's soundtrack was released bundled with the soundtrack for D?sei , the game Tactics made before Moon , and was called D?sei and Moon Original Soundtracks . The album contains a single CD and was released on August 10 , 2000 at Comiket 58 by Exorbitant Records . The disc contains 31 tracks ; the first 15 pertain to D?sei and the latter 16 are from Moon .

= = Reception = =

According to a national ranking of how well bish?jo games sold nationally in Japan , the Moon DVD Windows release made the ranking of the top 50 games once at number 44 during the first two weeks of July 2002 . Moon Limited also made it on the list only once , achieving the ranking of 48 in late September 2002 . Ikumi Amasawa appeared in the Eternal Fighter Zero d?jin games by Twilight Frontier . Four characters from Moon can be seen as background characters during scenes in the

cafeteria from One : Kagayaku Kiseki e ; the characters are : Ikumi , Yoko Kanuma , Haruka Mima , and Yui Nakura . There is a reference to Moon in the sixth episode of the Kyoto Animation version of Kanon , which can be seen as the film poster of a horror film that Ayu and Yuichi go to see .