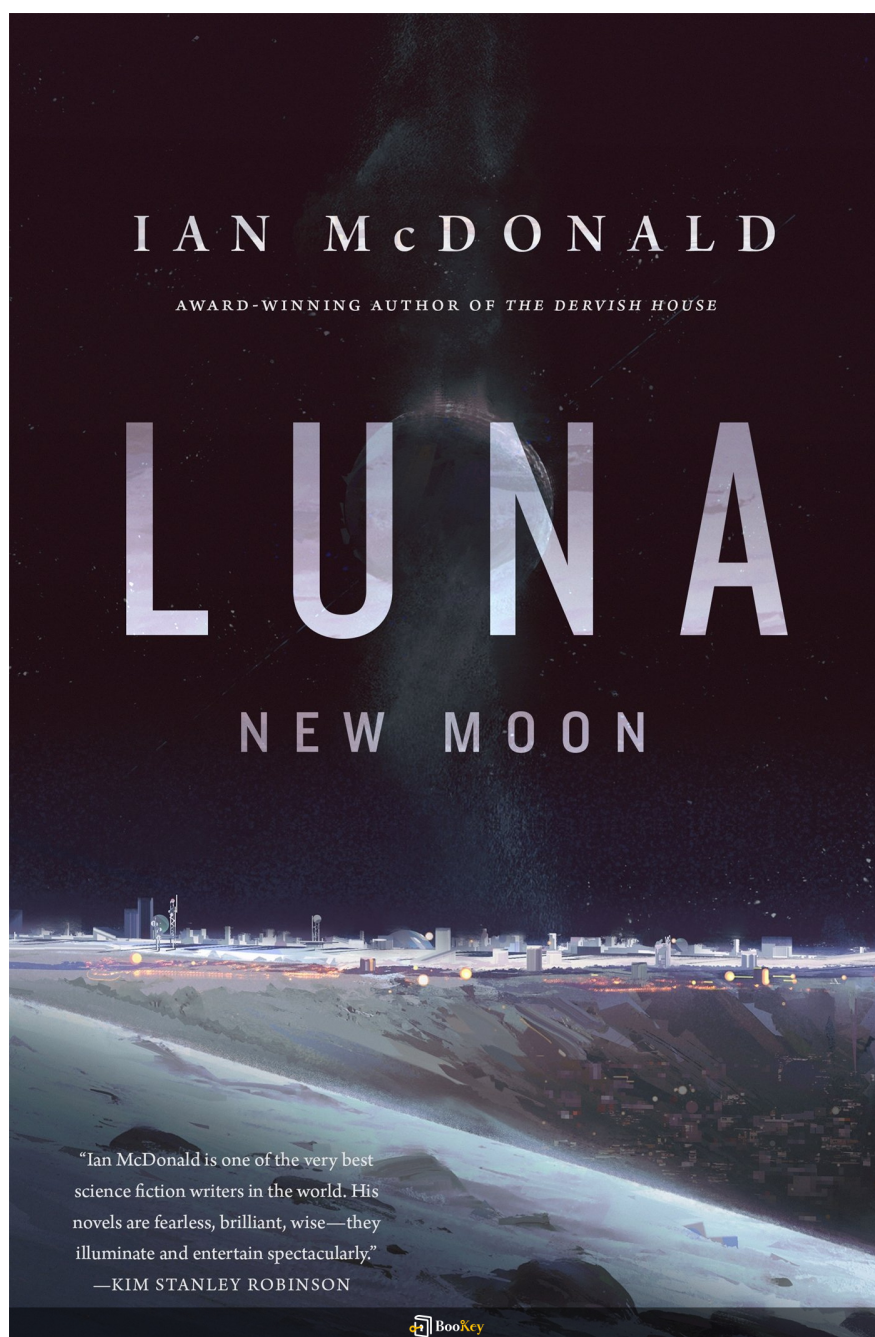


New Moon PDF (Limited Copy)

Ian McDonald



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New Moon Summary

"Power Struggles Beneath a Lunar Landscape."

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About the book

In "New Moon," Ian McDonald intricately crafts a world where the vast expanse of the moon is not just a celestial body, but a vibrant, chaotic, and dangerous frontier where corporate families vie for power. Set against a backdrop of a harsh and unforgiving lunar landscape, McDonald's tale unfolds with unprecedented intensity, weaving the fates of five powerful dynasties. Their ceaseless ambition to control vital resources leads to a thrilling dance of conflict and allegiance. The narrative pulsates with razor-sharp political intrigue and raw human emotion, pulling you into a universe where survival depends on loyalty, betrayal lurks in the shadows, and each decision could drastically alter the course of destiny. Experience a world where one misplaced step could turn moon dust red and discover what lengths humanity will stretch to conquer beyond Earth's horizon. Will these families forge a future or obliterate their legacy? Let "New Moon" guide you through a story where the stakes are as high as the stars themselves.

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About the author

Ian McDonald is a celebrated British-Irish science fiction writer renowned for his richly imagined worlds and intricate narratives that explore the intersection of technology, culture, and humanity. Born in Manchester in 1960 and raised in Northern Ireland, McDonald possesses a unique perspective that often infuses his work with themes of identity and geopolitical tensions. With an impressive career spanning over three decades, he has garnered numerous accolades including the Hugo Award and the British Science Fiction Association Award. Known for his groundbreaking novels such as *_River of Gods_*, *_Brasyl_*, and the Luna trilogy, McDonald consistently challenges readers with thought-provoking questions about the future and the diverse pathways of human development. His keen ability to blend speculative fiction with acute social and political commentary underscores his reputation as a luminary in the genre.

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Chapter 1 Summary: ONE

Chapter One Summary

In a white room on the edge of the lunar Sinus Medii, six teenagers, including Lucasinho Corta, prepare for a daring moon-run challenge. Descending pressure creates an uncomfortable itch on their varied skins as they nervously await their dangerous sprint through the moon's vacuum to a second lock 20 meters away—an extreme physical trial that tests their limits. As lights flash and the chamber opens, Lucasinho and others hastily commence the hazardous run across the lunar surface, battling unbearable conditions until he selflessly saves Kojo Asamoah, who had fallen, almost sacrificing himself in the process. Despite severe physical consequences, their final success becomes a badge of honor, celebrating their encounter with "Lady Moon."

Elsewhere, Marina Calzaghe, a down-and-out newcomer to the moon, grapples with the harsh realities of surviving in the lunar colony, Meridian. In her struggle for basic resources, her path intersects with potential crime and brutality from fellow inhabitants. Despite personal hardships, a job offer from Corta Hélio provides a lifeline. This job propels her into the realm of the influential Corta family, known for their control of lunar helium-3 resources.



Lucasinho, meanwhile, heals from his moon-run injuries, aided by medical technology, and contemplates family expectations, especially from his demanding father, Lucas. As he readies for his moon-run celebratory party at Boa Vista, the Corta family's grand residence in the lavish lunar estate, a messenger suggests looming family dynamics and the stringent demands placed on him.

Ariel Corta, a prominent matrimonial lawyer, further enriches family prestige by skillfully maneuvering courtroom dynamics at the Court of Clavius, evoking both awe and scandal, drawing attention just before her nephew's celebration.

The grand party at Boa Vista symbolizes the Corta family's societal standing but becomes a backdrop for tension and old family rivalries, as when tensions between Wagner, Carlinhos, and Lucas Corta surface. The festivities take a dangerous turn when an assassin bug drone attempts to murder Rafael Corta, Lucasinho's uncle, but is thwarted by Marina's quick reflexes. Amid the chaos, Lucas Corta offers Marina a position within the family, recognizing her pivotal role in averting disaster.

As the dust settles, the Corta family's intricacies unfold: Lucasinho explores possibly more than just affection with Abena Asamoah; Ariel Corta navigates the political avenues leading to influence over the lunar



community; Lucas orchestrates family dynamics and sustains power within the lunar colonies. At the heart of it all lies Adriana Corta, the family matriarch, casting an authoritative shadow, yet cherishing family even amidst the poised danger—a testament to the Corta dynasty's tenacity on the moon.

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Chapter 2 Summary: TWO

In Chapter Two, we are introduced to several complex dynamics within the Corta family, a powerful lineage on the Moon. Luna, a young and curious child, explores the hidden corridors of Boa Vista, an expansive family compound. These spaces provide her with a vantage point to witness her parents, Rafa and Lousika, in a heated discussion. Lousika, originally from the Asamoah family, feels threatened after a security incident at a party, where she was held at knife-point due to tensions between families on the Moon. She considers returning to her homeland, Twé, expressing fear for her safety and Luna's.

As Lousika grapples with these fears, she also resents the Corta tradition of using surrogates, reflecting on her own experience when Luna was born. Surrogacy is depicted as common among the Cortas due to their priorities on business expansion, leaving Lousika feeling disconnected from her daughter's birth experience.

While familial tensions simmer, the broader lunar political landscape unfolds. Lucas Corta, Rafa's brother, expresses concern over an assassination attempt at a family gathering, instigating a board meeting. The Corta family is not only entangled in intra-family conflicts but also in a wider rivalry with other powerful lunar dynasties such as the Mackenzie family, known for its strategic marital alliances and ruthless business tactics. The chapter delves



into the historical and ongoing feuds among these influential families, hinting at possible political manipulations and betrayals.

Meanwhile, Marina Calzaghe, a newcomer to the lunar world, navigates her own struggles. After securing a job with the Corta family's company, Corta Hélio, she discovers that her friend Blake has died, a victim of the harsh realities of lunar life, where even in death, debts bind souls.

The chapter also reveals Lucasinho Corta, Lucas's son, defying family restrictions by escaping Boa Vista. His journey symbolizes youthful rebellion against the family's overbearing control and strategic maneuvering. Despite financial constraints imposed by his father, he finds temporary refuge with Ariel, his aunt. Ariel, a sharp-minded member of the family, balances her loyalty to the Cortas with her own ambitions, dealing with influential figures such as Jonathon Kayode, the Eagle of the Moon, who hints at the political consequences of the family's actions.

In the backdrop of personal and political conflicts, sports offer a temporary reprieve. Rafa, trying to woo a Chinese official for business advantages, experiences the highs and lows of a handball game, reflecting the larger strategic games the Cortas play off the court.

The chapter closes with a reflective moment between Adriana Corta, the matriarch of the family, and Irmã Loa, a spiritual leader from the Sisters of



the Lords of Now. Adriana confesses her mortality and the secret of her pending demise, fearing its revelation would fracture her family and their empire. Her confession underscores the theme of legacy and the inevitable decline of dynastic power, as echoed in the saying about the cyclical nature of wealth—from humble beginnings to grand achievements, only to dissipate in subsequent generations.

Chapter Two intricately weaves personal ambitions, familial discord, and the broader sociopolitical landscape of lunar life, highlighting the fragility of power and the unyielding human desires that fuel this celestial society.

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Chapter 3 Summary: THREE

Chapter Three introduces us to Adriana Corta, a pivotal character whose narrative reveals her origins, family dynamics, and the path that led her to the moon. Her surname, "Corta," is not only a nod to her multifaceted heritage but also symbolizes her personal journey—a cut through different cultures and her bold severance from Earth to establish herself on the moon.

Adriana is a mosaic of global ancestries, carrying DNA from Africa to Japan, embodying what it means to be a global citizen. Her early life was spent in Brazil, in the complex cultural weave of a large family. Her strongest early memories include music played by her Great-aunt Adriana and the vibrant, sometimes chaotic, environment of her childhood home. Growing up in Rio de Janeiro's diverse scenery, Adriana learned to navigate the complexities of being a middle child, leveraging her position for independence and stealth.

Her mother, Maria Cecilia Arena, was a charitable health worker in the favela of Vila Canoas, known for her booming voice and kind nature. Her father, a principled and skilled car dealer, moved the family from the modest beginnings to the upscale Barra de Tijuca. Here, they encountered greater opportunities but still faced the unpredictabilities of life in Brazil.

Adriana's name is imbued with meaning and history: "Mão de Ferro," or

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"Iron Hand," speaks to the mining legacy of her grandfather and father. This nickname underscores Adriana's resilience and determination, as she takes pride in her tough and relentless nature.

Religion and tradition played dual roles in her upbringing, with her mother blending Catholic and Afro-Brazilian spiritual practices. Celebrations like Reveillon were part family, part mystical, offering Adriana a chance to connect deeply with her mother's beliefs and the enchanting memories of the moonlit beach.

As a child deemed "average" by family, Adriana's drive to prove herself led her to excel in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and academics. Her pursuit of engineering was both an act of rebellion against societal expectations and a natural alignment with her family's roots. Her studies in São Paulo exposed her to its pulsating energy and sprawling anonymity, sharpening her ambitions and her understanding of gender dynamics.

Adriana's journey included a significant relationship with Lyoto, a literature student turned activist during a turbulent time in Brazil's history. His death in a political protest planted seeds of anger and transformation within her, igniting a shift towards her passion for engineering and subsequent lunar aspirations.

In a nation plagued by economic instability and class divides, Adriana saw

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the moon as a realm of possibility and escape. Earthly struggles, including her brother Caio’s battle with a drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis, galvanized her resolve. The Mackenzie Mining Corporation's lunar endeavors were the opportunity Adriana needed.

Training in Guiana for the moon was rigourous, imbued with both exhilaration and trepidation as Adriana prepared for a life in an inhospitable lunar frontier where survival hinged on skill and unity amongst the colonisers.

Adriana’s journey culminates as she embarks on the moon path, leaving Earth and her family behind, mixed with feelings of guilt, relief, and anticipation. Her path is one of personal and historical significance, representing both escape and access to unparalleled opportunities beyond Earth's constraints. The moon transforms into a symbol of hope and power, where Adriana aims to reshape destiny—not just for herself, but for future generations.

Section	Details
Character Introduction	Adriana Corta is introduced as a central character with a diverse heritage and a journey from Earth to the moon.
Heritage and Family	Diverse global ancestry; notable family figures include her Great-aunt Adriana, and parents Maria Cecilia Arena and a skilled car dealer father.
Childhood	Grew up in Brazil, with formative experiences in Rio de Janeiro’s vibrant

Section	Details
	cultural landscape and familial settings.
Parental Influence	Mother's charitable work and blended religious beliefs shaped Adriana's worldview, while the father's legacy in mining instilled resilience.
Education and Ambitions	Excelled in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and academics, rebelled against norms to study engineering in São Paulo, deepening her understanding of gender and aspirations.
Romantic Relationship	Significant relationship with activist Lyoto, whose death triggered transformation and furthered her engineering pursuits.
Motivation for Lunar Life	Brazil's socio-economic struggles and personal family challenges fueled her drive to seek opportunities on the moon.
Preparations for Lunar Move	Underwent rigorous training with the Mackenzie Mining Corporation amid hopes and fears for a new life on the moon.
Journey's Significance	Embarkment on lunar path filled with emotions of guilt, anticipation, and hope; aims to shape a new destiny.
Symbolism and Legacy	Moon symbolizes both escape and opportunity, with Adriana seeking to influence her and future generations' fates.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience and Determination

Critical Interpretation: Adriana's story teaches you that no matter where you come from or what challenges life throws your way, resilience and determination can carve a path to success. Her journey from the bustling streets of Rio to the serene expanses of the moon is a testament to the power of inner strength. As you navigate life's unpredictable landscape, remember how a seemingly average child transformed her potential into tangible achievements through perseverance. Channel Adriana's relentless spirit when faced with obstacles, and you'll uncover your own path forward, perhaps even to the stars.

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Chapter 4: FOUR

Chapter Four offers a glimpse into the dynamics and complexities of the Corta family on the Moon, a society where relationships are as convoluted as the politics. Lucas Corta, a key figure within his family, visits his mother Adriana, bringing her a luxuriously expensive gift of coffee, highlighting the preciousness of this commodity on the Moon. The interaction between Lucas and his mother reveals the undercurrents of familial responsibilities and interrelations, including Lucas's marriage to Amanda Sun and their son, Lucasinho, who Lucas criticizes for his reckless behavior yet reluctantly supports when his mother advises leniency. Tensions mount with discussions about Rafa, Lucas's brother, who is paranoid about the rival Mackenzie family's ventures.

Meanwhile, Rachel Corta, Lucas's estranged sister-in-law, is on a mission of survival and liberation. She escapes with her son Robson, fleeing from the orchestrated contract marriage engineered by the Machiavellian Mackenzie family, particularly by Robert Mackenzie, the family's fearsome patriarch. Rachel's escape through the lunar landscape is fraught with danger, as she navigates obstacles set by the Mackenzies to capture her and Robson.

Amidst these family dramas, the narrative shifts to other characters and subplots. In a different sector of lunar society, Marina, a new immigrant working for Corta Hélio, grapples with the challenges and exhilarations of



moon life. She joins a clandestine running ritual, losing herself in the physical and emotional release it offers. Her journey embodies the adaptation and acceptance of new customs to find a place within the lunar community.

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Chapter 5 Summary: FIVE

Chapter Five Summary:

Duncan Mackenzie, the formidable CEO of Mackenzie Metals, storms through Crucible displaying a wrath reminiscent of the moon's grey surface. His anger is directed towards seeing his father, Robert Mackenzie, despite Jade Sun-Mackenzie, his stepmother, insisting that Robert is undergoing a delicate medical treatment. Their confrontation is intense, revealing deep family tensions following the death of Duncan's daughter, which Duncan suspects was not an accident but an assassination. Jade Sun denies the accusations, insisting on the absurdity of Robert orchestrating such an act. The familial discord is exacerbated by rising tensions with the Corta family.

Meanwhile, at Boa Vista, Adriana Corta and Helen de Braga monitor youthful escapades, indicative of nurturing love and secrecy within family dynamics. Adriana contemplates informing her kin about her intentions and imminent changes, against a backdrop of familial rivalry, particularly with the Mackenzies. Rafa Corta grapples with personal and professional challenges, including the escape of Robson from the Mackenzies, questioning loyalty and inciting vendetta notions.

In another scene, Lucas Mackenzie manipulates a boardroom coup,



leveraging strategic information to enhance Corta Hélio's mining ventures. He acknowledges his brother Rafa's rage post the Mackenzie debacle but insists on unity to defend family interests amid crumbling alliances.

New characters and dynamics emerge as Wagner, a Corta outcast, feels alienated within the lunar society, desiring escape. Marina Calzaghe, meanwhile, experiences a euphoric rush as she narrowly escapes death during a high-stake claim-staking mission at Mare Anguis. With strategic brilliance and reckless bravery, Team Corta successfully secures a vital mining claim, establishing their prowess in lunar politics and industry.

Elsewise, familial complexities unravel as Lucasinho encounters revelations from Flavia, his surrogate mother, about Wagner's true lineage. Flavia confesses to birthing Wagner using a mix of genetic material that defied familial expectations, unveiling deep-seated family secrets. Elsewhere, Ariel Corta revels in personal triumphs and celebrates privately, while Adriana Corta reflects on cherished coffee memories, connecting past and present in her reflection on family's legacy and their battles for survival on the moon.

Overall, this chapter intricately weaves familial discord, personal struggles, and strategic confrontations with political and business maneuvering, showcasing the perpetual interplay of ambition, loyalty, and secrets within the powerful lunar families.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Family Loyalty and Secrets

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter Five of 'New Moon,' a key theme emerges revolving around the intricate balance of loyalty and secrets within familial structures. As you navigate your own life's complexities, this harrowing portrayal of familial interactions can motivate you to introspect the role of loyalty and transparency in your relationships. Whether it's understanding the importance of standing by your family through trying times, or contemplating when it's essential to speak out and reveal hidden truths, this narrative space invites you to examine your values deeply. By learning from how these lunar families grapple with personal struggles amidst external pressures, you are inspired to prioritize dedication to loved ones, underscoring how such bonds fortify you against life's challenges.

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Chapter 6 Summary: SIX

In this chapter, the narrator recounts her life-changing encounter with Achi during a time of transition and adaptation as they are training for life on the Moon—a place filled with opportunities and dangers. Initially, the narrator's attempt at participating in the much-talked-about "freefall sex" results in an embarrassing mishap that leaves her nauseated in zero gravity. This leads her to seek refuge in the gravity of the centrifuge arm, where she meets Achi Debasso, a woman of Syrian Christian descent carrying the weight of her family's exile and her own ambitions.

Achi's life and purpose are shaped by the ghosts of her past—being uprooted from Syria, growing up in London, and her quest for atonement through usefulness. With Yemanja as her guiding spirit, Achi is a natural water lover and environmental warrior, battling world problems like desertification and battling her inner guilt by seeking to nurture and build new ecosystems.

As their co-workers indulge in the rampant freefall activities above, Achi and the narrator build a grounded friendship, bonding over conversations as they watch the Moon's landscape change beneath them. They share their personal stories and struggles, ultimately forming a sisterhood essential for survival in the harsh, male-dominated lunar environment.

Life on the Moon is a challenging existence—a place where every resource



is priced, and survival depends on learning to live within its confines. The narrator describes the transformation she undergoes in two years, after which she must decide whether to stay and join the Moon's society permanently or return to Earth before her bone and muscle density deteriorate beyond recovery.

Navigating personal and societal boundaries, the two women face numerous trials, including a harrowing encounter with a predator—a man who attempts to rape Achi but is thwarted by a group of men. Achi's sense of guilt and the narrator's engineering skills bring about measured revenge, creating a powerful reputation for her.

After contracts take them apart, they reunite on furlough, where their friendship blossoms into something deeper. They acknowledge the changes they have undergone and the choices they must make about their futures. Their bond solidifies, aligning their dreams for better lives with the realities of the lunar landscape.

Achi's contract work designing ecosystems and gardens fills her days with purpose. The narrator too finds passion and opportunity amidst the Moon's desolation—her keen engineering mind seizes on a hidden wealth, a vision hidden amidst the mundane operations of lunar industry.

Despite the prosperity prospects in the unforgiving terrain, their impending



"Moondays," the expiration of time after which they must choose between Earth and Moon, haunt them. A shared game—a whimsy with real consequences—finally determines their paths: Achi, seeking a return to the safety of Earth, and the narrator, pursuing her aspirations as a self-made "Dragon" in the growing lunar power dynamic.

Achi's final gift to the narrator encapsulates a dream—a habitat not just for survival but for life—affirming the lasting bond they share and the ambition that drives the narrator's destiny on the Moon. Through their experiences and decisions, they help set the stage for the new future of lunar colonization, fraught with the entangled complexities of resources, human desires, and the indomitable spirit of pioneers.

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Chapter 7 Summary: SEVEN

Chapter Seven Summary

The latest tensions in the ongoing power struggle on the Moon reach a boiling point among the influential families known as the Five Dragons. The chapter opens with Robert Mackenzie, a patriarch on life support, erupting in anger. Tensions are high because his son Duncan Mackenzie has made a controversial decision to leave Fern Gully, a significant turning point that has implications for family power dynamics. Meanwhile, the intricacies of the Mackenzie family operations are laid bare, including accusations of espionage and betrayal within their ranks. The family's business interests have suffered a blow, and there's a dispute over the leadership and strategic direction of Mackenzie Metals.

Parallel to this corporate drama, the Corta family—another of the Five Dragons—is navigating its own complexities. Wagner Corta, with his heightened senses and acute intuition, is on a personal mission to uncover a plot involving an assassination attempt on his brother. He uses his network, the Meridian pack—a collective of various talents based on the Moon—to track down leads.

At Adriana Corta's 80th birthday party, the alliances and tensions among the

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lunar elite are on full display. Adriana announces her retirement, a move that shocks those around her, revealing that her sons Rafa and Lucas will now lead the family corporation. The event draws a surprising guest: Duncan Mackenzie, who seeks to discuss a truce between the Mackenzie and Corta families. Meanwhile, various family members navigate their personal challenges, including romantic entanglements and the weight of familial duties.

The chapter closes with a volatile encounter between Duncan Mackenzie and his father, Robert. Duncan, trying to broker peace and navigate the evolving political landscape of the Moon, finds himself ousted from his position, leaving him humiliated and plotting his next move. The involvement of Jade Sun, representing another of the moon's powerful families, adds an extra layer of intrigue and betrayal. As loyalties shift and new alliances form, the ever-present undercurrent of lunar politics pulses beneath the surface, setting the stage for the inevitable conflicts to come.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Conflict as a Catalyst for Mastery

Critical Interpretation: Despite the incredibly tense and chaotic power struggle that you read about, the chapter unveils an inspiring truth: within the crucible of conflict and betrayal lies the potential for growth and mastery. Faced with the challenge of familial discord and professional upheaval, decision-making under pressure becomes your greatest asset. In your life, like Duncan Mackenzie, navigating strained relationships or emerging threats demands the courage to step back, reassess, and strategize. As you observe his fall and subsequent plotting, you understand that adversity can propel you forward when driven by resilience and wisdom. The lesson is profound: confront your conflicts with determination, and they may shape you into a stronger, more capable version of yourself.

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Chapter 8: EIGHT

Chapter Eight Summary

The narrative unfolds around Marina, a provincial newcomer to Meridian, who finds solace in running through the vibrant terrain of Aquarius Quadra but harbors a deep resentment towards the city, bolstered by her distaste for one of its influential denizens, Ariel Corta. Marina perceives Ariel, a central figure in the lunar political and social landscape, as vain and self-important. Despite the luxurious apartment living and opportunities on the Moon, Marina yearns for her past life in Boa Vista, highlighting her internal conflict between past and present.

Ariel, herself, represents the lineage of the powerful Corta family, rulers among the lunar elite colloquially known as the "Five Dragons." Her dynamic yet contentious relationship with Marina is exacerbated by the professional expectations Ariel imposes—Marina is forced to adapt to a more sophisticated lunar lifestyle, donning unfamiliar attire and navigating the unique societal norms of the Moon, where contract law dominates over criminal or civil statutes.

The narrative moves to highlight the intricate court procedures at Clavius, where Marina assists Ariel. Here, there are no criminal judgments, just



negotiations and contractual agreements, emphasizing the Moon's peculiar legal landscape. In addition, trial by combat remains a legal resolve for disputes, embodying the frontier-style justice that persists on the lunar surface.

The storyline alternates between Ariel and Lucas, her older brother who is entangled in familial and personal turmoil. Lucas has just finalized an expensive divorce with Amanda, a member of the rival Sun family, and is struggling with his feelings for Jorge, a musician he loves but who feels smothered by the Corta legacy. Jorge ultimately rejects Lucas's public affection, seeking a quieter life away from the burdens of Lucas's family prestige.

Meanwhile, Carlinhos, another Corta family member, leads a dramatic pursuit of Mackenzie saboteurs across the lunar surface—showcasing the ongoing conflict and competition among the Dragons. Trained in the deadly arts by the School of Seven Bells, Carlinhos reveals his deep-rooted anger, battling not just the physical enemies of the Cortas but also the emotional demons within.

The subplot involving the Sisterhood of the Lords of Now introduces a layer of mystery as they engage in long-term social experiments on the Moon. Lucas confronts Odunlade, the leader of the religious order, about their influence over his mother, Adriana, and the unorthodox social experiments

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aiming for human thriving over millennia. Shockingly, Lucas learns of his mother's impending death, confronting the reality of losing the formidable matriarch of their family.

In a climactic event, Ariel, attending a high-society gathering, is suddenly

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Chapter 9 Summary: NINE

Chapter Nine Summary:

The protagonist narrates a pivotal period in her life, reflecting on her journey of personal loss, ambition, and success on the moon. She introduces Carlos, a steadfast and patient companion who has been listening to her stories, awaiting his entrance into the narrative.

The protagonist confesses the deep ache she felt after losing Achi, despite initially convincing herself that her absence would be a distraction. She pours herself into work to fill the void, to the extent that she numbs herself to other emotions and milestones, like her Moonday. In truth, she misses the Earth's natural beauty and the little things shared with Achi. However, the protagonist is determined to commit fully to her new life on the moon, an unforgiving landscape where people are the only beautiful things.

Pursuing her ambition to build a business, she begins with no clear plan. She meets Helen, a potential finance director engaged secretly due to the competitive nature of lunar enterprises. Helen, also a Portuguese speaker, becomes the protagonist's trusted confidante and adviser, helping her navigate the complexities of financial management.



Carlos, a charismatic engineer from São Paulo, joins the team, despite initially clashing with the protagonist. Carlos drafts the business plan that lays the foundation for Corta Hélio. Together, with Helen managing finances, they race against time and resources to create a viable helium-3 extraction prototype.

The group tests the first prototype under clandestine conditions on the Farside of the moon, facing immense challenges and risking everything. Their tenacity is rewarded with success, bolstering their spirits and solidifying the team's bonds. In a poignant moment of triumph, the protagonist kisses Carlos, igniting a new, complex relationship.

Their momentum is nearly shattered when Mackenzie Metals, a rival conglomerate, sabotages their initial prototype, murdering friends and colleagues in the process. Despite the threat, Carlos motivates the protagonist to focus on their ultimate victory: securing an output deal to keep Corta Hélio alive.

The team executes a daring backup plan, showcasing a second prototype to Earth-based fusion companies, securing crucial contracts that ensure their financial and strategic dominance in the helium-3 market. In the aftermath, the protagonist marries Carlos and begins building a family with surrogates, aiming to establish a dynasty alongside her burgeoning business empire.



Tragedy strikes when Carlos is killed in an alleged accident that the protagonist suspects to be murder perpetrated by Robert Mackenzie. This heartbreaking loss pushes her to assert herself even more fiercely within the industry.

Defying standard legal battles, she challenges Mackenzie to a trial by combat, an audacious move that ultimately defeats Mackenzie Metals' legal onslaught and cements her status. Victorious, the protagonist becomes "legendary," embracing the love and childbirth that follow her triumph, while grieving Carlos deeply.

Through relentless dedication, the protagonist secures a legacy as a pioneering force on the moon. She concludes her story with reflection, revealing her regrets and lessons learned. Her tale is one of perseverance, ambition, and the ache of personal sacrifice for a greater dream—an extraordinary life indelibly marked by the pursuit of building and protecting her family and legacy amidst the harsh lunar environment.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Perseverance through personal loss

Critical Interpretation: Navigating the turbulent path between personal loss and ambition is no small feat, but it is precisely through adversity that resilience is often forged. You are reminded that the human spirit possesses an innate ability to move forward, even when weighed down by grief. When faced with the absence of something dearly cherished, the protagonist channels her pain into relentless ambition and drive. Her journey illustrates the power of perseverance, transforming personal sacrifice into fuel for creating something greater than oneself. Let this tale inspire you to embrace your struggles, viewing them not as setbacks but as opportunities to build, grow, and ultimately craft a legacy worth leaving behind.

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Chapter 10 Summary: TEN

Chapter Ten Summary:

The story unfolds with an intricate security system around João de Deus, characterized by levels of AI surveillance and a network of bots and personnel designed to protect the Corta family, particularly Ariel Corta, who remains in an induced coma following an attack. The Corta family, originating from across the moon, gathers in distress, their discussions revealing the attack's details—a bone knife, smuggled past scanners and affecting Ariel's spine, causing paraplegia.

Ariel's physician, Dr. Macaraeg, explains the severity of Ariel's injury, emphasizing a year-long recovery depending on the success of stem cell therapy. Tensions rise within the family, regarding both Ariel's condition and future business undertakings. Lucas, despite feeling some advantage in Ariel's incapacitation, worries about his son Lucasinho's impending marriage to Denny Mackenzie, fearing Ariel's absence in brokering the contract will end in disaster.

Marina, a key character who saved Ariel's life, navigates her own trauma from the attack, dealing with questions and the weight of taking a life. She finds herself comforted by Carlinhos, an intriguing member of the Corta



family with scars suggesting a tumultuous past. Their interactions reveal layers of personal struggles shared by the family, set against the backdrop of dynasty and survival.

Meanwhile, Wagner Corta, a lone hunter with a dual nature—human and wolf—pursues Jake Sun, unmasking deeper layers of Luna's political tensions, including a plot involving an AI predictive system, the Three August Ones. His near assassination suggests the treacherous alliances on the moon.

Within the family, Corta matriarch Adriana's health deteriorates, casting a shadow over the family's stability. Her final conversation with Lucas involves the revelation of a potential doomsday weapon planted by her late husband, designed to destroy their rivals if the family faces extinction. As Adriana passes, she leaves the future of Corta Hélio contingent upon Lucas' and Rafa's unity, urging them to embrace and protect Ariel's leadership.

Following Adriana's memorial, Lucas proposes restructuring plans to Rafa, citing Ariel's medical condition as grounds for altering company leadership. But Rafa, dealing with his own grievances over their mother's death, resists Lucas' suggestions, emphasizing the need for familial integrity over political maneuvering.

The chapter concludes with Ariel defiantly taking control, contracting



Marina as her aide. Ariel's determination to tackle the company and the pending wedding, despite her physical limitations, reflects the Corta resolve in confronting impending challenges across Luna's treacherous social and political landscape.

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Chapter 11 Summary: ELEVEN

Summary of Chapter ELEVEN

Meridian, a bustling lunar city, is abuzz with the grand wedding preparations of Lucasinho Corta and Denny Mackenzie. The grandeur of the event is accentuated by the contributions from the Eagle of the Moon, who offers his private gardens for the ceremony, replete with biolights, paper lanterns, and a release of engineered white doves. Meticulous preparations reflect the cultural fusion and opulence marking the wedding season on the Moon. Ahead lies an intricately planned ceremony with elaborate outfits and exclusive media rights.

The nuptials come at a tumultuous time for the Corta family, still reeling from an attack on Ariel Corta and mourning the recent death of matriarch Adriana Corta. Within this backdrop, there emerges a rivalry marked by class and prestige among the prominent lunar families, referred to as "Dragons." The wedding, however, serves as a unifying event, celebrated lavishly amidst a fragile peace among the Dragons.

As the revered wedding day dawns, it unfurls against a backdrop of spectacle. Yet, a turbulent twist occurs—Lucasinho vanishes right before the ceremony, leading to chaos and speculation among guests and media. His



father, Lucas Corta, navigates this crisis with a rival family patriarch, Bryce Mackenzie, who presses for damage repair, revealing that the wedding had more profound implications for achieving peace among the families.

Meanwhile, within the political machinations of the lunar aristocracy, AKA (the Asamoah family) upholds an age-old promise to grant Lucasinho sanctuary. AKA's matriarch, Abena Maanu Asamoah, reflects on the moon's interconnectedness and independence, ensuring Lucasinho's safety against the advances of the Mackenzies. Despite turbulent family legacies, the Asamoahs stand firm, holding secrets that secure their influence against even the mightiest Dragons.

Simultaneously, Ariel Corta implores Jonathon Kayode, the Eagle of the Moon, to intervene in the impending duel between her brother Carlinhos and Hadley Mackenzie. This request, while unfulfilled, underscores the stakes of familial honor set to climax in the duel.

Carlinhos, reluctantly stepping into the warrior role, grapples with the gravity of his impending fight. Training and support coalesce as Marina Calzaghe, his love interest and confidante, vows unwavering support yet reveals her intent to leave the moon. The reality of Carlinhos's choice, weighed with familial duty and masculine bravado, looms heavily over personal desires.



The duel unfolds in a storied courtroom, with both families gathered under intense scrutiny. The combat is fierce; it reflects the harsh, honor-bound traditions governing the lunar elite. Just before imminent defeat, Carlinhos employs malandragem—a shrewd Brazilian street savviness—to turn the fight against Hadley Mackenzie, ultimately defeating him. Yet, the victory is bittersweet, leaving physical and psychological scars not easily remedied.

The fallout is immediate and deadly. As Corta Hélio—the family's energy company—is systematically attacked in a strategic takedown of their assets, Lucas orchestrates a tense escape, realizing that behind the chaos lie the machinations of the Taiyang Corp. Fleeing across the stark lunar surface, Lucas discovers the depth of familial betrayal and corporate scheming yet narrowly survives thanks to intricate evasive plans.

Elsewhere, the Corta family fractures under the sustained assault. Rafael, another brother, faces a harrowing escape from Boa Vista, the family stronghold, now compromised. As familial bonds strain under external threats, Ariel and Marina embark on a treacherous ascent to find refuge, navigating the labyrinthine lunar colonies.

In the final throes of chaos, Lucasinho, cornered into preserving his family's legacy, is driven by vengeance and honor. Each Corta, whether alive or lost, grapples with the personal and collective costs of ambition, legacy, and familial loyalty—themes woven richly into the expansive lunar narrative.

