

*Earth's moon looks very different in 2055. At night, people see the blinking lights of Maia X, a lunar colony. It was established in fifteen years earlier as an international lunar community. Since then, it has become a truly terraformed colony of permanent residents, and not just scientists rotating through a lunar base.*

In the first lunar hospital, a family is celebrating. Their daughter Selene is the first child born off-Earth, making her the first true extraterrestrial human. Reports of the event have reached Earth and Selene is immediately headline news. Her parents, though excited, worry for her. What effects will living on the moon have on their child? What if their home, with its graphene shield to block cosmic radiation, isn't enough to protect her? How will she meet people her own age? No one knows how a child will be affected by lunar life.

Three miles away from Maia X is the Lacus Aestatis. This is mined for its deposits of Helium 3, which can be used to create cheap energy. Jordan, a mining geologist, had moved to the lunar colony from West Virginia after the last coal mine had closed. Jordan is grateful for the warmth of his space suit on the frigid lunar surface. No sun reaches the Lacus Aestatis during the long lunar nights, but that's the only time mining can happen. The days are much too hot. He looks longingly at the aerogel dome surrounding Maia X, trying to remind himself that he would be back in its artificial atmosphere in 58 hours.

On Earth, Emilia waits for the space elevator's daily shuttle to Maia X. She is the Head Engineer for Lunar Solutions, the first construction firm to build permanent buildings on the moon. Part of her job is the production of Moon Bricks, which are used to build everything from houses to hotels. A new type of 3-D printer creates the bricks from moon dust. Moon Bricks are becoming increasingly popular among the wealthy on Earth, who want to use them to build "unique" homes. This has made her job more difficult. Now Emilia has to figure out how to ship these bricks back to Earth without damaging the space elevator. Shipping with a rocket would take much more fuel and increase the price so much that even her wealthiest clients would hesitate.

*No one knows what the future holds for Maia X. No one knows what humanity's first extraterrestrial colony means for further terraformed settlements. Even life on Earth has changed because of advances created by the colony. Some people suggest using Maia X's terraforming technology on Earth. Where can humanity go from here? Where should humanity go from here?*