Earth's moon looks very different in 2055. At night, people no longer see a face when they look up to the sky. Now, they see the blinking lights of a thriving lunar outpost, Maia X. Established in 2040 as a joint effort between the United States' NASA, Russia's RSFA, China's CNSA, and Europe's ESA, it has taken years for the settlement to become a truly terraformed colony of permanent residents, and not just scientists rotating through the 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? So far the colony has been an international effort, but her parents are from different countries. To what nation does Selene belong? No one knows how a child will be affected by lunar life.

Three miles outside the boundaries of Maia X is the Lacus Aestatis, which is mined for its deposits of Helium 3. Twenty years ago, scientists on the International Space Station figured out how to create nuclear fusion energy using this isotope, and mining the element is incredibly lucrative. Jordan, a mining geologist, had moved to the lunar colony from West Virginia after the last coal mine had been closed. His expertise was incredibly valuable to his new company, HeliTronics, which has been mining Helium 3 since Maia X was established. This provides the colony with cheap and plentiful energy. Jordan is grateful for the warmth of his space suit on the frigid lunar surface; despite the region's name translating to, "Lake of Summer," he is always cold during mining sessions. 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 sighs as she 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's surface. Part of her job is overseeing the production of Moon Bricks. These bricks are used to build everything from houses to hotels and are made by putting moon dust through a new type of 3D-printer. Not only are these bricks the basis of all lunar structures, they 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 she has to figure out how to ship these bricks from the moon back to Earth efficiently, and without damaging the space elevator. Shipping via rocket would take much more fuel and increase the price so much that even her wealthiest clients would balk.

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