

# The Water Knife

## Chapters 1-8

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# Definitions

- arcology – infrastructure designed to be nearly self-sustaining with regards to food, water, and air.



# Plot

- Future
- Colorado River Basin is desert again
- Aquifers are dry
- Follows 3 people:
  - Angel (Las Vegas)
  - Lucy (Phoenix)
  - Maria (Phoenix)



# Angel

- Henchman of Catherine Case (aka Queen of the Colorado)
- Case is second only to California
- Martial law built around water
- They blow up Carver City's water to keep their own
- Case is building arcological buildings in Las Vegas



# Lucy

- Journalist from the northeast
- Goes to Phoenix, stays
- Sees devastation from no water
- Sees killed people, told not to write about the “wrong things”



# Maria

- Texan refugee
- Tries to “see clearly” after meeting a hydrologist
- Tries to capitalize on lack of water
- Gets “taxed” by rent-seeking gangsters



# Discussion Questions

- What role do STEM majors play in feudal water wars? Comments on the hydrologist who drills for water for the city of Phoenix but doesn't think he'll find any?
- The book has a motif of how some people "believe" while others "see." The see-ers win. How do you "see" clearly and what do you do as an engineer to influence the future based on what you see? Do people actually "see" or are the see-ers just the people with the most power who get to make decisions?
- Who takes responsibility for starting water wars?
- Comments on using ancient aquifers.

