

Treasure

Rainn and Lennon were the most beautiful sisters that lived in Bellmore. They both had big brown eyes that matched their long brunette locks. Rainn was the eldest. She had a small nose, a bubbly face and a full frame. She was a good role model for her younger sister who liked to break the rules. Lennon was thin, delicate looking, but a fierce little thing. Both girls were smart and loved to read. When their parents died, they would sneak into the study that their Uncle forbade them from going. Back then many people thought women who read were wasting their time. But the girls confided in their books. Reading in that study allowed them to feel closer to their parents.

Everly and William were their parents' names. They were explorers. They would read and study maps of different places all over the world. Every place that they traveled they collected little treasures; chinaware of gold made in Italy, pearls from Indonesia, hand woven rugs from Turkey, ancient coins from Spain, candelabras from Israel. They kept these things as souvenirs and hid them in an annex on their property. Rainn and Lennon always knew about these treasures but they were too young to understand their value. After their death, Williams' brother, Christopher and wife Anne moved into their home to take care of the girls. But, Rainn and Lennon were taken advantage of and they were kept from viewing their parents' estate.

Christopher and Anne were sinners. They were gluttonous beings, and very selfish. Anne was jealous of the girl's natural beauty. Christopher was always jealous of his brother, who really enjoyed life. Christopher only cared about money. This family truly proved that money is the root of all evil. Christopher and Anne knew about their families fortune and they spent every day searching that property for the hidden annex of treasures.

The property that the family lived on was beautifully eerie. The house was nearly a castle. Much too large to be considered cozy. The ceilings were tall. The floors were made of marble, which always kept the house cold. When you spoke your voice would bounce off the walls creating a hollow echo. There were many rooms in the house, almost too many to count. Rainn and Lennon shared a room right above their parents' study. At night they would exchange stories and whisper secrets to each other.

“Sister, are you sleeping yet?” Lennon asked her sister.

“No, dear I lay awake” Rainn responded.

“I heard Auntie talking today. She thinks they'll find the treasure.”

“That witch!”

“Don't you think we can do something about it? There certainly must be a clue in the study? In their books?”

“But Lennon, you know they don't want us in there. Next time they catch us they'll lock us in this room without super!”

Lennon crawled out of bed, slid on her slippers and housecoat and tiptoed out the door.

“Lennon get back here!” Rainn whispered. Lennon did not comply. She turned to her sister and motioned at her to follow. So Rainn too slid on her housecoat and slippers and tiptoed out of their bedroom. Together they lit a candle to help them navigate through the house. Then they crept down the spiral staircase that led to their parents' study. This room was the most comfortable room in the house. There was a big bay window with sheer drapes that fell down to the plush red carpet. The only light came from the moon outside. The walls were tall, but they were lined with books all the way up to the ceiling. There were big brown leather chairs where

each girl would nestle up in while reading their parents books about the wonderful places that they've traveled.

When the girls entered the room, they began rummaging through the library so carelessly that they dripped candle wax on each volume they examined. They flipped through each book looking for a loose page or a hidden note inside. They hoped to find a clue that would lead them to their parents' treasure.

“Surely they had to write it down somewhere? For emergencies like this one!” Lennon exclaimed.

“Shhhh” Rainn was worried that the girls would get caught. “This is useless,” she cried. “All we have accomplished here is this mess! Lets go to bed before the sun rises and we get caught”.

“Wait Sister! Look here.” Lennon held up a small and narrow box that was stowed away in the books shelf blending in with the rest of the library. Quickly she opened the box and out flew a small key with a purple tassel tied to the end.

“A key!” yelled Lennon

This was an exciting revelation for the girls. This discovery gave them hope that they could salvage their parents' valuables before it was too late. It wasn't long before they looked out the window to see a purple flag flying over the barn in their yard. They scrambled to clean up the study and put everything back in its place besides the key. The girls ran for the barn as quickly and quietly as they could. But they were too late. Christopher and Anne met the girls in the barn at sunrise. Before they could even find the secret door that led to the treasure Christopher grabbed one girl by each hand. While Anne scolded the girls.

“You think you’re sly little things don't you. Is this how you thank us for taking you in. Of course we would catch you.”

Both Rainn and Lennon cried and begged their Aunt and Uncle to forgive them. They said they acted out only because they missed their parents. William and Anne didn't care. They knew how these girls were a threat to their undeserved inheritance.

“We are sending you away,” Anne said. “This place is too dangerous for you. It is not good to chase ghosts”.

Rainn was so upset that she had fainted. That evening Christopher had the girls packed in horse and carriage. They were sent away to an old teachers house where they would learn the trades of a housewife. From this day on the only thing Rainn and Lennon had was each other.

'Treasure' is my take on a Gothic story. In my writing I tell a story of two sisters, one being the story's heroine, a beautiful, fearless, passionate and flawed character. Both sisters have suffered the loss of their parents and are now living with their evil Aunt and Uncle. Step families are very common to the Gothic stories as well. There is a sense of mystery in this story as the girls are trying to discover where their late parents have hidden their treasure. In my story Aunt Anne compares their treasure hunt to chasing the ghosts of her in-laws. This creates the idea of an intangible atmosphere of spiritual psychic dread, especially because the sisters never do actually get to the treasure. My story is unrealistic, as most gothic stories are. I incorporated melodrama; when Rainn is so upset that she faints. Fainting is notorious in Female Gothic literature as it suggests women to be weak. The Female Gothic is also incorporated into my setting, particularly the study. I write that women were frowned upon for reading. This theme was present in every gothic story that we read. I tried to make this ironic, by allowing the girls to find a key to the treasure hidden between the books. Lastly this story ends in tragedy, as most gothic stories do not end with a happy ending.