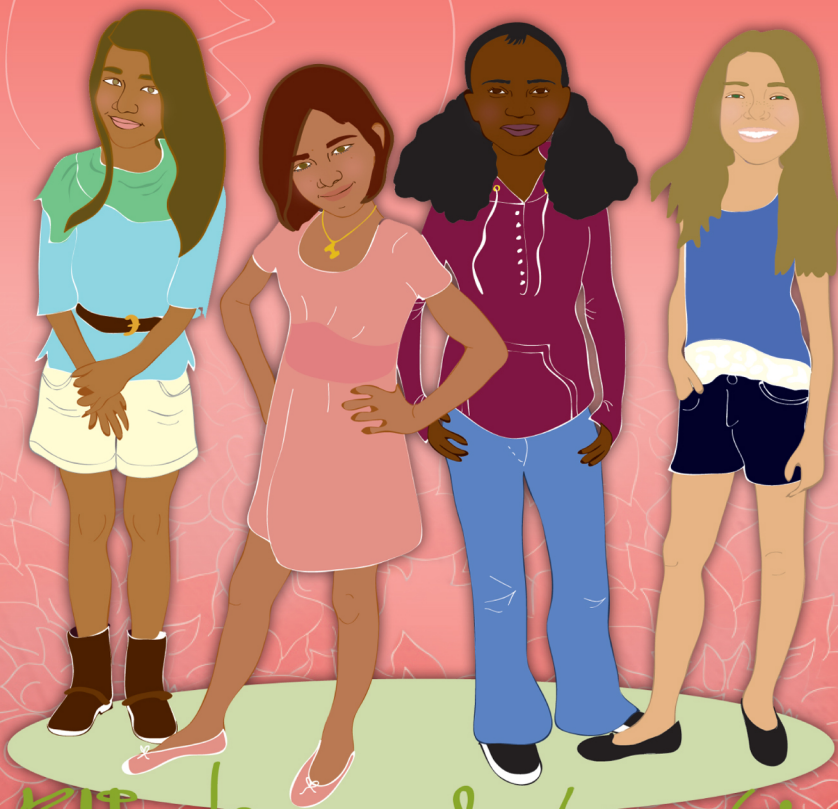




the Stolen Treasure

To the Most Beautiful Girl
in the World. For Isabel Avila.
My Sweetheart, mi esposa.
Forever My Love.
Eduardo Avila

Anne Schraff

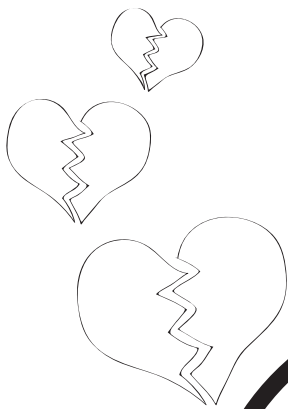


KIT

Isa

Sandy

Gina



MEET THE



Isa

Age: 10

First Crush: Mikey Alvarez from third grade

Dream School: Harvard

Favorite Flowers: pink peonies and
green spider mums

Best Quality: compassion

CHARACTERS



RAFE

Age: 18

Favorite Movie: *Dogtown and Z-Boys*

Future Plans: would like to be an electrician

Favorite Skating Music: punk rock

Best Quality: cares about his mother's feelings

1

IT'S GONE

Ten-year-old Isa Rodriguez heard her mom scream. The sound came from the living room. Isa rushed to her mother. “Mom! Mom! What’s the matter?” Isa cried.

Mom was standing in the middle of the room. She was pale. “It’s gone!” she cried. “It’s gone!”



Our family's
frame for over
150 years!



Isa looked at the wall. Her mother was pointing there. “Grandma’s picture!” Isa gasped. It had always hung there. Over the mantel. It wasn’t there.

Grandpa hired an artist. The artist painted a picture of Grandma. Grandpa wanted to give Grandma a great birthday present. Something beautiful. He saved money for a long time. It was the most beautiful picture Isa had ever seen.

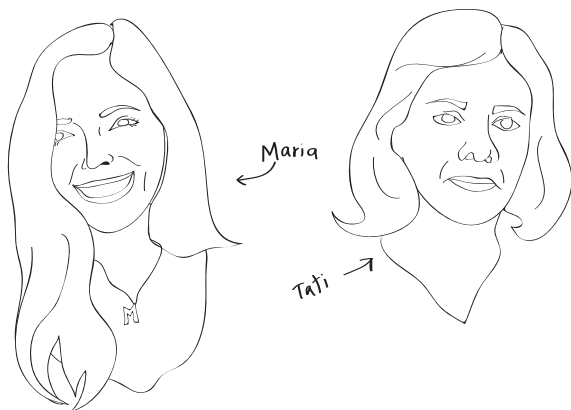


Ten years. That's how long it hung on the wall. It was the family's greatest treasure.

"What happened?" Isa asked. "It was there last night. My friends came over. They looked at it."

"I don't know," Mom sobbed.

Grandma had kept the painting at her house. Until ten years ago. Then she gave it to her youngest daughter. That was Isa's mother.



Isa's mom was Maria. Maria's older sister was Tati. Tati wanted to keep the picture

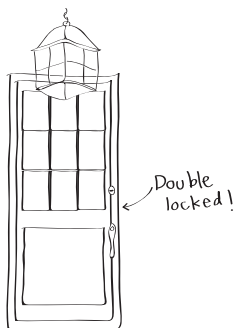
in her house. She was sad when Grandma gave it to Maria. Tati was mad at Maria too. Grandma thought Maria was the best. She gave Maria the picture.

“Who could have taken it?” Isa cried. The picture was beautiful. But it was not worth a lot of money.

Just then, Dad came in the room. “What’s the yelling about?” he asked.

“Oh, Ric,” Mom said. “Somebody stole Mom’s picture!”

“Stole it?” Dad said. “That’s crazy. Who would do that? Nobody broke in here last night. The door is still locked.”



“But it’s gone,” Mom said. She was crying.
“That picture. It was the most prized thing
in our family. It was special. Dad gave mom
the picture. He died right after that. He
was a Marine. He got sent to war. He died
for our country. It was his last gift.”



Isa knew the sad story. She began to cry
too. How could it be gone?

Dad looked at the wall. There was just a
nail. The picture was not secure. But nobody
thought it had to be. Who would steal it?