

CHAPTER
1

THE 120-CARAT SAPPHIRE

*A Plan That Changed
the World*

*It takes as much energy to wish
as it does to plan.*

—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

—MARY OLIVER

Just the other day, my three and a half year-old son asked me if we could play together. His bright blue eyes beamed at me like lasers. How could I say no? He led me hand-in-hand downstairs to his room. There, spread out across his floor, was a street map of Los Angeles. He inspected it, grabbed a pink highlighter and some blank paper and started marking. "I'm working on a project," he said. "I'm making a map." "What kind of map?" I asked. His marker moved with a quick flourish. "A treasure map!" he replied.

I've never once talked with my son about the treasures I've hidden. He has no idea about them. My son's interest in discovering treasure is undeniably his own, an infatuation seemingly inscribed into his DNA. By eighteen months old, he was burying plastic gold coins in his sand box to dig right

This 120-carat raw sapphire
is a part of our treasure.