The Raven's Armory

THE KEEPER OF THE TREASURES



THE REPOSITORY

Within the Royal Collection, the Raven's Armory holds those treasures whose significance is too great to be left unattended, and whose histories are not always improved by further questioning.

Green and purple. A black raven. A watch that never ends.

The perpetual watch

Its shifting green and purple recall the Regalia of Guardianship, linking the repository to the King whose treasures it protects. Upon the guarded tomb is the black raven, appointed to an office of perpetual watch. Its bright, piercing blue aquamarine crystal eyes are said to recognise every treasure entrusted to its keeping—and remember every hand that reaches within.

Within the guarded tomb lie the Kindred Stones: crushed pieces of sapphire, ruby, aquamarine and peridot, representing the birthstones of the King's living family. Sealed beneath the Raven's watch, they make the guarded tomb itself a treasury: the family's presence held within the very boundary that protects the King's treasures.

During its making, a substantial formation of green and purple became enclosed within the Raven's black body, accompanied by fine veins of the same colours. Their presence was unplanned, their arrangement unique to its making. The colours of Guardianship had taken their place within the watcher itself. Tradition holds that through this hidden presence, the Raven knows when the treasures beneath it have been disturbed—even when its gaze is turned elsewhere.

Separate delicate remnants, known as the Guardian's Veins, have been collected and set aside for admission to the Royal Collection. They preserve a visible connection to the Raven's making, while the greater formation remains within the watcher's keeping.

According to the tradition of the Armory, the raven guards more than possession. It watches over the stories entrusted to its keeping: the promises attached to a jewel, the circumstances of its arrival, and those particulars the Crown has elected to leave unrecorded. What enters the Armory is placed beneath its protection. What leaves does so at the King's discretion.

There is, however, a darker account of its vigilance. It is said that should an unauthorised hand reach within, the raven remembers its owner. There need be no missing jewel. The trespass alone is sufficient.

At first, the offender dreams of wings moving somewhere beyond the light. In time, the raven appears, silent and motionless, its blue eyes unmistakable in the dark. Returning what was taken is said to restore the treasury, but never quite restore the sleeper's peace.

The oldest telling holds that those who never make amends will see those same eyes once more at the end of their lives: the last clear sight before all others fade. The raven will be waiting, as patiently as it waited upon the guarded tomb.

The Crown records this account without further comment. No authorised keeper has reported a troubled night.

The raven keeps no public inventory, offers no opinion on provenance, and has never been persuaded to disclose the extent of the King's holdings. Its discretion is considered exemplary.

As the Royal Collection grows, jewels and priceless artefacts will take their places within the Armory, each bearing its own name, meaning and account. Together, they form a treasury of the King's continuing story, held under a single watch.

The Raven's Armory is itself admitted to the Royal Collection as the keeper of these treasures. Its charge is both to preserve what rests within and to guard the significance that makes it worth keeping.

The King holds the treasures. The Raven keeps watch. And for those whose hands trespass, its piercing blue eyes are said to be the last thing they see—even after the room has gone dark.

The Kindred Stones

The crushed birthstones held within the guarded tomb

The Peridot of the Closest Heart

For the King's mother, closest to him, in whom he recognises so much of himself.

The Aquamarine of the Sovereign

For the King, his own presence held among those of his family.

The Aquamarine of the Sister's Bond

A smaller aquamarine honouring the King's sister and their shared family bond, placed alongside the Aquamarine of the Sovereign.

The Ruby of the Yearning Heart

For the brother the King loves dearly, and wishes he could hold closer.

The Sapphires of the Continuing Line

For the brother from whom differences of principle have separated him, while honouring the high regard the King holds for that brother's children.

Crushed and held together within the guarded tomb, the Kindred Stones preserve a family whose bonds differ in closeness, but whose place in the King's story remains.

Under a single watch

THE SHIFTING COLOURS OF GUARDIANSHIP



THE GREEN FACE



THE FORWARD WATCH



THE WATCHER’S REVERSE

The colours change with the view. The watch remains.