

# Avoid a Family Inheritance Battle

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Susan Eisen, owner of Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches, has written "*The Myth of the Million-Dollar Dishrag*," a plan to avoid a family inheritance battle after you die.

It's useful for retailers, but just as useful for their customers who collect jewelry, Eisen says. Throughout her career she's often witnessed the fallout of families fighting over heirlooms.

"Sometimes we get pulled into it," she says, for example, when working on appraisals. "It puts us in kind of a weird situation. So, this is for jewelers to read to advise their customers, but it's also for customers who collect jewelry — and all kinds of things — to get them motivated to put their affairs in order."

She's made it easy for anyone to get started by publishing a complementary workbook to list possessions and intended future owners. She calls it the "*With Love List*."

Eisen is taking her own advice: "I don't have any family here. I am now starting to mark everything in my safe. I know what belongs to me and what's here on consignment, but if I died and my kids came in and tried to sort it out it would be hard."

In 2007 Eisen wrote, "*Crazy About Jewelry! The Expert Guide to Buying, Selling and Caring for Your Jewelry*." Both books are available at <http://store.susaneisen.com/store/c/378-Books.aspx> or at Amazon.

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