The Heirloom

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Image Credit: Getty Images

ONE SHEET SUMMARY

## Game Title

The Heirloom.

## Genre

Interactive Movie Adventure.

## High Concept

Melanie finds her home burglarized and her $15,000 necklace—a family heirloom—stolen. She then connects the dots to discover the masterminds behind the heist: her husband and his mistress.

## Play Mechanic

The player is given choices to investigate what may have happened to her home. Major reveals occur throughout, from learning that her necklace was stolen to discovering that her husband is having an affair with another woman. Players are not only voyeurs of the dramatic story; they are participants. Players are also left with choices to make which will either move or stagnate the story.

## Plot Summary

Melanie comes home to discover her house burglarized. She eventually finds that her $15,000 necklace, a family heirloom, is stolen. She further learns that her husband is having an affair with another woman, and are staying in a hotel in Santa Barbara. Melanie goes to the hotel to track them down, and finds that the other woman is wearing her necklace. Melanie must come up with a strategy to restore her necklace, and bring her husband and the other woman to justice.

## Platforms

The game can be played on PC/Mac and mobile platforms.

## Target Audience

Target audience is 18- to 35-year-old women who generally watch dramas such as *TGIT* on ABC and *Game of Thrones* on HBO. Another audience is 25 to 54-year-old people who are of affluent lifestyles, and who also enjoy serial television programs such as *Game of Thrones*, *The Walking Dead* and *Breaking Bad*.

## Competition

Titles with a similar appeal include *Gone Home*, *Firewatch*, and *The Walking Dead*.

# ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT

**Key Item 1: Melanie and Jonathan’s safe.**

Short Description: Melanie and Jonathan’s safe is in their bedroom’s closet on the top shelf.

Function: Melanie finds the safe is opened, and the $15,000 necklace, which was one of its contents, is missing.

Appearance: It is a 15-foot by 15-foot metallic case with a large knob on its left side.

Lore: The safe is significant in the game world. Only Melanie and Jonathan know its combination. It is in their bedroom, where Melanie and Jonathan take their rest and share their most intimate moments. When Melanie finds the safe opened and her necklace missing, she suspects (but doesn’t want to believe) that Jonathan may have some involvement. The safe symbolizes Melanie and Jonathan’s trust and intimate relationship. The necklace is an heirloom, an important and sentimental item of Melanie’s. The necklace also symbolizes Melanie’s most sacred possession: her love. Once she discovers that the safe is opened, the trust is broken, as well as the relationship as she knows it. She ultimately uncovers that Jonathan is having an affair with another woman, and is staying with her at the Finley Hotel in Santa Barbara. She goes to the hotel and sees the woman wearing her necklace: the ultimate betrayal.

# ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT

**Key Item 2: Melanie’s mobile phone.**

Short Description: Melanie’s mobile phone is the latest model smartphone, with camera, internet access, and glass display.

Function: Melanie uses her mobile phone to contact Jonathan, the police, and to track Jonathan’s whereabouts.

Appearance: It is five-by-three feet, has a rose-gold metal frame with a matching plastic case, and a glass display. The wallpaper has a wedding photo of Melanie and Jonathan.

Lore: Melanie’s mobile phone plays a vital role in the gameplay. It assists her in piecing together what happened to her home and her necklace. She contacts the police in hopes of finding out who burglarized their home. She then contacts Jonathan, only to speak to another woman. Melanie has the choice to track her husband’s phone to discover his whereabouts: the Finley Hotel in Santa Barbara, where she ultimately discovers that the other woman has her necklace.

# ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT

**Key Item 3: Melanie’s computer.**

Short Description: Melanie has a desktop computer, located in her home office.

Function: Melanie’s computer is used to track Jonathan’s whereabouts by her hacker friend Leah.

Appearance: Melanie’s computer is metallic, with a nineteen-inch LCD screen, wireless keyboard, wireless mouse, and an 8x5 hard drive.

Lore: The computer plays a key role in the gameplay as Melanie’s last option for finding out Jonathan’s whereabouts. She first has the option to use it to log on to Jonathan’s email, social media accounts, and their joint bank account. None of which leave any clues. She then contacts her friend, Leah, a hacker, to track her phone call to Jonathan. Leah comes in and discovers that Jonathan is at the Finley Hotel in Santa Barbara.

# ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT

**Key Item 4: Melanie’s necklace.**

Short Description: Melanie’s $15,000 diamond necklace is a family heirloom which was hidden in Melanie and Jonathan’s safe.

Function: The necklace, worth $15,000, is a family heirloom. It was stolen from Melanie and Jonathan’s home.

Appearance: It is a three-carat diamond tennis necklace, set in twenty-four carat gold.

Lore: The necklace was first a gift purchased by Melanie’s grandfather to her grandmother after their cosmetics firm hit pay dirt. Melanie’s grandmother then passed it down to Melanie’s mother on her wedding day. Melanie’s mother then passed it down to her on her wedding to Jonathan. Melanie has hidden in the safe; only she and Jonathan know the combination. When their home was burglarized, and Melanie’s necklace was stolen, many suspicions arise. These suspicions are confirmed when Melanie finds the other woman wearing her necklace at the Finley Hotel, where she has tracked down Jonathan. The necklace symbolizes Melanie’s love, a sacred possession shared with Jonathan. Jonathan violated her love by giving the other woman the necklace. Melanie aims to recover her necklace and confront Jonathan’s betrayal.

CHARACTER PROFILES

**Player Character Profile:** Melanie Robinson-Young

Purpose: Melanie Robinson-Young is the protagonist who must restore her stolen necklace and confront her philandering husband.

Lore: Melanie comes from old money, raised in an affluent home by two parents who run a cosmetics firm. Melanie also works at the firm, started by her grandparents, as a marketing executive. She graduated at the top of her class, is fluent in five languages, and is a third-degree black belt in jujitsu and karate. She gives her time to various charities that assist children in getting the best education and opportunities to get ahead. She is also committed to various social causes. Melanie met and fell in love with Jonathan during her senior year of college. Jonathan is an artistic prodigy who became a world-famous photographer. Jonathan also came from humble beginnings; an orphan who was raised by his uncle in the inner city. Melanie’s heart for social issues and Jonathan’s quick rise to the top brought them together. Melanie’s driven behavior (wanting to delay starting a family) and Jonathan’s philandering ways caused tension in their marriage, which leads to their home being burglarized.

Appearance: Melanie, 28, is five foot seven, has long dark-brown curly hair and an athletic build. She generally wears diamond stud earrings, a bold-colored blouse, skinny pants, and heels.

Barks

* Tagline/Idle: “A martini sounds really nice right now.”
* Alert: “Okay. So, now what?”
* Success: “Awesome.”
* Failure: “Darn!”

# LEVELS AND LOCATIONS

**Major Location 1: Baldwin Hills, an affluent section of Los Angeles, California.**

Short Description: Baldwin Hills is an area in Los Angeles where some of the richest and most influential people of the country reside.

Appearance: The community contains a plethora of houses, mansions with swimming pools, condominiums, schools, and a shopping mall. It also contains a regional park with an amphitheater, walking paths, and tables. There are scenic views of the Hollywood Hills and the Pacific Ocean.

Contents: The area is populated with families, young artistic professionals, and influential people (actors, filmmakers, musicians).

Lore: Baldwin Hills is commonly known as “the Black Beverly Hills.” It is the home of three generations of Melanie’s family, as well as the location of Melanie and Jonathan’s home. Melanie aimed to continue to build a legacy in Baldwin Hills with Jonathan. But after their home was burglarized, and her $15,000 necklace was stolen, Melanie learns that Jonathan is having an affair with another woman. Melanie’s home, as she has always known it, was turned upside down. Melanie’s goal is to restore an important symbol of her family’s rise to eminence and wealth. Melanie also vows to confront the man who betrayed her trust and destroyed what could have been a continuation of her family’s legacy.

# LEVELS AND LOCATIONS

**Major Location 2: Melanie and Jonathan’s home.**

Short Description: Melanie and Jonathan’s home is a two-story house, tastefully decorated with modern furniture and art.

Appearance: The brick house contains large windows, two floors, and an immaculate lawn.

Contents: The house is spacious, containing state-of-the-art electronics and appliances. The living room has a brown and blue color scheme, with modern art and furniture. The kitchen has an island and a wet bar. The second floor contains the master bedroom, which has a blue and white color scheme. It also contains a guest room, an office, and two bathrooms. The hallways on each floor are decorated with art and photos of Melanie, Jonathan, and their families.

Lore: Melanie and Jonathan purchased this house after they got married, in hopes of eventually starting a family of their own. However, Melanie’s extreme diligence and Jonathan’s philandering ways may have derailed their dreams. The house that Melanie finds in disarray symbolizes their hopes and dreams for the future, which may be deferred forever.

# LEVELS AND LOCATIONS

**Major Location 3: The Finley Hotel at Santa Barbara.**

Short Description: The Finley is a high-end hotel, with locations across the country, including one in Santa Barbara, California.

Appearance: The brick hotel contains five stories, with balconies overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Contents: The hotel has five stories with fifty suites, a restaurant, a bar/lounge, salon, and indoor pool.

Lore: This is where Jonathan and his mistress are having their secret rendezvous. Melanie, with the help of her friend and hacker Leah, tracks them down. She keeps watch for them, and sees the mistress wearing her necklace. Melanie must make moves to recover her necklace and confront Jonathan’s infidelity.