

# The Hope Diamond

*The Queen of Diamonds, a Family Affair.*

[www.thehopediamond.com](http://www.thehopediamond.com)

**J**oseph Gregory's great-grandmother was Washington D.C.'s favorite hostess in the years of the Taft's, the Harding's and the Coolidge's. Evalyn Walsh McLean's life was anything but ordinary—born a poor girl in a rough mining town in the West, she became a member of one of the country's wealthiest families.

Her fame was probably augmented by her marriage into the prominent Washington, D.C., family. Husband Ned McLean owned the renowned Washington Post, as well as the Cincinnati Enquirer. His influence brought friendships with the politically prominent in the nation's capital.

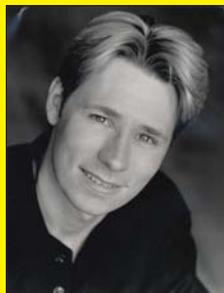
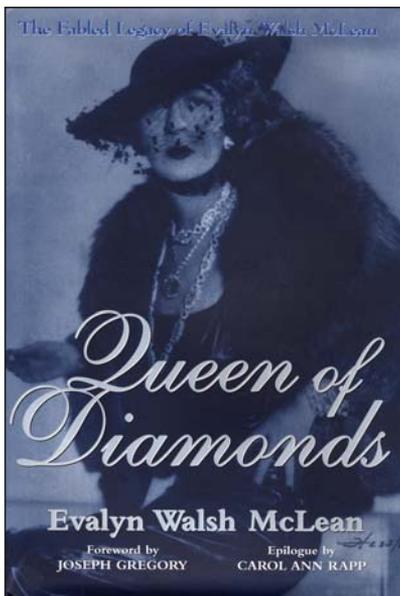
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One photograph shows Ned and President Warren G. Harding seated in a convertible in golfing attire enjoying cigars as they motor along. Evalyn became Mrs. Harding's best friend.

In most of her photographs, published or private, Evalyn McLean is wearing the Hope Diamond, which has a legacy of bad luck: Supposedly Selim Habib's ship sank after he had disposed of it; French monarch Louis XVI wore it and was guillotined; Lord Francis Hope declared bankruptcy. Evalyn McLean said that the stone brought her good luck, adding in *Father Strikes It Rich* (which she wrote in 1936), "Bad luck objects for me are lucky...The luckiest thing about it is that if I ever had to I could hock it."

She reportedly did hock it more than once to pay debts. A discreet philanthropist, she considered pawning the Hope Diamond to help pay ransom money for the Lindbergh baby - and did offer more than \$100,000 for his safe return. She lost the diamond a few times, too, once by putting it around her Great Dane's neck. When she left the Hope Diamond to her grandchildren in 1947, it was worth \$2 million.

Joseph Gregory and Carol Ann Rapp spent several years sifting through the treasure trove of newspaper and magazine articles, personal writings and photographs of Evalyn McLean and her family that Gregory's godmother sent to him. "She told me, "One day, you'll know what to do with all of this," Gregory said.



**About the author:** Joseph Gregory's story is about fulfilling a dream. At the age of 26, he decided to take on the multi-billion dollar fragrance industry by creating and marketing a fragrance based upon the legacy of the infamous Hope Diamond. In 1999 he launched FABLE, at Bergdorf Goodman where it continues to be a top ten fragrance. The incredible great grandson of Evalyn Walsh McLean continues to inspire others by not only working hard to better himself, but by also giving back to the community by helping those in need. His philosophy is simple, "If you have a dream, go for it and do not be afraid."

"I hope that you will enjoy reading Evalyn's story, followed by the new epilogue. As you read, I believe that you will hear Evalyn's voice speaking to you, sharing her story personally with you. There are many reasons why Evalyn deserves the title "Queen of Diamonds." I invite you to discover them yourself."

Joseph Charles Gregory  
Great-grandson of Evalyn Walsh McLean  
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