

celebrate birthdays, weddings and christenings, and she has plans to create themes for additional holidays and events in the coming year. Available for \$14.95 (five percent of profits are donated to cancer research) online at BigDayCharm.com, and at Duggy in Madrona and Little Toys on Capitol Hill. *A.B.*

Left: Customized charms for brides.
Right: Bride looks very fancy given that she's really just a little thingy.
Top: A little thingy.

DEALS AND STEALS

Recession Chic

If the weak economy is affecting your wedding planning, turn to three local vendors who have created clever online solutions to help brides on a budget. Seattle-based Avelle's (formerly Bag Borrow or Steal) collection of purses from dozens of top designers allows brides to rent, say, a \$6,295 Judith Leiber clutch for a mere \$116 a week. Last year, Kirkland-based A Grand Wedding—where every partnered vendor offers services for \$1,000 or less—launched Buy Borrow or Share, a service that lets local women sell, lend or split the cost of wedding dresses, jewelry, accessories and other accoutrements, such as centerpieces or aisle runners. (A soon-to-launch Freecycle program will feature no-charge giveaways.) And Seattle's Bravo Bride, also launched in 2008, works like a Craigslist for weddings, offering everything from planning tools to party items, organized in eight easy-to-navigate categories. We found a two-year-old Vera Wang gown for \$995 and a fabulous, never-worn white satin shrug for \$15. *A.B.*

