

A Guy's Guide To Jewelry For Her



*Everything A Guy Needs
to Know About
Buying Her Jewelry*



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Introduction

It has been said....even a song has been written....that “Diamonds are a girls’ best friend”.

Maybe that’s true...maybe not but it IS true that diamonds, as well as, emeralds, pearls, rubies, silver, gold, white gold, platinum and all combinations of the above, are the stuff a guy’s nightmares are made of.

How to choose?

How to know what is good, what is not good and what is the difference?

How to know how much to spend?

How to know whether to buy earrings, necklaces or brooches...and what the heck IS a brooch anyway? What occasion to give what piece of jewelry?

What kind of jewelry to give to whom?

Then there is the real biggie....the (gulp) Engagement Ring!

Mind boggling!

Relax, fellows... We are here to help you solve the whole jewelry-buying-jewelry-giving mystery.





Chapter 1: Jewelry Giving Occasions

We will discuss giving jewelry to the significant lady in your life first and then move on to the other people of the female persuasion that you know, love and must buy gifts for in later chapters.

Let's begin at the beginning of the year and work our way through the calendar of gift giving occasions.

There are only three occasions that jewelry is the best (maybe only) choice of a gift for your special lady.

They are Valentine's Day, Her Birthday, and Christmas.

On other occasions, gifts other than jewelry are perfectly alright...assuming, of course, that you really don't mind sleeping in the proverbial dog house.

But, these three are the ones that matter and are the ones that you need some guidance for to make sure you buy the right thing, don't over spend or under spend on it, and don't send any wrong signals.....it is ALWAYS about signals.

Valentine's Day

The stores are all packed wall to wall with "stuff" that has hearts on it...big hearts, little hearts and hearts entwined with arrows sticking through them.

All jewelry stores have many choices in many price ranges.

The trick here is to choose a piece of jewelry...with hearts on it...and do it without sending you into bankruptcy.



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What you should buy and how much you should spend depends on what your relationship is with the lady in question, your financial situation, your age and your intentions.

- If you are a **teenage boy with a part-time job**, you should probably go to Wal-Mart and buy a heart necklace with a chip diamond in it for \$29.95.

You really shouldn't invest a lot of your hard earned money in a gift for your "this-week" girlfriend.

There are, also, a lot of other jewelry choices...see the [section about teenage girls](#).

- If you are a **young man with an entry level job** and a new girlfriend, you should probably still go to Wal-Mart and buy a necklace...except buy the one for \$39.95.

You have no idea where, if any where this relationship is going, but you want to let the lady know that you like her...you should probably include a single rose in a vase with the necklace.

Again...there are other jewelry choices. See the sections starting with the one on [Jewelry Styles](#).

- If you are a **young man who has a job** that you have been on for a few years, have had some promotions and you have a girlfriend that you have been with for a year or more, stay out of Wal-Mart.

Go to a jewelry store (a discount store is fine).

Now ask yourself exactly what your intentions toward this young lady are...we will assume that they are honorable whether they are or not.

Remembering that the thought does count but how committed you are to the relationship is directly related to the price tag of



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the piece of jewelry you select, look for a piece of jewelry that can be engraved with your name and the name of said girl friend.

Engraving is a biggie! It is like writing your love in stone.

Don't spend more than a week's salary on it...the week's salary before or after taxes is up to you.

There are, of course other jewelry choices but this one is probably the best one for you.

- If you are a **young man who has steadily climbed the corporate ladder** and have a girl friend that you have been with for two years or more and are fairly certain that she will be your wife and the mother of your children, you need to go to a jewelry store...no discount store is allowed...and choose a piece of jewelry that reflects your intentions.

Valentine's Day is a romantic day and one that will be easily remembered as the day you proposed marriage....so an engagement ring is not out of the question.

If you do choose to buy "THE RING" and ask your lady for her hand in marriage, be prepared to spend more than a few bucks.

Actually, what is considered standard is about two month's salary.

However, you need a lot more guidance if you are going to buy an engagement ring.

You will need to read the chapters about diamonds and the precious metals they are set in.

- If you are a **married man** and want to tell your wife how much she means to you, you don't have to spend a fortune but a nice





pair of diamond earrings or a broach set with rubies would both be good choices.

- If you are **an older man** who has been married to the same lady for most of your adult life...pull out the stops...do it up grand.

You can afford it and you can't take the bucks with you anyway. I doubt you need any advice anyway.

The key to success is knowing your significant other's tastes and not stepping on a land mine in the process of telling her how much you care.

Here are the things to think about before venturing out on the Valentine's Day gift shopping expedition:

- "Do I know her tastes well enough to buy a personalized gift?"
- What is your budget? Financial troubles as a result of overspending on Valentine's Day are not going to help your romantic life.
- Always be classy. You don't have to spend a fortune to achieve style.

Her Birthday

This is her one and only special day that belongs only to her for the entire year.

The stores aren't going to be any help for this one...there will be no displays of birthday gifts and even the jewelry stores don't have many suggestions.

There is, of course, her birthstone...everybody had one of those, in case you aren't aware of it.



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Year Born In	Birthstone
January	Garnet
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine
April	Diamond
May	Emerald
June	Pearl
July	Ruby
August	Peridot
September	Sapphire
October	Opal
November	Topaz
December	Turquoise

From the first time people discovered gemstones, they were amazed by their beauty and grace.

They understood right from the start that they were unlike any other rocks they could see every day.



So they started looking for an explanation and a reason why these precious stones were present on Earth.

This has puzzled many people throughout history and yielded to numerous conclusions that were themselves mysterious and romantic.

Some said that they were a gift from gods.

Others believed they were actually stolen from them. Ancient priest used gems to worship the divinity.

Besides the religious importance, some theories suggested that gems have curative capabilities or even help increase sexuality.



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Birthstones were first introduced in the cultures of antiquity as a form of standardization to make it easier for the elite of that time to understand the importance and the role of each stone.

They attributed to each of the twelve months of the year a certain precious stone.



Thus the wealthy ones could now purchase gems that now had an even more important meaning for them, as they were correspondent to the month they were born in.

Gemstones are almost as old as Earth; some date back 3.5 or 4 billion years.

They are older than the first man or the dinosaurs.

This fact has also added to the fascination that people had for them.

Nowadays, birthstone jewels as popular as ever.

People love to have something that old them that we've been on this planet only for a short period

Know the difference between laboratory-created gemstones and naturally mined stones.

Stones created in the lab are visually identical to stones mined from the earth.

The big difference is in the cost: laboratory-created stones are less expensive than naturally mined stones.

But because they look much like stones mined from the earth, they must be identified as lab-created.

If you want a naturally mined stone, ask if it has been treated.





Gemstone treatments— such as heating, dyeing or bleaching— can improve a stone's appearance or durability.

Some treatments are permanent; some may create special care requirements.

Treatments also may affect the stone's value.

There are a lot of choices in birthstone jewelry....there are pendants, earrings, and broaches...all with choices of silver, gold, white gold and platinum settings.



However, giving birthstone jewelry for her birthday is not the only option.

Any nice piece of jewelry that fits within your price range, and conveys the right message about your level of commitment is fine.

Use about the same price guides as given for Valentine's Day jewelry listed above.

Christmas

This is a very important jewelry-giving holiday and it's a good idea not to blow it...otherwise you could have a rough year ahead.

The retail stores are ready and willing to help.

They start earlier and earlier every year encouraging you to buy, buy, buy!

You would be hard pressed to find a square inch of space that isn't devoted to advertising jewelry for you to buy and give to your special lady for Christmas.



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You might want to plan ahead for this expense to keep yourself financially viable in the coming year.

Some stores...including jewelry stores have lay-a-way plans where you can select a piece of jewelry and pay it out over time...the store keeps the merchandise until you get it paid for but there aren't any interest charges.

Of course, there is always the good old credit card route...but don't forget about those interest charges.

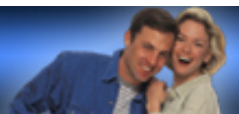
Here are the guidelines for what to buy and how much to spend on her Christmas jewelry gift based on your financial situation, your age and your intentions:

- If you are a **teenage boy with a part-time job**, you should probably go to Wal-Mart and buy her a pair of diamond earrings or a small diamond necklace.

You should probably spend no more than what you make from your part-time job over a two week period but no less than \$50.

- If you are a **young man with an entry level job** and a new girlfriend, you should probably still go to Wal-Mart and buy a nice pair of diamond and/or ruby earrings or a diamond and ruby necklace and spend no more than two week's pay and no less than \$150.
- If you are a **young man who has a job** that you have been on for a few years, have had some promotions and you have a girlfriend that you have been with for a year or more, you should go to a jewelry store and buy a really nice pair of diamond earrings AND a matching necklace....substitute or add emeralds or rubies to or for the diamonds.

You should probably spend \$500 to \$750....more if you can swing it.



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- If you are a **young man who has steadily climbed the corporate ladder**, have a girl friend that you have been with for two years or more and are fairly certain that she will be your wife and the mother of your children, this is the time to splurge....maybe even the time to buy "THE RING".



Think about it like this...this ring is going to stay on your lady love's finger hopefully for the next 60 years or more and both of you will see it every single one of the days in that 60 or more years....so get this right.

If you aren't ready to buy "THE RING", you still need to make sure that you get a piece of jewelry that makes it plain just how important to you she is and just how committed to you are to the relationship.

Nothing under \$1000 to \$1200 will do.

- If you are a **married man** and want to tell your wife how much she means to you, go for something that can be engraved and kept forever.

She already knows how much you have to spend anyway, so make it something like a memory bracelet. Your jeweler can guide you.

- If you are an **older man** who has been married to the same lady for most of your adult life, spend all you can afford to make her eyes shine with love and adoration for you...it will be the best money you ever spent.





Chapter 2: Precious Metals

What They Are and Which To Choose

All precious and semi-precious stones are set into precious metal settings.

These precious metals can, also, be jewelry without any stones at all.

Precious metals are what chains are made of and they are the basis for all jewelry.

It is important for you to know not only what the metals are but how they are graded as to value.

There are four precious metals that are used for jewelry. They are:

Sterling Silver

Sterling Silver's universal appeal and exceptional value make it the popular choice of today's fashion jewelry.

Silver is one of the most reflective and of all metals and can be polished to a higher sheen than platinum. It is also the least expensive.

Silver has been used for jewelry since 3500 BC, when the Egyptians created ornaments out of silver.

The word "sterling" is short for "Easterlings," a form of money used in 12th-century England. Silver jewelry was popular because of its large supply, affordable price and ease of manufacture.

To be considered "sterling silver," an article must contain at least 92.5 percent silver; that is why sterling silver is marked "925."

Although rich in luster, silver tarnishes when exposed to the elements, causing it to turn dark or black.





The tarnish can be cleaned using a variety of products on the market.

Keep these tips in mind when buying sterling silver jewelry:

- Be sure the item is clearly marked “925” or “sterling silver.”
- Be careful not to confuse “nickel silver” or “German silver” with sterling silver, as those metals do not contain any silver.
- Be sure the words “sterling silver” are written on the sales receipt.

Gold

Gold is a chemical element that, aside from its beauty, has amazing physical characteristics that make it well suited for use in fine jewelry.



Considered the most malleable of all metals, gold can be shaped into many forms and is very durable.

There are two types that are used in jewelry, yellow gold and white gold.

Gold is valued by karats (or carats).

The higher the karat of a piece of jewelry, the greater its gold content. Here are the common ones you will find:

- **10 Karat (10k)** gold is 10 parts gold to 14 parts other metals, such as copper, nickel, etc.
- **14 Karat (14k)** gold is 14 parts of gold to 10 parts other metals, such as copper, nickel
- **18 Karat (18k)** gold is 18 parts of gold to 6 parts other metals, such as copper, nickel, etc.



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- **22 Karat (22k)** gold is 22 parts of gold to 2 parts of other metals, such as copper, nickel, etc.
- **24 Karat (24k)** gold is pure gold containing no other metals.

White Gold uses white metal alloys.

A wide choice of styles and designs is available in gold jewelry.

Most jewelry is generic in style, making one-of-a-kind designs scarce.

However, there has been a resurgence of designer jewelry over the last 25 years.

Designer jewelry usually has the maker's name or initials stamped inside and is usually unique in style.

Because of its creative design and manufacture, designer jewelry may cost more than generic gold jewelry, but having the designer's name stamped inside increases the value of the piece.

To be sure you are receiving the best value for your money when buying gold jewelry, follow these tips:

- Be sure the item is clearly marked with karat weight and manufacturer.
- If the item is extremely light, be aware that the item is probably hollow and therefore more susceptible to damage in the future.
- Be sure the karat weight of the item is listed on the sales receipt.

Platinum

Platinum, the purest and most durable of metals used in fine jewelry, is a classic choice for your setting.

Platinum's beauty enhances a diamond's natural sparkle and brilliance. Its exceptional strength firmly holds your diamond or gemstone.



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Platinum is an extremely durable metal that has been used in making fine jewelry since the 1880s.

Because of its density and strength, platinum is favored above all metals to hold diamonds and was often used in very intricate designs requiring great detail.

In the early 1900s platinum became very popular, and its popularity grew until World War II, when it was temporarily banned from use in jewelry because platinum's military uses had higher priority.

In the past 10 years, however, platinum jewelry has grown in popularity and is found in many jewelry stores.

The most common marks for platinum are "900 PT, 900 PLAT, PT900 and 900 Plat 100 Irid," which signifies the percentage of platinum and other metals used.

Because of the small percentage of other metals alloyed with it, platinum is hypoallergenic and excellent for people who are allergic to other metals.

When buying platinum jewelry, follow these tips:

- Be sure the item is stamped with its metal content and manufacturer.
- Be prepared to spend more initially because of the expert craftsmanship required to work in platinum.
- Be sure the sales receipt has "Platinum" written in the description.

Titanium

Titanium, a space-age metal, is lightweight, hypoallergenic and extremely durable.

Titanium's comfortable, non-abrasive qualities and exceptional strength make it a popular choice for rings and fashion jewelry.





To choose the precious metal that your lady will absolutely love, you need to carefully observe what she wears.

Choosing the Right Piece of Jewelry

Hey...what she wears is what she likes, right?

You need to take note (and maybe notes) about the following:

Earrings

Are they usually silver or gold?

Does she wear little bitty ones that don't dangle at all...they are called "studs"...or does she wear large dangly things?

Are her ears pierced? (You might need to ask.)

If she wears large dangly ones, then that is the kind she prefers and don't make the mistake of buying "clip on" earrings if her ears are pierced.

Necklaces

Are they most often silver or gold?

Does she wear dainty little chains with small things on them or does she like big chains with large things on them?

The "things" hanging on the chains are called "pendants".



Bracelets

Does she wear them at all?

Are they large or small?

Have you ever seen her wear a charm bracelet?



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Was the chain on the charm bracelet silver or gold?

Brooches and Pins

A Brooch is larger than a pin....they both either pin on or clip on a garment.

Does she ever wear one?

If she does, are they large or small and are they usually silver or gold?

Rings

Does she wear one ring or many rings?

Are they large or small? Note the size of her hands.

Are they gold or silver?

Do she wear rings on her toes?

If so, are they simple or elaborate?





Chapter 3: Buying Diamond Jewelry

If you are buying a little piece of jewelry from Wal-Mart or another retail outlet, you won't be investing enough money to worry about this but if you are buying a serious piece of jewelry from a jewelry store, you probably should pay attention here.

The first and foremost thing, of course, is to choose a jeweler who has a reputation for honesty.

There are all those stories out there about the bait and switch tactics used by unscrupulous jewelers and you sure want to avoid being taken to the cleaners.

A reputable jeweler will give you a diamond certificate when you buy any piece of jewelry that has a large diamond in it.

Diamond Certificates are invaluable documents that show in detail a diamond's credentials.

They provide a unique fingerprint of a diamond which is a source of vital information to the trained gemologist, jeweler or consumer.



A diamond certificate will contain a complete quality description of the diamond and will include information on shape, weight, clarity, fluorescence, color grade, measurements, proportions and finish grade.

It will also confirm that the stone is indeed the genuine article.

Since there are no special educational or training requirements needed to sell jewelry or open a jewelry store, you should educate yourself before shopping for jewelry.

Make sure you know your jeweler by following these helpful tips:



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- Check the jewelry store's reputation by questioning friends and relatives who have shopped there.
- Be sure the store has a long-standing, solid reputation in the community and in the industry.

You want to be able to count on the store still being there if you have a problem.

- Call your BBB and get a report on the business.

This will give you better insight into the company's past performance history-good or bad.

- Find out what organizations the jeweler belongs to and the requirements for membership.

Many trade organizations require strict adherence to ethics and good business practices before they will accept a store for membership.

- Ask about the gemological and appraisal education of the store's salespeople.

While a college degree in jewelry does not exist, many seminars and educational sessions are available to further the knowledge of people in the jewelry industry.

Diamonds are mainly valued according to karat (or carat) weight, clarity and color. You need to know what each of these things mean.

Carat (or Karat) Weight

This is the term used to express the weight of a diamond, with one carat equaling 200 milligrams of actual weight.





Larger diamonds are rarer and in more demand than smaller diamonds of the same quality, so they can be sold for a higher price.

A one carat diamond solitaire ring is nearly always more expensive than a diamond ring made up of multiple diamonds that are similar, but smaller, even though they total one carat or more.

Clarity

This is a term used to describe the absence or presence of flaws inside or on the surface of a diamond or other gemstone.

A perfect stone with perfect clarity—clearness—is rare, and most flaws that do exist in jewelry grade diamonds cannot be seen without looking at stones through a jeweler's magnifying loupe.

Color

Diamonds is not all truly colorless, but it's the colorless, often called white, diamonds which are the diamonds that other shades are judged against.

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has devised a set of guidelines to grade diamond color.

The color of graded diamonds is compared to the color of control stones, pre-selected gems of a specific color.

Cut

The value of a diamond in terms of price and popularity depends on the various cuts.

The more popular cuts are more expensive than the less popular cuts.

This is because the cut of the diamond enhances its beauty.

So, you can see two diamonds of equal weight but cut differently with a price difference of hundreds of dollars.





Round Cut

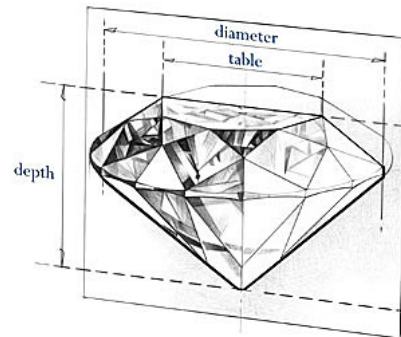
The most popular cut in diamonds is the round cut.

When diamonds are cut to look like circles they sparkle brightly.

A round brilliant cut is one of the most expensive cuts of diamond.

Round cut diamonds are very popular on engagement rings because they look beautiful as part of a multi-stone ring or as a solitaire.

Signature Round Diamond



The round cut diamond looks nice on practically any hand.

Princess Cut

The princess cut is of marginal popularity.

It looks good as a solitaire or in a three-stone setting with smaller princess cut diamonds on either side of a large diamond.

A princess cut looks like a square and can be faceted to sparkle.

Rings made with princess cut diamonds tend to make fingers look shorter and stubbier, so they are not the right choice for those with already short fingers.

Those with long fingers can wear a princess cut without any hesitation whatsoever.

Emerald Cut

One of the least expensive of cuts for diamonds is the emerald cut.

It costs a lot less than a round brilliant diamond.

Emerald cut looks like a rectangle, and is cut to appear layered.



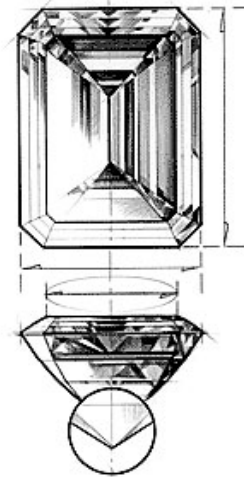


It gets its name because this is the way emeralds have always been cut.

The emerald, being softer than the diamond, often got fractured in the process of cutting.

Then the experts discovered that the emerald could be cut in a special way to preserve its integrity.

This gave emeralds more life, and it became fashionable to wear emeralds.



Emerald-Cut

Soon it was discovered that diamonds could also be cut in this fashion, and the cut was called the emerald cut.

Marquis Cut

Diamonds with a marquis cut look like thin ovals with pointed ends.

This cut makes the fingers look longer and adds elegance to any hand.

This cut is already more popular than the emerald cut.

It is usually worn as a solitaire or as the center of a multi-stone ring.

However, if all the stones are not marquis cut, a multi-stone ring with something else as the center looks odd with marquis side stones.

There are other styles of diamonds also such as baguette and pave, which are mainly used for side stones to provide accents.

Once you know what type of cut you like, and what enhances the beauty of your hand, you can get a ring set with your favorite cut diamonds.

There is one other thing about diamonds that we would be remiss if we didn't mention.





There will soon be man-made diamonds on the market that will be all but indistinguishable from the stones formed by a billion or so years' worth of intense pressure, later to be sold to you at exorbitant prices.

The whole concept turns the fundamental idea of a diamond on its head.

The ability to manufacture diamonds could change business, products and daily life as much as the arrival of the steel age in the 1850s or the invention of the transistor in the 1940s.

They are not actually on the market yet and De Beers is determined to make a machine that can detect the slightest difference in the way the two materials refract light.

But it IS coming sooner or later...maybe too late for this year's gift giving occasions, however, so let's continue.

Types of Diamond Jewelry

OK, now that you know what to look for in precious metal settings and diamonds, let's move on to the various types of jewelry that contain diamonds.

Bracelets

There's a diamond bracelet to suit every style, from delicate and feminine pieces that enhance an ensemble without overpowering it to diamond bracelets that are bold enough to *become* the look.

You need to be aware of the kind of bracelet your lady would love and love to wear.

Anniversary Rings

Diamond anniversary rings and eternity rings are set with gems that encircle all or a large chunk of their circumference to symbolize eternal love.





Both types of rings are perfect gifts for an anniversary, at Christmas or for any other special holiday.

The good news is that anniversary rings are available in many price ranges—you don't have to spend a fortune to buy a beautiful ring.

Drop Earrings

Diamond earrings always make a lady feel elegant, but diamond drops pick up an extra bit of dazzle, bouncing light around as she moves her head.

Again...you need to know whether she likes and will wear drop earrings or not.

Stud Earrings

If your lady never wears drop earrings but does wear studs, you can't go wrong buying diamond studs for her.

Necklaces

The diamond necklace has long been the heir of mystery and enchantment not restricted to tales of romance and fantasy.

These jeweled collars have been worn throughout history by affluent figures and have been seen as a symbol of merit.

Diamond necklaces are stunning illustrations of romance and adoration certain to make any lady feel priceless.

Pendants

This little treasure dangles lightly from a chain around a graceful neck with the delicate suggestion of a grand design.

A diamond pendant is the perfect gift for a special lady and a symbol of timeless perfection.

Other Rings

Engagement and wedding rings are not the only diamond rings that there are.





There will be an entire chapter dedicated to “THE RING” later in this book.

For now we are only talking about other kinds of rings that are given as gifts.

A diamond ring can make a wonderful Mother’s Day gift, or upon the arrival of a new baby.

There are, also, cocktail rings and dinner rings that make wonderful gifts.

Buying from a knowledgeable jewelry professional is your key to finding the best-quality diamond for the greatest value.

To be sure you are making a wise purchase, follow these guidelines:

- Take the time to be educated about diamonds so you will understand where the best value is and why.
- If you do not want to learn about diamonds, be sure you are using a reputable jeweler and one who has a satisfactory record with the BBB.
- When discussing diamond grades with a salesperson, ask who grades their diamonds, what education and experience that person has and what other grading guarantees are offered.

A second opinion is always helpful.

- When viewing diamonds, never use a black background. Black changes the eye’s perception of color.

Always view the diamond under magnification and make sure you understand what you are seeing.

- Comparison shop before making your decision.



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Be sure you know how to evaluate the four C's (cut, color clarity and carat weight) and compare apples with apples.

- Ask the salesperson about diamond treatments. Diamonds can be fracture filled or laser treated.
- Be sure you get everything in writing.

A sales receipt or appraisal with the quality of the diamond listed is considered a contract and is your only means of proving the quality of your diamond is what you have been told.

- Read all warranties and guarantees before buying the diamond.
- Ask for a certificate of replacement cost or an appraisal listing the qualities of your diamond to accompany your receipt.
- If your diamond comes with gemological certificate be sure to get the original and keep it with your receipt





Chapter 4: Other Precious, Semi-Precious And Man-Made Stones

Other than diamonds, there are only three other stones that are considered “precious”.

They are: the ruby; the emerald; and the sapphire.

The amethyst used to be considered “precious” until huge deposits were found in Brazil and the price fell through the floor.

Precious Stones

Ruby

We associate the color red with love and passion, so it’s no wonder that rubies have always been among the most popular of gemstones.

Rubies are the red members of the corundum family of minerals.

- Nearly all rubies are treated with heat to improve color and clarity.
- Dyes are sometimes used to intensify a ruby’s color.
- Coatings might be used to camouflage surface fractures.

Before You Buy a Ruby

- Large, high-quality, natural rubies are very rare and expensive and should be accompanied by a report from a qualified gem lab that certifies their authenticity.
- Buy rubies from reputable dealers who know what they are selling and who disclose all treatments that have been performed on the gemstones.

Emeralds

Emeralds are green members of the popular *beryl* family of minerals.





The green color occurs when pure, clear beryl contains either chromium or vanadium.

Beryl occurs in many other colors, with shades dependent on the impurities that Mother Nature has mixed into its otherwise clear formula.

Blue beryl is known as aquamarine.

Pink shades of beryl are known as Morganite.

Yellows are often simply called yellow beryl and golden beryl.

The term bixbite refers to red beryl, a variation that's even rarer than emeralds.

- Nearly all emeralds are treated with oils or epoxy resins to fill-in surface cracks, making the cracks less visible and improving transparency.
- Some oils are clear; some are tinted green to make the gems more vivid.

Sapphire

Sapphires are members of the corundum family of minerals.

They exist in nearly every color except red, because red corundum is always called ruby.

One of the hardest minerals, sapphires are durable gemstones that have been in demand since ancient times.

Heat treatment is commonly used to deepen color and improve clarity.

- Cornflower blue is the most popular but all shades of blue are possible.





- Sapphires exist in numerous other colors: yellow, colorless, black, white, orange, pink, and brown are some of the colors found.
- A variety of orangish-pink sapphire is called *padparadsha*, which means “lotus flower.”

Semi-Precious Stones

Semi Precious gem stones are used in jewelry that is both attractive and less expensive than jewelry made with precious stones and is a good choice for those on a budget.

As long as they are set in precious metal settings (so they don't turn her skin green), they make great gifts for your lady.

There are over 130 species of minerals that have been cut into gems with 50 species in common use. These include:

Agate

An impure form of quartz consisting of banded chalcedony; used as a gemstone and for making mortars and pestles.

Alexandrite

A greenish chrysoberyl that appears red in artificial light, used as a gemstone.

Amethyst

A purple or violet form of transparent quartz used as a gemstone.

Aquamarine

A transparent blue-green variety of beryl, used as a gemstone.

Chrysocolla

A hydrous silicate of copper, occurring massive, of a blue or greenish blue color.

Chrysoprase





An apple-green chalcedony used as a gemstone.

Feldspar

Any of a group of hard crystalline minerals that consist of aluminum silicates of potassium or sodium or calcium or barium.

Garnet

Any of several common, widespread aluminum or calcium silicate minerals occurring in two internally isomorphic series, generally crystallized, often embedded in igneous and metamorphic rocks, and colored red, brown, black, green, yellow, or white and used both as gemstones and as abrasives.

Hematite

A black or blackish-red to brick-red mineral, the chief ore of iron.

Jade

Either of two distinct minerals, nephrite and jadeite, that are generally pale green or white and are used mainly as gemstones or in carving.

Jasper

An opaque cryptocrystalline variety of quartz that may be red, yellow, or brown.

Kunzite

A lilac-colored spodumene used as a gemstone.

Lapis lazuli

An opaque to translucent blue, violet-blue, or greenish-blue semiprecious gemstone composed mainly of lazurite and calcite.

Malachite

A green mineral used as an ore of copper and for making ornamental objects

Obsidian





A usually black or banded, hard volcanic glass that displays shiny, curved surfaces when fractured and is formed by rapid cooling of lava.

Olivine

A mineral consisting of magnesium iron silicate; a source of magnesium

Opal

A gemstone made of this mineral, noted for its rich iridescence.

Pyrite

A common mineral (iron disulfide) that has a pale yellow color and is also known as Fools Gold.

Quartz

Colorless glass made of almost pure silica

Spinel

A hard, variously colored mineral, having usually octahedral crystals and occurring in igneous and carbonate rocks.

The red variety is valued as a gem and is sometimes confused with ruby.

Tanzanite

A transparent variety of zoisite, used as a gem.

Topaz

A colorless, blue, yellow, brown, or pink aluminum silicate mineral, often found in association with granitic rocks and valued as a gemstone, especially in the brown and pink varieties

Turquoise

A blue to blue-green mineral of aluminum and copper, prized as a gemstone in its polished blue form.

Tourmaline





A complex crystalline silicate containing aluminum, boron, and other elements, used in electronic instrumentation and, especially in its green, clear, and blue varieties, as a gemstone.

Zircon

A brown to colorless mineral which is heated, cut, and polished to form a brilliant blue-white gem.

Women love to wear jewels that satisfy them and assure them of their eternal power and beauty that they possess.

Apart from diamond, silver, gold and platinum, gemstones jewelries are also getting popularity among women because of their myriad color and radiance which equally bring out the best in its wearer.

It is also a strong believe that gemstones jewelries greatly affect us if worn according to the astrological believes and thoughts.

Some people are also of the opinion that gemstones available in different colors and patterns can lay their positive effect on us that may results into the change in the thinking pattern and behavior of its wearer.



So, the positive effect of these stones also attracts people to wear them according to their birth number or month or their zodiac sign.

You can actually see a whole lot of ornaments available in gemstones in the market today.

But, these gemstones jewels have a limitation too. It is really not suitable for funky, trendy and stylist people who like to do alteration in their dressing and outlook.

Pearl is recommended for people born in June that makes it unsuitable for people born in other months of the year.





It is also said that unsuitable gems may carry a negative effect on its wearer thus if a June baby wants to decorate herself with rubies, she may have to fear its negative impacts too.

Due to this, these gemstones are not gained that height of success that they deserve.

As a solution for this problem, manufacturer has come out with a concept of mix jewelry that combines more than one stone of similar effect to retain its astrological sense giving it a really trendy and mesmerizing look.

So, if you are a lover of these stones and quite experimenting on your looks, go for mixed colored stones for their best results.

Man-Made Stones

Again, I must caution you guys, man-made stones can be used to make beautiful jewelry and are so realistic as to be indistinguishable from the real thing...

HOWEVER, DO NOT EVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES TRY TO PASS ONE OFF AS THE REAL THING TO YOUR LADY.

When she finds out that the big old diamond on her hand that she has been showing off to all her friends is cubic zirconia, she will believe that you really are as big a jerk as you really are.

Just be honest and tell her that you will give her the real thing when you can afford it.

Oh, and be sure that it is in a precious metal setting, too.

Some of the gemstones that are manufactured to imitate other gemstones are as follows: cubic zirconia is a synthetic diamond simulant composed of zirconium oxide.

The imitations copy the look and color of the real stone but possess neither their chemical nor physical characteristics.





However, true synthetic gemstones are not necessarily imitation.

For example, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds have been manufactured in labs, which possess very nearly identical chemical and physical characteristics to the genuine article.

Synthetic corundums, including ruby and sapphire, are very common and they cost only a fraction of the natural stones.

Smaller synthetic diamonds have been manufactured in large quantities as industrial abrasives for many years.

Only recently, larger synthetic diamonds of gemstone quality, especially of the colored variety, have been manufactured.

Synthetic gemstones come in most colors and clarities, yet cost much less than natural gemstones.

Sometimes in a jewelry showcase the abbreviation "CRTD" is used on the price tag; this stands for "created."

Being knowledgeable about the colored gemstone you are buying is imperative for you to be assured of good value.

Follow these tips:

- Ask whether the gemstone is natural or synthetic.
- Ask whether the gemstone was treated in any way, is assembled or is synthetic.
- Learn to use a jeweler's loupe to see inside the stone to check if it is chipped or damaged in any way; ask the salesperson to educate you about the quality of the gemstone.
- Be sure you get everything in writing.

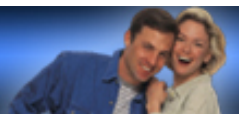


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A sales receipt or appraisal listing the quality of the gemstone is considered a contract and is your only means of proving what you have been told.

- Read all warranties and guarantees before buying the jewelry.
- Ask for a certificate of replacement cost or appraisal listing the special qualities of your gemstone to accompany your receipt.





Chapter 5: Pearls...Natural, Cultured and Imitation

Pearls carry a meaning.

Historically, the glowing white orbs have been associated with the moon.

With the high luster and deep color of pearls, it is no wonder that these natural gemstones have been held in such high regard for thousands of years.



So giving pearl jewelry to your lady is a good idea...assuming said lady loves pearls.

There are some things that you need to know about pearls, however, before you buy.

Pearls are produced in both salt and fresh water, but the difference is astounding.

Usually, the salt water variety of pearls are of a better quality and are also more expensive than pearls found in fresh water; however, the choice between fresh water and salt water pearls is completely personal.

You can easily tell the difference between a fresh water and salt water pearl by its appearance.

Salt water pearls are—or should be—completely round, while fresh water pearls have a lumpy, potato-like shape.

Usually, fresh water pearls are described as off-round, egg, or Baroque, and come with a more affordable price tag due to this irregular shape.

Imitation pearls are a different story altogether. In most cases, a glass bead is dipped into a solution made from fish scales. This coating is





thin and may eventually wear off. You can usually tell an imitation by biting on it. Fake pearls glide across your teeth, while the layers of nacre on real pearls feel gritty.

Pearls are timeless and versatile that can be worn on any point of age and occasions as they are always in fashion.

From a little girl to a woman of eighty, every one is equally impressed and lured by the charm of pure pearls as it looks beautiful on every one.

It is the only gem which makes women drool over it.

Pearl Shape Classifications

Spherical Pearls

Spherical pearls are round, which is traditionally the most desirable shape.

The rounder the pearl, the more expensive its price tag.

Symmetrical Pearls

Symmetrical pearls include pear shapes and other shapes that have symmetry from one side to another, but are not round.

Baroque Pearls

Baroque pearls are irregularly shaped.

They are often the least expensive category of pearls, but are unique and quite beautiful.

Pearls of all varieties are used in jewelry of all types: rings, necklaces, pendants, brooches, and bracelets.

When you shop for pearl jewelry for your lady love, just be certain that you know what you are looking at and the real value of the piece.

Also, the same rules apply to pearl jewelry as to other kinds.





Don't buy drop earrings for her if she only wears studs.

Buy pieces that are the size and shape that she likes and wears.

The precious metals that the pearls are set in is important here, as well.

Follow These Steps When Buying Pearls:

- Know whether the pearls are natural, cultured, synthetic, freshwater or saltwater.
- Ask about the durability of the luster.
- Be sure the pearls are knotted individually in the strand in case of breakage.
- Ask about the cleaning and care of the pearls.
- Be sure an adequate description is written on the sales receipt.

Pearl jewelry catches attention because of its uncomplicated and serene elegance.

It may seem like an oxymoron, but sometimes the simplest things are the ones that are the most attractive.

A look at a simple pearl earring, a representative example of pearl jewelry, is enough to dispel all doubt.

In fact, for many kinds of pearl jewelry, the operating principle is "the simpler the better."

At times a single pearl can even say much more than a dozen pearls all lined up.



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This is why some consider pearl jewelry to be even more beautiful than diamond, more valuable and timeless.

Remember Audrey Hepburn as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady", and as Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"?

She wore such simple pearl jewelry, and yet they made her face shine.

Pearls bring glamour to a woman's face, catch the light and trap it in to create a much suffused glow not unlike a halo.

Translucence is also a mystical quality of pearls, evoking mystery and sophistication in the wearer.

Due to its timeless elegance, pearl jewelry never falls out of fashion.

They can be worn with almost anything; after all they serve to accentuate more the healthy color of the skin rather than the clothes a lady wears.





Chapter 6: Other Things You Need to Know

OK...we have about covered the basics about buying and giving jewelry.

There are, however, a few more important things that you need to know before you venture out into the world of jewelry, jewelers, and jewelry stores.

Jewelry Manufacturing Techniques

The way a piece of jewelry is constructed has a great effect on its beauty and durability.

Jewelry that is well made, using adequate thicknesses of gold and proper amounts of solder, will give you many years of enjoyment.

Knowing what constitutes a well-made piece of jewelry is advantageous to a consumer in making a wise buying decision.

Following are some helpful hints:

- The more prongs a stone has to hold it in place, the better.
- Channel setting is beautiful but needs to be checked often for loose stones by the jeweler.
- Be sure there is room underneath the gemstone for easy access when cleaning.
- Clasps should be easy to open and close, but not too thin or flimsy.
- Hollow made bracelets and chains can be damaged with everyday use.
- Solder joints should be clean, neat and not visible.





Jewelry Repairs

Being a knowledgeable consumer is just as important when having jewelry repaired as it is when you are making your initial purchase.

Your jewelry is a very special possession, and usually has great sentimental value.

You need to feel comfortable when leaving it in a store to be repaired so that when it is returned to you it will be fixed correctly.

After you have investigated the reputation of the jewelry store you are planning to use, there are certain things you need to know.

Upon leaving your jewelry, be sure you are given a legible receipt with the following information:

- Your name, address and a phone number where you can easily be reached.
- A suitable description of the item so that it can be identified if lost or stolen.
- The estimated value of the item to be repaired.
- What repairs are going to be done and the estimated cost.
- If it is a piece of diamond jewelry, a plot or diagram of the larger diamond's (.25 ct. or larger) natural characteristics, a measurement of the diameter of the diamond and a notation of chips or other identifying characteristics.
- When the item will be ready and the time limit you have to pick it up.



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Before you leave it, many jewelry stores will show you your jewelry under a microscope so you will be able to identify it easily.

Other stores may use a diamond tester and test all your diamonds in your presence to confirm that they are diamonds.

Both of these procedures ensure that your jewelry is well identified.

If at any time you feel uncomfortable leaving your jewelry in a jewelry store, follow your intuition and act accordingly.

If it is your first time using the company, be sure you have called the BBB beforehand to check the store's business record.



One major area that consumers may not be aware of is insurance.

Before leaving your jewelry, it is imperative that you ask whether the store owner is insured for theft, burglary, loss, or damage.

Many stores have what is known as a "jeweler's block policy;" their coverage may differ due to limits, options or state laws.

If you have your own personal jewelry insurance, check with your insurance agent to see how you are covered while the jewelry is being repaired.

When you pick up your jewelry, be sure to check it well to be sure the repair meets with your satisfaction, take a good look at your jewelry and gemstones to identify them as they were documented on the original receipt.

Warranties and Guarantees

Many companies offer warranties or guarantees on jewelry or jewelry repairs.



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Getting these promises in writing is your guarantee that your item will last a long time and be replaced if lost.

If you are offered a guarantee, follow these tips:

- Read it completely before you buy the item.
- Ask questions about anything that is unclear.
- Decide whether the guarantee requirements are easy to fulfill.
- Find out what happens if the company moves from your city or goes out of business.
- Many times a guarantee motivates you to buy from that jeweler.

For the warranty to protect the item you are buying, you must live up to the rules for the buyer set forth in the document. If you choose not to abide by the terms of the guarantee, it could become null and void.





Chapter 7: Jewelry for the Ages

Now, guys, we need to talk about what to give to whom.

Women of different ages (which you will never, ever, in a million years discuss with them, if you have a single working brain cell) like different things.

They wear jewelry that befits their ages.

For example...you haven't noticed your grandmother sporting a toe ring or a belly button ring, have you? I didn't think so.

Therefore, the jewelry you choose to buy and give as gifts to the ladies in your life, other than that special one, needs to be appropriate for the age of said lady.

Every guy has mothers, sisters, nieces, and aunts that they need to buy gifts for on special occasions. Jewelry is always a good choice!

Little Girls

By the time a female reaches the age of 3, she well knows what jewelry is and really wants some of her very own.

No...I am NOT kidding.

They practically come into this world knowing about jewelry and can spot a fake diamond from forty paces on a cloudy day with one eye shut before they can recite their ABC's.

If you have a daughter, a niece, or a God-daughter, you may need to give a little girl a piece of jewelry from time to time.

Keep in mind that, even though they absolutely





love jewelry, they are, after all, still children.

They lose things and misplace things so don't spend hundreds of dollars on jewelry for the tykes.

You don't have to.

You can buy nice little pieces of jewelry for not a whole lot of dollars.

You can even buy matching pieces for a little girl and her doll.

Jewelry can be given to little girls for:

- Her birthday
- Christmas
- Her First Communion
- Her Bat Mitzvah
- Or just because

Just be certain that it is age appropriate; ask sales people for help.

Buying jewelry for a toddler can often be a tricky business because there are many youngsters who pull off anything you put on them.

On the other hand, there are also two year olds who love to wear jewelry and look grown-up and sophisticated.

Teenage Girls

If you have ever noticed, teenage girls like to look and dress exactly like their peers.

The jewelry they choose to wear is no different.

They wouldn't be caught dead wearing something that was "so last week".

Teen girls are busy picking up clues and tips from their favorite celebrities.





The celebrities that teenagers watch in their favorite music videos, movies or television show greatly influence what a teen girl will see as fashion and trendy jewelry.

And these days more and more of the celebrities are choosing estate jewelry because it is unique and does make a statement of individuality.

These days we hear allot about **hip hop jewelry** trends and we see plenty of **bling bling** replicas on the market.

Manufacturers have replaced the real diamonds and gems worn by the celebrities with cheaper stones and metals so that teen girls can have jewelry that looks much like their favorite stars but at a much more affordable price.

Pierced and Non-pierced Body Jewelry

This has really grown in popularity. And teen girls are using it to make their fashion statement.

The good news is that there is a great selection available at an affordable price.

Friendship Bracelets

They started to become popular in the late 1990s and they continue to grow in popularity being one of the hottest jewelry fads for teens.

The style can be of the most basic twist or more elaborate with beads and sparkling faux gems.

Beaded Jewelry

This is also very popular, teens love the big and bold look of large beads and love to mix them up adding color and flare to their wardrobe.



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Estate jewelry is perfect for picking up a terrific mix of beaded jewelry for a very low price and the girls love it because it is different and unique unlike the modern stuff found on the shelves of every local outlet and because their favorite celebrities are choosing it, it becomes an option for them as well.

Promise Ring

A promise ring is a ring that is indicative of a serious promise made to oneself or another. In most cases, it's given to a romantic partner to signify a commitment to a monogamous relationship, sometimes as a precursor to an engagement ring.

However, a promise ring may just be purchased for oneself as a reminder of a personal promise.

Fashion Rings

These are also very big with teenagers.

The good news is that you can buy estate jewelry rings and fashion rings for as little as \$5.00.

Mothers and Grandmothers

Buying jewelry for women who are mothers or grandmothers is probably the easiest of all jewelry gifts to buy.

There are dozens of choices and all of them are good ones.

It doesn't matter whether the lady is your wife, your mother or your grandmother.

Estate Jewelry

This is the perfect gift whether it's for Mother's Day, her birthday, or Christmas.

Mother's will always enjoy a lovely piece of jewelry.





But there are some things you should know before heading out to buy that jewelry to make sure you don't pay too much or don't land up with a fake piece of jewelry.

Estate jewelry is always an excellent choice because your Mom may have personal attachments to a certain piece or style.

Check around!

Quality jewelry isn't cheap so before you even start shopping check around with co-workers, friends, and family and see which stores or web sites they recommend for purchasing fine jewelry from.

Also take note of the ones they tell you to stay away from.

Other peoples' experiences are a great method of finding the best jewelry store available.

A Chain

A chain is always a wonderful choice for a jewelry gift for a mother or a grandmother.

Either gold or silver are excellent choices.

Chains are available in many lengths so you can choose a length that is appropriate.

You can also buy many different styles from the very dainty to bold and noticeable.

Add a pendant if you like.

Mother's Rings

These are part of a trend towards giving a mother or grandmother a truly unique gift of jewelry.

These are a good way of showing the number of children or grandchildren she has in her life.





The typical mother's ring comes with the children's names inscribed on the band or on a set of multiple stacking bands.

Also, the rings may have multiple small gemstones with or without the names to symbolize the children.

Some rings will also have one larger stone in the shape of a heart to represent the mother's love for her children.

Mother's rings have an elegant style to them, usually with vibrantly colored gemstones as accents.

The stones are cut in the round, triangle or as small squares.

You may wish to alternate shape based on the gender of your child and colors on the personality.

These rings have recently gained popularity due to some larger store chains choosing to carry the mother's themed jewelry and are taking hold in popular culture.

Grandmother's Rings

These are starting to be made as an extension of the mother's jewelry line for grandma's who wish to show some connection to their grandchildren, though if she has a lot of grandchildren she may end up with many rings crammed with small gemstones.

One drawback to these rings is that the family never remains static.

Her ring may require a few more gemstones every year.

Grandmother's Bracelet

Buying a grandmother's bracelet is a good alternative to a grandmother's ring because it is easier to it as the family grows.



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The bottom line is that a woman is never too young or too old to love and want jewelry.

The trick is to choose the right thing for the right lady.





Chapter 8: Choosing Jewelry Styles

When you want to buy a piece of jewelry for a lady, you have to decide whether to choose the one that can compliment a formal outfit or for daily wear.

It is not cheap to buy one, so think carefully before you decide.

If you make the right decision, that chosen jewelry styles can draw attention to her best features or possibly camouflage less desirable areas.

Your choice of jewelry style will subtly affect others perceptions about your lady, so what guidelines are there to help you select the most flattering jewelry?

Earrings

The main factor when choosing earring is her face shape.

Face shape is important when selecting earrings.

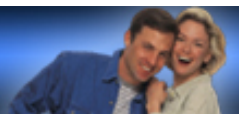
Face shapes are generally grouped as: oval, rectangle, round, heart and square.

Women with an oval face shape can wear any style while other women should wear styles that contrast their face shape.

Selecting a hoop or button style for a round face would only emphasize the round shape.

Square or long shapes will de-emphasize a round face.

The same is true with other face shapes; a long, rectangular face should stay away from long, dangling earrings and choose smaller studs instead.





Square faces need the softness of round or hoop earrings and heart shaped faces are complimented with triangular shapes with a wide base that contrasts a narrow chin.

Necklace

Your choice of necklace can minimize or emphasize her size. If you want to create or emphasize a taller appearance choose longer necklaces and V shapes.

A necklace that falls past the bust line but above the waist will elongate while a choker style or shorter U shaped necklace resting on the breast bone will shorten her appearance.

The size of the necklace should also be considered.

Fuller figures can compliment their proportions with larger, chunkier pieces that would overwhelm a woman with a smaller frame.

Bracelets

Similar guidelines should be followed with bracelets as with necklace choice.

Women of average build and height will find a wide bracelet most complimentary.

Petite women should wear more delicate pieces and tall or full figured women should layer several small or wide bracelets, avoiding very delicate pieces that can look lost.

Rings

When selecting rings make sure that the setting doesn't cover her knuckle which not only will cause fingers to look short but can interfere with movement and comfort.



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Shorter fingers benefit from oval settings while longer fingers look best with wide bands or simple, round settings.

While these guidelines may influence the type of jewelry you select for her, you can be sure that there are many, many choices for all tastes and occasions regardless of her shape or size.





Chapter 9: Giving Religious Jewelry

The giving, receiving and wearing of religious jewelry is seen and done in many faiths.

Christian jewelry often takes the form of a cross that is worn by the Christian as an outward symbol of his or her inner faith in Jesus.

Catholic

In the Catholic faith, religious jewelry is often given as a Baptism gift, a Communion gift, or a Confirmation gift.

Little rosaries or small bracelets are often given to babies for their Baptism and necklaces and rosaries are often given as gifts for First Holy Communion.

For Catholic children, however, it is Confirmation - and the Saint medals they receive - that are often the most meaningful.

As part of the preparation for Confirmation, Roman Catholic pre-teens choose a Saint's name to take as their own. It's not uncommon for them to pour over books about Saints and to question relatives about their own Confirmation names.

Often, relatives will bring out the Saints medals they received as gifts upon their Confirmations and share memories and recollections about the significance of their Patron Saints.

Giving Saint Medals to Roman Catholics experiencing their Confirmation is common, as is giving of other religious jewelry.

Christian jewelry, such as gold or silver crucifixes, Holy Spirit pins, and rosaries are also given but it is often saint medals that mean the most to the girl or boy being confirmed.

Some of the most popular Patron Saints are:



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- **St. Jude** - The Patron Saint of desperate cases, St. Jude was one of the 12 Apostles. His feast day is October 28.
- **St. Matthew** - One of the 12 Apostles, St. Matthew is the Patron Saint of bankers, possibly because he was a tax collector prior to his conversion. His feast day is September 21.
- **St. Philomena** - Although much of her life remains a mystery, it is believed that St. Philomena was martyred at the age of 14. This is why she is the Patron Saint of infants and children.
- **St. Thomas Aquinas** - Born in 1226, St. Thomas Aquinas is the Patron Saint of students and of universities. His feast day is January 28.
- **St. Agnes** - The Patron Saint of girls, more specifically of the Children of Mary, St. Agnes was martyred at the age of 13. Her feast day is January 21.

Religious jewelry's not only an adornment, it's a manifestation of faith.

When given as a gift, it is an acknowledgement of the spirituality of the recipient.

When worn, it is a reminder of one's faith in God and recognition of one's humble origins.

There are many religions and many more religious traditions and taboos.

If you are planning to give a piece of religious jewelry as a gift, you should research the religion and its practices so as not to offend the recipient.





Chapter 10: The Symbolic Romance of Jewelry

Romantic jewelry is that jewelry that makes a woman feel special, different, like a queen or a princess.

That jewelry that takes you out of your normal hum drum life each time you put it on.

Romantic jewelry is that piece that gives a woman that little something extra that comes of wearing something truly special or truly meaningful.

Gold

Perhaps that is why gold is such a popular metal for jewelry.

To wear gold is to wear the jewelry of queens.

In ancient Egypt only the pharaohs and those especially favored by the pharaohs were permitted to wear gold. This feeling of being special and above the fray has continued to the modern day.



If you want your lady to feel like royalty, gold is the answer.

Jewels

Other jewels that inspire feelings of romance are pearls, emeralds and rubies... and, of course, for many people, diamonds.



Somehow though, diamonds don't seem to have the same warmth and romance as the other stones.

Actually diamonds were not historically valued as highly as we value them today.





Much of the romance that has been generated around diamonds is due to de Beers in the early part of the 20th century instituting a brilliant and very effective advertising campaign.

Pearls

On the other hand, pearls... well, pearls feel wonderful against the skin.

They are sensuous and mysterious.

To look deeply into a fine pearl is to look into eternity.



There is also something intriguing about a pearl, knowing that it came not from the cold hard ground, but from an industrious mollusk.

Pearls have been prized in all time periods and all cultures.

Historically baroque pearls (large irregularly shaped pearls) were used to make wonderful and fantastic jewelry by embellishing them with gold and gems.

Frequently these took the shape of Neptune or other Greek gods, sirens, beautiful women and animals.

The Canning Jewel in the Victoria and Albert museum is a famous and elaborate use of a baroque as the base for a handsome merman.

Black pearls, particularly Tahitian black pearls have become very popular in recent years. They come in a range of colors from spectacular purples and greens, through pinks to sophisticated browns.

All are lovely and the range of colors gives them a great deal of flexibility in choosing just the right pearl for the outfit and mood.





The most beautiful black pearl necklace I've seen was from Morrison's a small manufacturing jeweler in Berkeley.

The pearls were arranged in a rainbow strung together so that each color melted into the one next to it -- stunning.

What could be more romantic than pearls from Tahiti?

Note: if your lady wears pearls, she should wear them against her skin, it is good for them, but she should not wear any perfume, scent or lotion, at least not where it might contact the pearls.

Emeralds and rubies are traditionally the emperor and empress of gems.

Perhaps it is their vibrant colors that inspired our ancestors.

Certainly that vivid blood red and cool serpent green are hard to ignore.

Even today emeralds and rubies of equal size and quality are more expensive than equivalent diamonds.

In Victorian times colored gems were used to spell out love messages.

Sometimes this made for interesting and not necessarily attractive settings; but it is very romantic.

For instance a piece of jewelry might have these gems in order:

- **LOVE:** Lapis, Opal, Vermeil and Emerald.
- **REGARD:** Ruby, Emerald, Garnet, Amethyst, and Diamond.

Jewelry Shapes

The shape of jewelry too can harbor a romantic message. Hearts and clasped hands, hands holding a heart (Claddagh) and cupids are self



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explanatory, but some shapes are a bit more subtle.

For many cultures, including the Romans and the Victorians, snakes were a symbol of enduring love.

A snake biting its own tail so as to make a circle is a particularly potent symbol of everlasting love.

Prince Albert gave Queen Victoria a snake engagement ring -- the beginning of a long and celebrated marriage.

Interestingly lizards and frogs were (and perhaps still are) also symbols of wedded happiness.

Perhaps this explains the continuing popularity of jewelry depicting these wiggly creatures.

Jewelry in the shape of flowers may also be symbolic.

To quote Ophelia "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember: and there is pansies. That's for thoughts."

Other flowers commonly found in jewelry are daisies for innocence, roses for the growth and continuation of love and bouquets expressing the commingling and compatibility of marriage.



When you are considering the perfect gift from that next anniversary, rather than the common "anniversary ring" how about a more romantic bouquet pendant?





Chapter 11: Giving Celtic Jewelry

If the person you are giving jewelry to comes from Celtic stock, they will appreciate a gift that denotes that heritage and be impressed that you are aware of it.

Celtic jewelry has a rich history and a proud tradition like the Celts themselves.

Breathtakingly beautiful with intricate Celtic symbols and delicate designs, Celtic cross jewelry, Celtic knot jewelry, and beautiful Claddagh rings have been admired and desired for thousands of years.

Celtic Cross

One of the most enduring, and coveted "gifts" of Celtic culture is jewelry featuring the Celtic Cross.

According to Irish legend, St. Patrick created the first Celtic cross by drawing a circle over a Latin cross.

For an Irish Catholic, the circle in the Celtic cross may be a symbol of eternity and the endlessness of God's love. It can even represent a halo emanating from Christ. Some say the four "arms" of the Celtic Cross represent the elements (fire, earth, air, and water).

Others believe the cross denotes the four directions of the compass, and still others feel it is a representation of human existence - mind, body, soul and heart.

Celtic Knots

The most distinguishing characteristic of Celtic knots is their intricate patterns and design and the debate as to the meaning of those designs.





While it is unquestionable that many of the ancient designs had some significance, those meanings changed from tribe to tribe and location to location.

Many believe that the intricate looping in knots was a way to keep out evil spirits.

It is also generally accepted that the looping Celtic knot design denotes eternity and interconnectedness.

Still, there is no definitive guide as to the meaning of Celtic knots which, adds, perhaps to their mystery and appeal.

Claddagh Rings

Named for the town of Claddagh near Galway in which they are said to have originated, Claddagh rings are beloved Celtic symbols of Irish culture and sentiment.

Unlike other Celtic symbols, the meaning behind the Claddagh ring is well-documented.

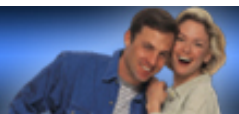
The Claddagh design has a heart (symbolizing love) topped by a crown (symbolizing loyalty) held in two hands (signifying friendship).

The phrase that is usually associated with the giving of a Claddagh ring is "Let love and friendship reign."

It's not surprise that the Claddagh is a popular marriage band.

In Celtic times, it was worn on the right hand with the heart turned outward to show that the wearer is unattached or with the heart turned inward to show he/she was "spoken for." If the Claddagh ring is worn on the left hand with the heart turned inward, it shows that two loves have been joined in marriage.

At one time, Celtic people could be found throughout Eastern and Central Europe, as well as in the British Isles, where the earliest examples of Celtic jewelry originate.



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The emergence of the powerful Roman Empire encroached on the lifestyle, traditions, and homeland of the Celts who were forced to move to abandon their homes and relocate in remote areas in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Cornwall in southern England.

Despite their hardships at the hands of the Romans, Celts endured, thrived and continued to produce Celtic jewelry.

The tradition has remained strong for centuries. Irish Celtic jewelry and Scottish Celtic jewelry have enjoyed a huge resurgence in their homelands and with "ex-pats" around the world, as people seek to rediscover and celebrate their cultural traditions.





Chapter 12: Giving Native American Jewelry

Buying and giving gifts of jewelry or other crafts to someone who comes from the rich Native American heritage can be a wonderful expression of your interest in them.

However, before you buy these items, there are some things you need to know so you don't get taken to the cleaners.

The market is awash with fakes.

Take some time to learn the terms used in the industry whether you are shopping in a traditional brick and mortar store or online.

Whether you're drawn to the beauty of turquoise and silver jewelry or the earth tones of Indian pottery, some information about American Indian arts and crafts can help you get what you pay for.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous retailers are selling imitation American Indian arts and crafts to unwary consumers.

According to the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, any item produced after 1935 that is marketed as "Indian," "Native American" or "Alaska Native" must have been made by a member of a state or federally-recognized tribe or a certified Indian artisan.

That is a non-member Indian artisan who is certified by the governing body of an Indian tribe.

Tips for Buying Genuine American Indian Jewelry/Crafts

1. Buy from an established dealer who gives a written guarantee or written verification of authenticity.

Ask if your item comes with a certification tag.



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Not all authentic Indian arts and crafts carry this tag, but those that do are certified by the Department of the Interior (DOI) to be genuine.

2. Get a receipt that includes information about the value of your purchase and any verbal representations by the salesperson.

For example, if the salesperson tells you that the piece of jewelry you're buying is sterling silver and natural turquoise and was handmade by an American Indian artisan; make sure this information is documented on your receipt.

3. Before buying American Indian arts and crafts at powwows, annual fairs, juried competitions, and other events, check the event requirements for information about the authenticity of the products for sale.

Many events list their requirements in newspaper ads, promotional flyers and printed programs.

If the event organizers don't say anything about the authenticity of the American Indian arts and crafts for sale, get written verification for any item you buy that is sold as authentic.





Chapter 13: Giving Art Deco Jewelry

If your lady is a true lover of the periodic jewelry, the style and miniature art of art deco jewelry will definitely take her heart away.

Originated in Paris, art deco jewelry is a rare combination of aristocratic preferences with a modern touch that enhances the individuality of its wearers.

Historically, the golden era of art deco jewelry was in 1920's to 1930's when most of the creative work was done.

Due to WWI, it had to see a rough phase but it never ended since then.

Started as costume jewelry, art deco jewelry has been taken well in fine jewelry that is now comparable to modern bridal jewelry.

Thus, it has a great style and pattern that shows true commitment and dedication transforming in different attractive ornaments such as rings, necklaces, brooches, bracelets for you to give to her.

What Metals?

Normally, art deco jewelry comes in many metals.

You can find stylist and beautiful jewels in gold, both in yellow and white and platinum that look radiant and stunning.

Especially, platinum is popular among its wearers as it is a new metal that has an unending shine and glow.

Also, its combination with different colored stones gives a mesmerizing glaze in jewelries.

That's why; art deco jewelry in platinum is highly in demand these days.





What Gems?

One of the interesting feature of the art deco jewelry is its contrasting stones and color combination that's make it really different from rest of the jewel.

Mainly, a central gem is surrounded with other different stones to get an overstated appearance that is simply marvelous.

Diamond surrounded by corals, emeralds, rubies and onyx are the perfect example of that extravagant look.

This skill of art deco is also engraved into leaf, flower and other shapes as well.

Based on geometrical designs, art deco jewelry comes in different cuts such as princess, marquise, emeralds and heart that produce fancy as well as intricate jewelry.





Chapter 14: Personalizing Jewelry Gifts

Personalized jewelry is a very romantic gift and it could be personalized with different things, such as a name or the first initial.

Your gift recipient knows how special she is, because the gift with her name or initial on it is just for her.

We have put together these tips to help you find a perfect piece of personalized jewelry for that special woman in your life.

Here are our tips to help you find that perfect personalized jewelry:

Personalized Rings

Personalized rings make great gifts.

You may personalize a ring with different things.

Personalized couples rings may include first initials or birthstones of both people in a couple.

Or, personalize that ring just for her - there are many possibilities.

Rings personalized with a birthstone are great, so are initials rings (a ring personalized with her first initial), or name rings, rings with her name on it.

Personalized Necklaces and Pendants

Personalized necklaces are very popular; necklaces personalized with a first name of the wearer used to be all the rage a few years ago, and they are still pretty popular.

There are many different personalizations to choose from.

You may pick for the name to be written in regular letters or script letters, and you may pick a birthstone to be added to the necklace.





Personalized necklaces and pendants come in many different looks and concepts.

Take a look at a few different ones, and pick the one that reflects the style of the woman you love.

Personalized Bracelets

These are also very popular, and there are many to choose from.

Some bracelets are personalized with the recipient's name while others may be personalized with both of your names.

Yet, others may have her birthstone or a few of her birthstones on it, making it one of a kind bracelet just for her.

Next time when you are looking for a romantic gift for the one you love, get her a personalized piece of jewelry.

You will be glad you did - she will love it!





Chapter 15: Jewelry Shopping on the Internet

Time has changed shopping completely, gone are the days when you spent hours locating her kind of jewelry in different malls and stores and cost you more than you actually spent on the jewel.

Now, the same quality and varieties are available in just a click of the mouse.

The Internet has revolutionized shopping for everything...including jewelry.

Nowadays, the wholesale internet shopping market has widened and reached to new heights.

It provides a hassle free and enjoyable experience for shoppers to get what they want in a rather economical range.

So, the Internet has become a great source of fine and beautiful jewels to serve the purpose of buyers.

The benefits of shopping from internet is not only limited to cost saving and time saving factors but it is also a convenient mode that carries different attractive offers and discounts that are quite important while shopping for jewelry .

Moreover, some sites on internet are selling jewelry for the general public and for dealers that increases the choice for buyers to look out for best deal.

Not only this, you may also get some of the rare gems and jewelry on the sites that are usually difficult in stores.

Having reach to the world wide gem stores and manufacturers, internet shopping brings you different kinds and types of jewels and gems at one place.



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It is only place, where you can get glorious from different shades of Indian rubies to brilliant emeralds of Brazil thus it is a whole world in itself.

These sites also have a team of experienced gemologists and experts, who value the jewel at the correct prices on the basis of their actual worth.

They also undertake the work of providing useful and necessary information related to jewels and their precautions to buyers that enhance the confidence and trust of buyers towards the sites.

Therefore, shopping from internet is becoming really popular.

The Internet provides you really cool gift items that are not only classy but economical too. You can everything from an inexpensive pair of earrings to a costly set in diamond, internet features something for everyone.

Even if you don't like the gift, order your preferred gift with your ideas that will surely find it somehow and deliver it you shortly as they have got a wide access.

Besides, it also has the facility to deliver the goods anywhere no matter where you are so; it has connectivity from one corner of the world to another corner

If you're considering a gift of jewelry for someone special, take some time to learn the terms used in the industry.

Gold

Gold means all gold or 24 karat (24K) gold.

Because 24K gold is soft, it's usually mixed with other metals to increase its durability and hardness.

If a piece of jewelry is not 24 karat gold, the karat quality should accompany any claim that the item is gold.





Platinum

Platinum is a precious metal that costs more than gold. It is usually mixed with other similar metals: iridium, palladium, ruthenium, rhodium and osmium.

Different markings are used on platinum jewelry as compared with gold jewelry.

These quality markings are based on the amount of pure platinum in the piece - based on parts per thousand.

Gemstones

Natural gemstones are found in nature whereas laboratory-created stones are made in a laboratory.

These stones have essentially the same chemical, physical and visual properties as natural gemstones.

Laboratory-created stones do not have the rarity of naturally colored stones and they are less expensive than naturally mined stones.

By contrast, imitation stones look like natural stones in appearance only, and may be glass, plastic, or less costly stones.

Gemstones may be measured by weight, size, or both.

The basic unit for weighing gemstones is the carat.

Diamonds

A diamond's value is based on four criteria: color, cut, clarity, and carat.

The clarity and color of a diamond usually are graded.

However, scales are not uniform: a clarity grade of "slightly included" may represent a different grade on one grading system versus another, depending on the terms used in the scale.





Make sure you know how a particular scale and grade represent the color or clarity of the diamond you're considering.

A diamond is described as "flawless" if it has no visible surface or internal imperfections when viewed under 10-power magnification by a skilled diamond grader.

Diamond weight is usually stated in carats.

Pearls

Natural or real pearls are made by oysters and other mollusks.

Cultured pearls also are grown by mollusks, but with human intervention.

Because natural pearls are very rare, most pearls used in jewelry are either cultured or imitation pearls.



Imitation pearls are man-made with glass, plastic, or organic materials.

Cultured pearls, because they are made by oysters or mollusks, usually are more expensive than imitation pearls.

A cultured pearl's value is largely based on its size, usually stated in millimeters, and the quality of its nacre coating, which gives it luster.

Jewelers will usually tell you if the pearls are cultured or imitation.

To get the best deal on a piece of jewelry for yourself or someone you love, shop around.

You should compare quality, price, and service. If you're not familiar with any jewelers in your area, ask family members, friends, and co-workers for recommendations.



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Always check for the appropriate markings on metal jewelry and find out if the pearls are natural, cultured, laboratory-created or imitation.

Also, Find out whether the gemstone has been treated. Is the change permanent? Is special care required?

Shop with companies you know or do some homework before buying to make sure a company is legitimate before doing business with it.

Get the details about the product, as well as the merchant's refund and return policies, before you buy.

Look around the website for an address to write to or a phone number to call if you have a question, a problem or need help.





Chapter 16: Buying “Fad” Jewelry

The first thing to remember when you are considering buying “fad” jewelry is that fads come and fads go so investing big bucks in fad jewelry isn’t the wisest choice.

There are several fads that are raging at the moment and others that have come and withstood the test of time.

Weigh carefully the number of dollars you are going to spend against the time the piece will be worn and make your decision accordingly.

Body Jewelry

One thing that teenagers and the young twenty-somethings are into at the moment is “Body Jewelry”.

Body jewelry and body piercing practices have been observed by various groups of people all over the world throughout the centuries.

For some tribes it is a rite of passage, for others it is an indicator of social status.

For many, body jewelry is used to enhance personal beauty and as devices to rise above the rest of the pack.

Today's celebrities have been at the forefront in making body jewelry much more mainstream and acceptable – even desirable.

For today’s’ teens and young twenties, it is a fad mostly because the stars they admire are wearing it.

“What's a little pain if it'll make me look hip” seems to be the prevalent thought among the young and the old who are turning out in increasing numbers to participate in the body jewelry trend.





Not so long ago, only punk rockers and those with 'bad boy' images, such as former NBA star Dennis Rodman, were seen sporting body piercings in mainstream media.

Today, body jewelry is endorsed by pop celebrities with mass followings, including Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Fiona Apple and Lenny Kravitz.

Britney Spears has an extensive collection of navel rings, and Christina Aguilera is said to wear the most interesting body jewelry in areas that are covered by her clothing.

Hip Hop Jewelry

Another one of today's fads is "Hip Hop" jewelry.

One of the coolest things in the hip hop line is spinning rims. Spinning rims started on cars, but they didn't stop there.

These flashing spinning rims have fast taken over the hip hop jewelry world.

Hey, they look great! Why not have them around your neck or on your belt buckles?

The concept is a simple one.

The rims that are on car tires are simply spinning, or turning.

Even when the car is at a stand still, it looks like the car is moving. Very cool trick!

But, take this to the level of jewelry and you have all sorts of options available to you.

There are pendants, watches, rings, and belt buckles that are spinning rims.





They look just like the rims that are on cars in some cases, but not in all! In fact, you will find that there are a number of spinning rims that have anything but a car theme.

They are often used to symbolize whatever means the most to the person wearing them.

Support for their favorite hip hop bands and singers or perhaps a reference to the New York town they are from are just a couple examples of what you can find in spinning rims.

Whatever they are, they are in demand and a great way to express yourself.

Many people are demanding great things from spinning rims.

Customized designs as well as added accessories like flashing and gems are just a few of the things that are now available to anyone who wants them.

The good news is that there are a number of great websites online that offer a huge selection of the spinning rims that everyone wants even providing for new designs all the time.

So, if the stars of hip hop are wearing these spinning rims, you can count on them to be around, in demand, and fabulous!

Estate Jewelry

Estate jewelry is a current fad but this one could stick around awhile.

Estate jewelry is available with a variety of base metals. Silver, gold, copper, and brass are all popular.

There are shiny pieces, matte pieces; there are glittering rhinestones, subtle gemstones. Large pieces, dainty pieces.





The costume jewelry of the earlier eras was often based on design ideas of fine jewelry and it had an artistic flare that has never been surpassed in the jewelry industry.

This jewelry is from a time period where jewelry stood out above the rest.

And it still does!

Estate jewelry has been popular for many years but just recently it has seen an incredible surge in popularity.

Women are tired of looking like everyone else.

They want to show off their unique personality and their very own fashion statement.

Since this can be difficult to do with clothing that is mass produced and jewelry that is mass produced they have turned to estate jewelry for that gorgeous unique finished touch.

They know that they will have the finishing touches that no other woman has.

When they walk into the room they know that they will be unique and beautiful and make their fashion statement! No one will forget!

Animal Jewelry

Animal jewelry has always been popular.

Even in ancient Egypt, people wore jewelry fashioned after animals like the cat and the ibis.

In modern times, you see animal jewelry captured in charm bracelets and necklaces.

Why is animal jewelry still popular today?



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Here are a few reasons to consider when you think about how appealing animal jewelry can be.

When choosing animal jewelry for a gift, first consider the person you are buying the gift for and choose accordingly.

Who can ever get tired of watching birds fly or kittens play?

Because animals are fun to look at in nature, jewelers use them in their work.

People often go to nature for inspiration and then use it in their creations.

Animals have a simple elegance to them that is always complementary to a nice outfit.

Fads and trends are just that they are here today and gone soon after.

Animal designs seem to withstand all of that because they don't change.

Over the course of human existence, animals have remained in about the same state as they were when we first saw them.

Polka-dots, loops, zigzags, and starburst bracelets all go out of style at some point.

Animals have a degree of permanency that allows for constant design inspiration

Other people wear certain animal jewelry because it is a representation of them.

Someone who wears a lot of dolphin jewelry might have an affinity for the ocean, freedom, playfulness, and intelligence.



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Someone else might like elephant jewelry because they are bold, strong, and majestic.





Chapter 17: Finding Antique Jewelry

You would love giving your lady a piece of antique jewelry if you could afford it, right?

Well, maybe you can.

Maybe you just aren't looking in the right places or putting forth enough effort to find it.

Antique jewelry is typically very valuable, and purchasing such jewelry costs quite a bit of money.

But then again, it is possible to buy antique jewelry wholesale - if you know where to look.

Most people think that online auctions, such as eBay are the way to go.

While this is true occasionally, you will usually find that the seller knows the value of what they are selling, and the price is quite high.

Estate and Garage Sales

There are other ways to find antique jewelry at wholesale prices - or below.

Keep an eye on your newspaper for advertised estate sales and garage sales.

Typically, at these sales, the people holding the sale really don't know the value of what they have.

You can literally purchase hundreds or thousands of dollars worth of antique jewelry for just a few dollars on a typical Saturday morning.

It is important that you not look too closely at the jewelry when you are buying it.



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If the piece is valuable, you don't want the seller to know how valuable it is!

It isn't your fault that they didn't get it appraised - as you will as soon as you leave! Keep a straight face, keep your happiness and joy to yourself, and pay the fifty cents or two bucks that they want for the piece, get in your car and head to a trusted jeweler for an appraisal!

It is possible that the piece isn't worth anything - but occasionally, you will stumble across some real finds!

Even if the piece isn't worth anything, if you make jewelry, you may be able to disassemble it for the parts.

Finding antique jewelry wholesale is very exciting. In fact, spending those Saturday mornings at the yard sales and estate sales may even become addicting!

Yard sales and estate sales - especially estate sales where grandchildren are not interested in their grandma's old ugly jewelry are the best sources for antique jewelry at wholesale prices - or below wholesale prices.

eBay

This doesn't mean that there aren't some real finds on eBay as well, so don't discount it.



Keep an eye on the jewelry categories, as well as the antique or vintage categories.

When you do find something you want to bid on, make sure that the seller has a good reputation.

If the piece is very expensive, use the escrow service that is recommended by eBay.



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Also talk to the seller quite a bit to be sure that you understand exactly what is being advertised!





Chapter 18: Jewelry Boxes and Armoires as Gifts

Ladies love jewelry but they also need a place to keep it and keep it organized so they can find the piece they are looking for.

You might consider giving her a jewelry box or an armoire with a promise to fill it to the brim.

Jewelry boxes come in a variety of styles and sizes....some, of course, more expensive than others but none cost an arm and a leg.

They sit on her dresser. They are sold at most stores that sell jewelry.

Jewelry armoires are tall jewelry boxes of varying heights.

They always have stacked drawers and some include hooks where you can hang longer items such as necklaces.



The smaller armoires can sit on a dresser but the larger ones are like small pieces of furniture and are free standing.

There are a lot of things you need to know if you are considering giving her a jewelry armoire.

The French word armoire originally meant an arms cabinet or gun storage, but not anymore.

In these modern times, an armoire is defined as a tall cabinet, usually with drawers, shelves and doors.

Armoires nowadays can be wardrobe armoires, jewelry armoires, entertainment armoires and just recently even computer armoires.

Even family-friendly Wal-Mart stocks faux burl wood jewelry armoires for less than \$200 if ordered online.





Here are some tips on how to choose a jewelry armoire for your lady.

Wood vs Non-wood

The first thing you need to know is your woods or non-woods and including your pretend woods.

And then decide what your lady would most prefer.

Would she like her jewelry armoire to gain more character and charm even with wear?

Then a real solid wood jewelry armoire is for you.

Most real wood jewelry armoires are made from oak, maple or pine, so you can choose from the classic yellow brown oaks, regal cherry red maples or mission brown practical pines.

Would she not mind the look of an engineered MDF teamed with laminates or wood veneers for her first jewelry armoire?

Then you can hop on to the internet and shop for hand-carved, hand-painted jewelry armoire beauties which look like wood and cost less.

Where Will It Be Located?

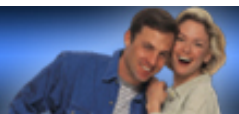
The next thing to decide is where she is going to put your jewelry armoire.

Will it stand next to the Victorian mahogany chest of drawers in her bedroom?

How much space does she have for it?

Would she want it to match with the other furniture in the room or would she want it to be a centerpiece?

Depending on her answers (or what you think her answers would be, you may want to consider the homely French country style with its





handcrafted doors, the elegant Queen Anne dark cherry heirloom style or the chunkier mission brown jewelry chest box style.

How Will It Be Used?

Will it be mainly a storage space for her jewelry?

Then you may want a tall chest of six to eight drawers with sides that swing open to hang her pearls and necklaces.

Or will it be a place where she can sit down, try on that flaming red ruby necklace after she has put on her makeup?

Then you might consider buying a shorter vanity armoire with mirror, vanity and a soft-cushioned bench.

Any Security Issues?

Are there any other security considerations for your jewelry armoire?

Does she have home contents insurance but would still feel safer if her jewels are locked?

Then you may want to get a jewelry armoire that can be locked.

Any Other Issues to Consider?

Are there any feng shui (or child proofing) considerations for her jewelry armoire?

Does it have to have round edges so as not to shoot sharp darts of energy while she is trying to relax before an important party?

Would she be afraid a toddler might bang her head on the sharp rectangular edges of her jewelry armoire as she uncontrollably waddles to her while she is putting on a pair of ruby earrings?

Then the half-round jewelry armoire with rounded legs might be the one you should consider





How Much Can You Afford?

And last but not least - how much are you willing to pay for it?

Does your budget fall around the \$300 mark?

Then you can buy popular, best selling brands in real oak with mirror, eight drawers and side swing doors to hang all your pearls and golden necklaces.

Do you have around \$400 to spare?

Then you can get her an elegant dark cherry red maple Queen Anne jewelry armoire accented with detail rice carved posts on its door face.

How about if you just have \$59.95?

Then the excitement of the hunt for good and used jewelry armoires is for you.

Last time I checked there was a cherry Queen Anne jewelry armoire chest box being auctioned on eBay for a mere \$59.95. But you better hurry.





Chapter 19: Buying “THE” Ring

With kindness, patience, faithfulness and a host of other virtues, you'll only be buying one engagement ring in your lifetime.

But an engagement ring is a big investment.

With your lack of experience, how are you going to make sure you find one that your lady likes but is still a wise purchase?



Follow these ten steps, and you're sure to find the perfect engagement ring.

Decide How Much to Spend

When a guy's shopping for an engagement ring, salesmen sometimes do a sneaky thing – they make him think that the amount of his love is tied to how much he spends on a ring.

Better to figure out how much you can afford to spend before you step foot in a store.

The standard rule is two months salary – but – this is also a rule that the diamond industry created!

However it's still a decent place to start, but then figure out your personal budget.

Pay Attention

You're going to have to make a lot of choices:

- Platinum or gold?
- Modern or traditional?
- Flashy or understated?

It's easier if you've done your homework beforehand.





Look at the jewelry your sweetheart wears on a daily basis – if it's all silver with intricate designs – look for a platinum engagement ring with intricate designs (often called filigree).

If it's just a few heavy gold pieces, well, then go in that direction.

Choose a Stone

While jewelers will sell you a preset ring, you can often get a better deal if you choose the diamond separately.

It helps if you know what shape your sweetheart wants – round, pear, marquis, etc.

The most classic shape is a round solitaire.

Another money saving tip – look for a diamond with high color and cut, but with slightly lower clarity.

Make sure you look at the stone with a jeweler's loupe (like a magnifying glass) – but most flaws (or "inclusions") can barely be seen even with a loupe.

Choose the Setting

After you've got your stone, then comes the setting.

You could go for simple with a solitaire setting, or you could add filigree, extra side stones, and other details.

You can choose gold, white or rose gold, platinum, or even titanium.

Get the Most Bang for the Buck

If your intended is always talking about huge diamond engagement rings, but two months of your salary wouldn't buy a Big Mac, you're going to have to stretch the budget.

Ask for a stone with more surface area – it won't sparkle as much but it will look bigger.



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Ask for stones that are slightly less than the next carat (0.8 instead of 1 or 1.9 instead of 2) – the almost indiscernible difference can add up to big savings. Instead of a diamond solitaire engagement ring.

Consider a less expensive center gemstone (such as tourmaline, blue topaz, sapphire) flanked by two small diamonds.

Choose white gold instead of platinum.

Take a friend

Don't go into a jewelry store alone.

They're scary places full of way too many choices. If you can, bring your sweetheart's best friend or mom along to help you choose.

But if you're worried they'll spill the beans, bring a trusted buddy of yours.

Make sure they have taste, or you'll be trying to propose with a ringpop.

Also, assuming they like the person you're buying it for, this is a great moment to bond with your parents and get their advice.

Think About Bringing Your Lady With You

You'll lose the element of surprise, but you'll be sure that she likes her engagement ring.

More and more couples are doing it this way and some people swear this is the only way to do it.

Find a Quality Jeweler

Ask for recommendations from friends and family.

My advice is to stick to the mom and pop jewelers and try to avoid the national chains – they often sacrifice quality for mass marketing.





But make sure the store is accredited by the Jewelers of America or is a member of the Gemological Institute of America (GIA).

Before you buy, find out what the return policy is so that you can exchange it if you didn't do your homework properly.

Shop on Time

You may not be able to just walk out of a jewelry store with a ring.

Not only will you need to save up for it, but depending on what you order it could take a couple weeks for them to set the stone, do any engraving, or even custom design your ring (like Brad Pitt did for Jennifer Aniston).

So if you want to propose on a certain date, make sure you start working on the ring early.

Get it In Writing

Would you buy a house without an inspection? No?

Well then don't buy a diamond without an independent diamond-grading report from the GIA or the American Gem Society.

It should include the 4 c's of color, cut, clarity and carat, as well as the shape and size.

And, like your house, don't forget to get the ring insured.





Chapter 20: Buying Antique Engagement Rings

While modern day jewelers struggle to offer customers something unique and contemporary, the bride-to-be may be more inclined to appreciate the style and inherent charm of an antique.

There are as many good reasons to decide when to pop the question as there are to consider purchasing an antique engagement ring.

A perfectly acceptable reason for purchasing antique engagement rings is they often offer buyers a better quality diamond at a lower price than purchasing a new ring.

Before beginning your search for the perfect engagement ring or wedding set, it is best to ask yourself a few questions and be as informed as possible.

Do Your Homework First

The four C's are the criteria professionals use to determine the value of a diamond.

Clarity

Clarity takes into account the number, character, and visibility of flaws within the stone.

These are often referred to as inclusions. And the fewer inclusions then the better the quality of the stone.

Clarity

Carat is the size or weight of the diamond and the larger the stone, the higher the cost.

An advantage to buying antique engagement rings is that in the 1930s and 1940s jewelers often compensated for a smaller sized diamond by setting it in an intricately designed white gold, square-shaped box.





These made the stone appear larger.

Color

Color is a matter of taste.

Modern-day standards put a higher value on a clear diamonds, as a rule.

In the past, buyers wanted their diamonds to reflect a rainbow of colors, soft pinks, yellow, or green tints.

While colored diamonds are still available today, they were considered more valuable in the past.

It is also important to note that many of the modern colored diamonds are artificially altered to enhance the color.

Cut

Cut is also a matter of taste and another reason antique engagement rings may be the best answer.

Over the years, the preference of cut has changed.

A laser now cuts most diamonds; whereas older stones were normally cut by hand, giving them a more customized, romantic look.

Antique and Estate Rings

What is the difference between an antique ring and an estate ring?

Well, antique rings normally refer to rings that are over 50 years old.

Rings less than 50 years old and purchased used are considered as estate rings.

Each historical era has it's own styles, here are some of the most prevalent.

Victorian Era (1835-1900)





Victorian era antique engagement rings featured diamonds or pearls set in yellow or rose gold.

The ring styles varied from simple elegance to intricate detail.

Many settings featured rows of diamonds that were cut with an extra facet in the bottom of the stone.

This was known as a mine cut.

Edwardian Era (1900-1920)

With the invention of the oxyacetylene torch, platinum became the preferred metal for the period.

The wedding bands were often crafted with lacy and pierced shapes, milgraining, filigree detail, and scrollwork.

Rose-cut diamonds and sapphires were the preferred stones.

Art Deco Era (1920-1930)

Art Deco antique engagement rings feature a streamlined geometric look.

They also reflect Egyptian, Asian, and Native American cultures.

These rings were often made of platinum featured colorful, contrasting gemstones as well as diamonds.

Where to Buy

Antique engagement rings can be purchased in a number of places:

- Antique stores
- Estate sales
- Pawn shops
- Auctions
- Select online vendors



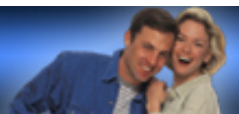
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- Larger cities have people who specialize in the purchase and resale of antique jewelry

No matter where you purchase your engagement rings, remember to get a full description of your purchase in writing and look to vendors who offer a written returns policy.

You may also ask if the jewelry comes with a certified gemologists report, which provides optimal proof that the jewelry is as described.





Chapter 21: Personalize the Rings

If you want to really personalize your wedding bands, why not engrave them with something romantic, personal and meaningful to you – whether simple (your initials and the wedding date), humorous (Put it back on!), romantic (Yours Forever) or religious (Joined under God).

Here are some more engraving ideas to get you started:

Romantic

- From this day forward...
- This day and always
- From this moment on
- Truly, Madly, Deeply
- Love for Infinity
- Love and cherish for eternity
- My love, my life, my friend

Humorous

- May The Force Be With Us
- A deal's a deal
- Nonrefundable
- Pookums loves Honeybear forever
- You're Stuck With Me Now!





- Have you lost it yet?

Simple

- In the groom's ring write (bride's name) to (groom's name) in the bride's write (groom's name) to (bride's name) plus the date.
- Just the wedding date
- I promise
- The title from your wedding song
- I Love You
- Till death do us part
- Beloved
- The infinity symbol

Religious

- By the Grace of God
- Whom God has joined together let no man put asunder
- In God and thee my joy shall be
- Joined under God
- God bless this marriage
- United as one





Recommended Resources

Everything a hopeless (or hopelessly clueless) romantic might need!

Here is information from tips to freshen up your everyday romance routine to a collection of our favorite Web site links to expand your horizons to the most romantic gifts, pet names, movies and songs.

When you're searching for simple ways to stay out of the doghouse and in your lover's heart, check out these sweet ideas!

Jewelry

[Ultra Diamonds](#) is the 7th largest retailer of fine jewelry in the United States.

Ultra Diamonds offer luxurious high-ticket jewelry pieces at dramatic discount, backed by a customer-reassuring 30-day online-sale return policy and free shipping for qualifying orders.



Flowers

[FlowerFarm.com](#) has been providing customers around the world with the freshest flowers and finest selection of plants, gift baskets, gourmet foods, confections and plush stuffed animals perfect for every occasion.

It offers the best of both worlds: exquisite, florist-designed arrangements individually created by some of the world's top floral artists and hand-delivered the same day, and spectacular flowers shipped overnight "Fresh From Our Growers."



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Flowers from **\$34.99** USD + ship



flowerfarm.com
A Proflowers Company





Gifts

zChocolat.com There are so many holidays and special occasions throughout the year where gifts are the traditional way to celebrate.

Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, New Babies, etc. keep us constantly searching for another unique and heartfelt gift.

And nothing says better than chocolate.

zChocolat.com has been rated Forbes's favorite online chocolatier by Forbes Inc since March 2005.

And each chocolates are hand-made by Pascal Caffet, world champion.



Wine

WineAccess.com: Wine is one of history's most popular drinks. With its rich, over 7,000 year, history, wine has held a special place spanning time and cultures.

It has quenched thirst and warded off disease. It has acted as an antiseptic in times of war, and as a muse to poets, writers and scholars during times of peace. No other drink can claim such pedigree.

So, when you are looking for a fabulous selection of high-quality, reasonably priced, wines from around the world, look no further than WineAccess.com.





Guide to Romantic Night

[Guide to Romantic Night](#) offers the best selection of items that help plan a romantic evening for you and your love ones.

If you're looking for the widest assortment of ideas at great prices, you've come to the right place.

You'll find an abundance of exciting options to choose from, all designed to delight the person you're giving to.

