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Classic Solitaire Engagement Rings for a Moment Sheâ€™TMII Never Forget [Alexandra Gulkin](#)

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Classic solitaire engagement rings are the quintessential expression of a coupleâ€™TM's intent to devote their lives to one another, through the good and the bad, the highs and the lows, for better or for worse. Here are a few tips on selecting the perfect diamond engagement ring for that moment sheâ€™TMII remember for a lifetime.

Todayâ€™TM's Classic Solitaire

While diamond engagement rings have been the standard symbol of betrothal for many generations, design elements have evolved over the years in keeping with todayâ€™TM's lifestyles and fashion trends. Classic solitaire engagement rings are still a very sentimental and elegant option, but these days you have a lot more options for â€œdressing them upâ€• if you so choose. Selecting a unique setting or embellishing your engagement ring with accents of smaller diamonds or other gemstones are just a couple of ways you might decide to customize a ring specifically to suit her own personal tastes and style. Many jewelers now feature â€œdesign your own ringâ€• options, allowing for the complete customization of engagement rings. This is a great way to create a one-of-a-kind piece of diamond jewelry thatâ€™TM's uniquely representative of that once-in-a-lifetime love you share.

Tips on Getting the Best Value on Loose Diamonds

Designing your own engagement ring begins with the selection of the diamond solitaire, and loose diamonds are available for this purpose in virtually every shape and size. Itâ€™TM's easy to become enamored by the biggest and the brightest, but the next feeling is often one of discouragement as you view the prices of these diamond solitaires. While diamond jewelry is certainly an investment, there are a few tricks that will help you to assure youâ€™TM're getting the best value for your money which, incidentally, does not usually involve the most expensive diamond. On the contrary, the best value in loose diamonds can be found by knowing in which areas itâ€™TM's okay to â€œskimp.â€•

The classic solitaire diamond is rated primarily on its characteristics of cut, color, clarity and carat weight, also known as â€œthe four Câ€™TM's.â€• What many people donâ€™TM't realize, however, is that a diamond doesnâ€™TM't need to be perfectly â€œflawlessâ€• or â€œcolorlessâ€• to be fiery and brilliant. Choosing a diamond with a slightly lesser rating, especially in the two key areas of color and clarity, most often results in a very significant savings, with little or no sacrifice whatsoever in the areas of sparkle and overall beauty. The secret of cut in a classic solitaire is in itâ€™TM's ability to maximize the refraction of light through a diamond, effectively highlighting a diamondâ€™TM's inner fire as well as, in some cases, increasing the stoneâ€™TM's appearance of size. So if youâ€™TM're diamond shopping on a budget, the trick to getting the best value for your money is to invest in a higher quality cut, even if it means you have to sacrifice a grade â€œ or even two â€œ in the areas of clarity and color.

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Alexandra Gulkin is a reporter, writer and columnist in the jewelry industry. She is celebrated for her real-time coverage of trade shows, jewelry trends in a [classic solitaire engagement rings](#), gemstones, events and secrets on where to find the highest quality a [diamond engagement rings](#).

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