



All that Glitters

A CENTURY OF RAZZLE-DAZZLE

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Traditional Birthstones

Many different sets of birthstones have been used throughout the centuries and throughout the world. In 1912, Jewelers of America standardized the traditional list. The list has since been modernized, and less expensive stones have been recognized as alternatives.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Traditional</i>	<i>Modern</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
January	garnet	garnet	rose quartz
February	amethyst	amethyst	onyx
March	bloodstone	aquamarine	red jasper (bloodstone)
April	diamond, sapphire	diamond	quartz (rock crystal)
May	emerald, agate	emerald	chrysoprase
June	alexandrite, emerald	pearl, moonstone	alexandrite
July	ruby, onyx	ruby	jade, carnelian
August	sardonyx, carnelian	peridot	adventurine, sardonyx, or sapphire
September	sapphire, peridot	sapphire	lapis lazuli
October	opal	opal	pink tourmaline
November	citrine, topaz	yellow topaz	citrine or turquoise
December	zircon, ruby	turquoise	lapis lazuli or tanzanite

Garnet signifies eternal friendship and trust. It comes in a wide range of colors, from deep red to vibrant green.

Amethyst is purple quartz. It is associated with myths, legends, religions, and royalty.

Bloodstone is a dark green jasper flecked with red spots of iron oxide. It was believed to have healing powers by the ancient Babylonians.

Diamonds can be colorless or have hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green.

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All that Glitters *(continued)*

Emeralds are the symbol of rebirth, foresight, good fortune, and youth. They were mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C.

Pearls were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire. In Tudor England, the 1500s were known as "the pearl age." They are the only gems created from living sea creatures.

Alexandrite was discovered in Russia in 1831. This rare chrysoberyl, named after Czar Alexander II, changes color from green in daylight to purplish-red in incandescent light.

Moonstone was named by the Roman naturalist Pliny, who believed its appearance altered with the phases of the moon. Part of the feldspar family, moonstones show adularescence, a floating play of light.

Rubies are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth, and success in love. Rubies are a red or purplish-red variety of the corundum family, which also includes sapphire.

Peridot is said to protect against nightmares. Ranging from yellowish-green to brown, it is formed by volcanic action.

Sardonyx is a form of onyx with layers of reddish-brown and white banding. Ancient Greeks and Romans carried sardonyx talismans into battle, and it is prized for creating cameos and intaglios.

Sapphires will protect loved ones from envy and harm. A member of the corundum family, it may be blue, pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow. The red varieties of corundum are rubies.

Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. It is formed of non-crystalline silica gel deposited in crevices.

Topaz may be orange, yellow, pink, purple, or blue. In ancient times, all yellow gemstones were called topaz.

Citrine is yellow quartz, ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish-orange. It is said to support vitality and health.

Zircon is found in a wide range of colors: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, and red. Colorless zircons have been used to imitate diamonds.

Turquoise is one of the oldest known gemstones, with colors ranging from greenish-blue and robin's egg blue to sky blue. It may be translucent or opaque.

