

# DARK dazzlers

## Black Diamonds Rising Popularity

By: Katie Lindley

A single multi-faceted rock shines mysteriously from a bed of tiny white diamonds. The subtly sparkling surface beckons the gazer to come closer. Black diamonds provide the perfect contrast to traditional white diamonds. These dark dazzlers are stepping out of their previous place as accent stones and taking center stage. With their dark shimmer and surprising hue, their rise in popularity was bound to happen.

The prized white diamond may be the most know, but “diamonds can in come in every color,” said John Reed, the owner of JWR Jewelers and a graduate gemologist from the Gemologist’s Institute of America. Black is just one color on the spectrum of fancy diamonds from yellow to green, pink to blue. Many times, black diamonds are enhanced making them treated fancy colored diamonds, said Reed.



Unlike traditional white diamonds, light does not travel through the stone, instead it reflects solely off the surface, explained Reed. This creates a different kind of shimmer when the stone is placed in the setting. It still shines bright, but does not contain the blinding quality of a white diamond.

The perfect contrast of the dark stone in a metallic setting could be achieved with other dark stones like onyx, but for durability and shimmer, diamonds are the best choice. “The surface [of other stones] is not polished nearly as high and as crisp as a diamond would be,” said Reed.

Reed is seeing most black diamonds in a rose cut, “which means they’re cut with facets all the way across the top of the stone.” The rose cut is a cut that was popular in the nineteenth century before widespread electricity. This cut gave the stone the most sparkle under candlelight and gas lamps, and it’s making a comeback giving glorious luster to black diamonds.

Price also proves to be a motivator when choosing black diamonds. Black diamonds tend to cost significantly less than white and other fancy colored diamonds. Because they are much more common than white diamonds and they garner less demand, these dark dazzlers allow those who need diamonds in their jewelry boxes to make investments in beautiful durable pieces that are sure to gain value as the popularity of black diamonds continues to increase.

Reed has seen about a \$400 increase in the price of a carat sized stone in the past two to three years.



Black diamonds have emerged from their shadow to take a spot in jewelry design formerly reserved for the classic white diamond. Fancy colored diamonds add flair and personality to fine jewelry, and at a price that seems almost obtainable, black diamond pieces can be the beginning of a collection that will last a lifetime.