

Adorn Your Coffee Table with *Gem*, the Definitive Guide to Jewelry

Presented by DK and the Smithsonian, with a foreword from Stoned author Aja Raden, Gem reveals the stories, myths and legends surrounding history's most celebrated jewels and jewelry houses

Gem: The Definitive Visual Guide

Together with the Smithsonian Institution, DK announces the publication of *Gem* (October 4, 2016), a truly unique conversation piece for every jewelry lover's coffee table. At six-pounds, 440-pages, this stunning volume is both a compendium of the world's natural treasures and a fascinating chronicle of our love affair with precious stones.

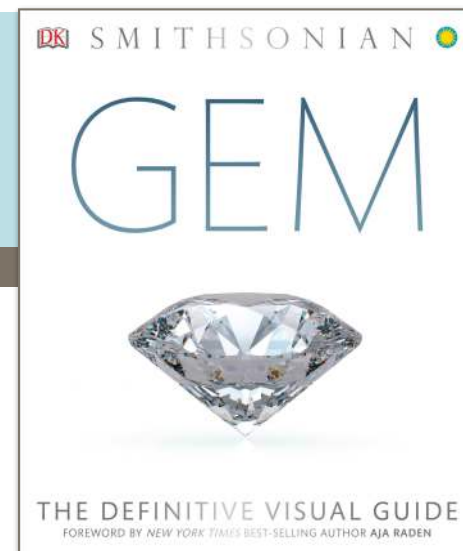
"Our need to see and possess glowing, shining jewels is as intrinsic to what we are, as who we are," says Aja Raden, experienced jeweler, trained scientist and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Stoned* (Ecco, 2015), in the book's foreword. To know them is to love them, so *Gem* takes readers inside the world of fine jewelry, semiprecious stones, organic gems and precious metals to provide everything there is to know on the science, history and mythology around them.

From diamonds to sapphires to limestone, this in-depth guide features specially commissioned photography that profiles all major gem types and other precious materials, revealing the riches of the Earth, from raw minerals to exquisite jewelry. *Gem* goes beyond other reference books by showcasing some of the rarest and most valuable stones and jewel-laden artifacts in history, describing in rich detail the stories and legends that surround them, from their journeys in the company of royalty, film stars and thieves to the curse of the Hope Diamond and Ludwig II's pocket watch. It also shares the history of the world's most famous jewelry houses and their designers, including Cartier, Harry Winston, Tiffany & Co. and more.

Crystal-clear photography and illustrations abound on each page to showcase the gems' different cuts, colors and uses. *Gem* concludes with an 80-page illustrated directory that provides all necessary comprehensive data to a variety of other rocks and nonprecious stones. Its lavish jacket features a debossed and foiled diamond, making it perfect for gift-giving this holiday season.

About Aja Raden

Foreword writer Aja Raden studied ancient history and physics at the University of Chicago and, during that time, worked as the Head of Auction Division at the famed House of Kahn. For over seven years, she was the Senior Designer for Los Angeles-based fine jewelry company Tacori. Raden is an experienced jeweler, trained scientist, and well-read historian, and her expertise sits at the intersection of academic history, industry experience, and scientific perspective. She lives in Beverly Hills, California, and is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Stoned: Jewelry, Obsession, and How Desire Shapes the World*.



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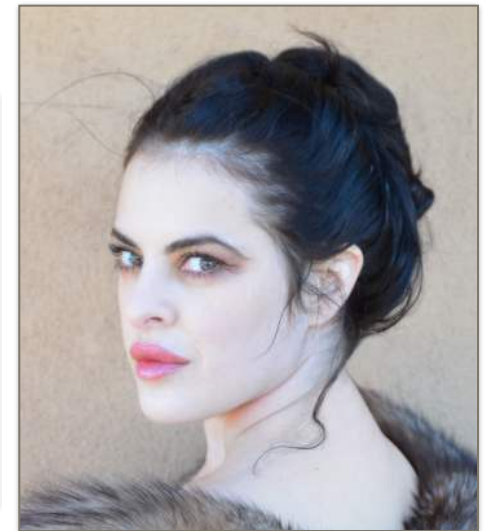
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Sample Page Spreads



Foreword by Aja Raden

Talking Points

- Why Aja Raden describes her work as “history’s curio cabinet of forgotten jewels”
- The wildest gem- or jewel-related facts Raden has come across in her research
- Stories, myths, and legends surrounding the most celebrated jewel-laden artifacts from around the world
- The most common misconceptions about jewelry and precious metals
- Raden’s journey as an author writing about gems and jewelry through a scientific perspective
- The future of precious rocks, stones, and minerals, i.e. the invention and sophistication of synthetic diamonds

The Smithsonian

Established in 1846, the Smithsonian—the world’s largest museum and research complex—includes 19 museums and galleries and the National Zoological Park. The total number of artifacts, works of art, and specimens in the Smithsonian’s collections is estimated at 138 million, the bulk of which is contained in the National Museum of Natural History, which holds more than 126 million specimens and objects. The Smithsonian is a renowned research center dedicated to public education, national service, and scholarship in the arts, sciences, and history. www.si.edu

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"The comprehensive quality of *Gem* truly makes the need for Wikipedia searches obsolete. All the information you want is in this book. It is as necessary an edition to any jewelry library as the encyclopedia once was to every household."

—Marion Fasel,
TheAdventurine.com



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