



iamonds and Chocolates

Diamonds are forever!

The indomitable diamond with its characteristic hardness has long been a symbol of imperishability, strength, purity, and lasting love. Among gems it is peerless. A diamond can only be cut by another diamond. To ensure quality there's 5 C's to keep in mind: **Carat, Clarity, Color, Cut, Certification—and watch out for chicanery.** Know thy dealer, and don't cut corners. There are some diamonds come with a really steep price.

The Plotnik Diamond

A beautiful young wife showed off her diamond ring at a dinner party.

“This,” she dramatized, “is the famous Plotnik Diamond.”

“It's absolutely breathtaking!”

“Yes, and it even comes with its own curse!” Mrs. Plotnik boasted.

“My! Just like the Koh-i-noor, the Orlov, and the Hope! What exactly is the curse of the Plotnik Diamond?”

“Mr. Plotnik.”

Oh how sweet it is!

Bonbons, truffles, 10-pound bars! fudge, divinity, gourmet hand-dipped candies, meltaways, Hershey's Kisses, liqueur, soup, mousse, soufflé, and pudding. Belgians even smear chocolate on bread—a concoction known as *pâté à tartiner*. It's hard to imagine a friendless chocolate-maker! Good chocolate has been described by Chocosuisse, the Swiss trade association, as having an “unblemished, silky sheen,” with a full, rounded, unobtrusive aroma. Chocolate delights, cheers, enchants, keeps the lovelorn from pining away, is not really addictive despite the sobriquet “chocoholic,” and contains far less caffeine than a strong cup of coffee.

We need what money can't buy.

Could anything be better than finding a one-carat, blue-white flawless diamond nestled inside a piece of the world's finest chocolate? Yet life rarely works that way. We scour for the authentic but discover that much in our emporium is over-rated, synthetic, and cheap.

Jesus once likened the kingdom of heaven to an inestimable treasure buried in a field, or as a single pearl of great value. The one who finds this treasure or rare pearl shrewdly and joyfully gives his all to buy it. Jesus spoke of his kingdom as precious, priced out of this world. You can't buy it, but you can receive it when you receive him: *My kingdom is not founded in this world. You say that I am a king. The reason for my birth and the reason for my coming into the world is to witness to the truth. Every one who loves truth recognizes my voice.* He is the rare gift that keeps on giving in this earthly life, and in his heavenly kingdom to come.

A redeeming book is better than a cut-rate diamond.

