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## On Your Knee?

### Six Ways to Yes

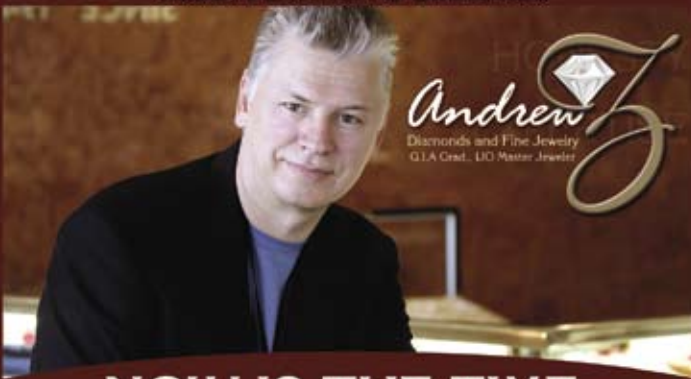
BY ANDREW Z

I was really surprised when I read the results of a poll asking women about their marriage proposals. The results indicated that around 80 percent felt that theirs were not memorable and, even though they were very happy to be engaged, the event itself was not exciting. In an effort to help change this, here are six different familiar but classic proposal ideas with a twist. You don't necessarily need to follow them verbatim, but rather use them to stimulate your own creativity. Whatever you decide to do, personalize it and make it memorable in a loving way. Be considerate in your plans and be careful not to embarrass anyone. And the final and most important suggestion: Be prepared with a nice diamond engagement ring.

#### Dinner Dates

1. Prepare a nice candlelight dinner for the two of you, with her favorite foods. Bring her a glass of champagne with the engagement ring not at the bottom of the glass, but tied to the stem with a ribbon.

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2. Take her to dinner at a nice Chinese restaurant. When dinner is over, give her a fortune cookie that has a message prepared in advance by you. The message could read, "Diamonds are in your near future," or "Will you marry me?" Of course, the next step is to hand her the ring. Special-message fortune cookies can be ordered online if the restaurant cannot prepare them.

### Sweet Nothin's for Sports

1. Take her to a high school or college basketball game. Forget the message on the marquee; instead, in advance, arrange with the school and sports announcer to call the two of you to center court for a special announcement, perhaps calling your seat numbers as "winners" of a "great prize." Offer a donation to the team in return. Once on center court, get down on one knee and take your best shot! A variation to the school sports proposal is to buy an ad in the program booklet, if the school has one, and include your proposal in it. Hand it to her and wait for her reaction.
2. Watching a game from home? Place the ring box at the bottom of her Cracker Jacks box. Pull the little prize out of your box and then ask her what prize she found inside.

### Romancing the Reader

1. Buy a book by one of her favorite romance authors. With a razor blade,

neatly cut out a pocket through the center of the pages—just like they do in spy movies to create a secret hiding place for valuables. Place the ring in this secret pocket. Make sure that there are a few uncut pages above the ring pocket. When the two of you are alone in a quiet place, give her the book and ask her to read a couple pages. If there is a great line or paragraph about love in the beginning, highlight it. Once she turns the page to the ring...well, you know the rest of this love story.

2. For your beloved bookworm, take her to the library or her favorite bookstore. Ask her to find a specific book for you while you "look" for something else. Prearrange to have the ring or ring box in the book's place, perhaps along with a special card or note with her name and "Will you marry me?" When she's gapping at the "book," rejoin her and write the happy ending!

If you are still unsure or a little uncomfortable about these suggestions, show these ideas to a female friend and get her opinion. If she's anything like the 80 percent that responded to the poll I mentioned, she'll be nodding a firm yes to the idea.

It's time to get off the fence and start setting the stage for a moment that she will never want to forget. Get your thoughts together and put this event in motion. Good luck! 🍀



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