

## Tekst 8

# So, Should You Buy a Diamond?

By TOM ZOELLNER

1 Jewellers know the look, the shy mixture of hesitation and happiness that crosses a man's face when he buys an engagement ring. He wants this piece of clear carbon to embody all the love he feels for his intended and to represent the new life they're embarking on. I felt it five years ago when I became one of the 1.7 million American men who buy a diamond ring each year. Later, my engagement unravelled and I began to think again about that ring and about the diamond trade that produced it. I realized there were questions I should have been asking about that diamond beyond the carat size and the price. Primarily, should you even buy a diamond?

2 The answer depends on whom you ask. The diamond trade would say yes. Watchdog groups like Global Witness would say no. Eight years ago, Global Witness produced damning evidence of jewel-related slaughter in several African nations. It caused an international scandal and gave rise to a policing mechanism called the Kimberley Process, which requires diamond-



exporting nations to seal their stones in a tamperproof container, with a document stating they were not mined in a war zone.

3 Has this worked? To research my book, *The Heartless Stone*, I travelled to Africa, where diamonds are mined in conditions that range from the orderly to the horrific, and found virtually no oversight of the violence-prone alluvial-mining sites. Many stones have made their way out

of the jungle and into suburban malls via somebody's lower intestinal tract. 28 the diamonds are not smuggled or traded for guns, the wages for the miners can be outrageously unfair. I met a team of

diggers in the Central African Republic who were routinely paid \$200 for large-carat diamonds that would easily retail for \$40,000 in the U.S.

4 There is persuasive evidence that the supply chain is easily infiltrated. A September U.S. report<sup>1)</sup> said flatly, "U.S. control systems cannot help deter illicit rough diamonds from entering the legitimate trade." Another disturbing finding: the U.S. reported exporting more diamonds

than it received in 2003; 29 trade imbalance for a nation without a single working mine. The GAO said, with bureaucratic dryness, that such figures were “not plausible”.

5 The Kimberley Process has two loopholes that can't be easily plugged. The first, as the U.S. report's findings indicate, is that it would be difficult to design a better tool for money laundering, arms dealing and cross-border smuggling than a diamond - all that liquidity in such a tiny space. Diamonds can be bought with dirty money, moved across African borders with relative ease, given false paperwork and then sent onward to the trading centres of Europe.

6 The second is that Kimberley concerns itself only with nations that are in a state of war as defined by the United Nations. This essentially 31 all kinds of miserable deeds in places like Angola, which is still recovering from a grinding 30-year war and where murder and robbery are facets of daily life in the diamond fields. I was told that miners have been gutted if they were suspected of having swallowed a stone.

7 The diamond industry deserves credit, however, for taking the first steps toward ending the diamond-related slaughter. And, yes, the gems can be used to build up a nation's

infrastructure rather than tear it apart. While the nascent democracy of Botswana does not have a diversified economy (65% of export income comes from diamonds), its calm political climate proves that these stones are not always corrosive to the places they come from. Namibia is taking steps toward creating a home-grown polishing industry, adding a long-overdue value-added layer to the extraction process. A sudden collapse of the diamond trade would spell disaster for these countries and cause starvation and chaos in other diamond zones in Africa.

8 It will not be a movie such as *Blood Diamond* or even the Kimberley Process that determines whether America's favourite gemstone can be purchased ethically. That's up to the consumers, who should insist that jewellers show them proof that their suppliers have a System of Warranties statement on their invoices, demonstrating compliance with the Kimberley Process. Even if this doesn't prove that a diamond is clean, it proves that customers care about the source of their icons of love.

Tom Zoellner is the author of *The Heartless Stone*

*Time*

### Tekst 8 So, should you buy a diamond?

---

- 1p 25 How does the writer introduce the subject of this article in paragraph 1?
- A By commenting on the popular attitude towards the subject.
  - B By complaining about a man's task in relation to the subject.
  - C By explaining what led him to writing about the subject.
  - D By highlighting one particular aspect of the subject.
- “Primarily, should you even buy a diamond?” (alinea 1)
- 1p 26 Citeer een gedeelte van een zin uit alinea 2 waaruit blijkt dat je dit eigenlijk niet zou moeten doen.
- In verband met “The Kimberley Process” (alinea 2) worden twee voorschriften genoemd waar de diamanthandel zich aan dient te houden.
- 2p 27 Welke twee voorschriften zijn dat?
- 1p 28 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A Although
  - B Because
  - C Even when
  - D Now that
- 1p 29 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 4?
- A a devastating
  - B a logical
  - C a predictable
  - D a remarkable
- 1p 30 Welke eigenschap maakt diamanten zo buitengewoon geschikt als betaalmiddel voor illegale praktijken volgens alinea 5?  
Citeer het gedeelte van de zin dat een kernachtig antwoord op deze vraag geeft.
- 1p 31 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 6?
- A causes
  - B highlights
  - C justifies
  - D overlooks
- 1p 32 What is the function of paragraph 7 in relation to paragraphs 5 and 6?  
The information given in paragraphs 5 and 6 is
- A emphasised by paragraph 7.
  - B falsified by paragraph 7.
  - C illustrated by paragraph 7.
  - D modified by paragraph 7.