The Little Book of ROMANTIC PROPOSALS

Keanes
The Jewellers with the Reputation
You’ve decided on the hardest part and found the perfect partner.

You know you have found “the one”, who makes you feel wonderful and whom you will love forever. You know that you want to spend the rest of your lives together.

Now go pop the question!

Keanes
The Jewellers with the Reputation
Help is at Hand

You’ve picked this booklet up so you’re at least thinking about asking the most important question of your life. (Not to make you nervous or anything!)

Fear not you love-struck Romeo! The Keanes’ Little Book of Romantic Proposals promises (‘til death do you part) to get you through.

We, at Keanes, have searched the world for some of the best and most alluring marriage proposal ideas to help you create a moment never to be forgotten. Take some inspiration from our suggestions and prepare for the perfect moment.
The Important Question

The first thing an engaged woman hears her friends say is "Let us see the ring!"

The first question is always "So how did he propose?"

A well thought out proposal will reduce the pre-question jitters, but most importantly it will win her heart.

We’ve put together a few inspirational ideas to help you along the way, whether you’re a man or a woman, and even an insight into how the celebrities did it.

Good luck and remember that if tradition is important, you always have to ask the father first.
ROMANTIC PROPOSAL IDEAS
Build-a-Bear Proposal

Many toy shops (and websites) provide a service where you can customise a teddy bear. You can choose from a variety of bears and you can record your own words on a voice box. The message is heard when you press the bear. Simply record your message – such as “I love you (person’s name), will you marry me?” Then, plan a romantic dinner at her house. In the middle of dinner, get a friend to ring the doorbell. When she answers the door no one will be there, except the teddy, a bouquet of flowers and a note saying “squeeze me.” When she does, and hears the proposal, you should be on one knee with an engagement ring.

Chocolate Treat

Give her a heart-shaped box of chocolates, with one chocolate missing and an engagement ring in its place. When she opens the box, get down on one knee and pop the question!
Hot Story

For this idea you’ll need access to a design programme on a computer. Draw up a mock newspaper page with a photograph of you down on one knee holding the ring. Run a huge headline across the top of the page saying “(your name) asks (her name) to marry him”. Be creative and write an accompanying story, stating in it your feelings for her and your reasons for wanting to marry her. Start with something like “In an exclusive report, we can confirm that today (your name) asked (her name) to marry him’. Slip the page into her daily or Sunday newspaper and wait for the reaction!

Streets Ahead

Buy some advertising space on a few street poles along the road where she walks to work. Simply have “Will You marry me (her name)” printed on them in bold print and make them colourful so she will see them. Drive to where she works in advance and wait for her with the ring at the entrance or at her desk.
Digital Treasure Hunt

Today’s mobile phone technology could be of great use when proposing; take photographs of key elements in your surroundings which she would recognise. Send these via MMS to her mobile phone to lead her in the right direction, but still keep a sense of intrigue. The photographs should eventually lead to you, waiting ring in hand, on one knee and ready to propose.

Memory Jar

Create a “memory jar” by collecting numerous objects that are most representative of your relationship together and placing them all in a container. Items may be things such as her favourite chocolate bar, movie ticket stubs, a special photograph of the two of you, a hairclip she left behind at your house and a bottle of the perfume she wears. Put the ring in the bottom of the jar. Sit with her and ask her to go through the jar and when she gets to the bottom and pulls out the ring, pop the question!
Quick on the Drawer

Choose a drawer that she often goes through, such as an underwear or sock drawer. The next time she is not around quickly go to the drawer and put the ring box in there, with a letter or card that includes your proposal. This is a fun way to propose because she will love the surprise and she will remember you every time she opens that particular drawer for the rest of her life.

Book of Love

Find as many photographs as you can of things you have done together. Use them to plan out a small story book of your time together. Stick the photographs onto plain white pages and write your comments next to them. On the last page write “Will You Marry Me?”

Have her sit and look through the photographs with you.
Tree of Love

Suss out your local parks for a picnic spot near some trees. Write lots of messages about why you love her but don’t put your name or hers into the message. Put them all in envelopes that can be tied to the branches of the trees.

Then invite your love out for a romantic picnic. When you’re finished take her for a stroll and allow her to spot the envelopes. As you walk have her read them out. The last envelope should contain the proposal.

Charm Bracelet

Buy your girlfriend a charm bracelet as a present shortly before you want to propose to her. At various times over the next few weeks buy her charms for her bracelet, little hearts and things that mean something to both of you. The final gift should be a charm (or four) saying “will you marry me?”
Deep as the Ocean

Get a small treasure box and put the ring in it. Bring the box with you in your pocket when you go snorkelling with her. Pretend you need to swim in another direction because you have seen something. While she isn’t looking, place the treasure box on a rock or in the sand. Call her to swim over and look. Pick up the treasure box and open it to show the ring.

View from the Top

At the foot of a mountain arrange stones to read “Will you Marry Me?” in big letters. Then take her hiking up a mountain. Go to the best spot to view the message, gaze around the view and tell her how much you love her and then ask her to look down. (Hold on to her in case she falls over!)
Getting Back the Element of Surprise

If someone ruins the surprise for you, you need to take some action. Buy a cheap fake diamond ring. Break off two of the arms that are holding the diamond in place. Place the broken ring in a beautiful box and get ready for the proposal. Pick up your girlfriend and drive her to your chosen location. Tell her how much you love her. As you are saying this open the box in front of her. You will both look down and see the ring, broken in the box. Act upset and say something like “how could this happen?”

Now it’s time to bring back the element of surprise; bring her for a walk in the park to a bench where rose petals, wine, candles, flowers and stuffed animals are waiting. Get down on one knee and ask her to marry you with the real ring that was in your other pocket all along.
A Song and a Rose

Buy a rose and take out the centre of it. Place the engagement ring, with a string tied to it, into the centre of the rose and tie the other end to the stem. Go to a Karaoke Bar and perform her favourite love song. When you’re finished ask her to join you on the stage. Say to her “They say that every rose has thorns but this rose has no thorns, it has points. If you pull on this string you will see the points I am talking about.” She will pull on the string and out of the centre of the rose will come the diamond ring. Then on bended knee ask her to marry you. The other people in the bar will all celebrate with you and you might even get a free drink out of it!

Let me tell you the ways

Get a box of Valentine cards. Put a different message in each one, such as “I want to spend the rest of my life with you”. Post all of them to her so she thinks she has lots of secret admirers. Have one last one that you give her personally with the message “Will you marry me?”
Après-ski Amoré

Go on a skiing holiday together. On your first day up the slopes keep complaining about how your feet are sore in your boots. Keep stopping and taking your skis off to stretch your legs and try to make them more comfortable. In the evening on your final run suggest that you ski the whole way back to the resort. Make sure you take the last lift up the mountain so you know no one else will be following you up. Again delay things by complaining about your feet. Once the way is clear and you have the top of the mountain to yourselves - get down on one knee (to fix your boots) - when she turns to you ask her to marry you. Then ski down the run together and head straight to the bar for some après-ski celebrations.
Tour Bus Treasure Hunt

For this idea you will need to rope-in all your friends and family. Firstly you need to charter a big bus and have it waiting outside her house. Have some flowers delivered to her with a note which instructs her that she should follow the clues to find you. Also include a set of rules:

1. You have to read each clue and follow it to a location to get the next clue.
2. Everyone that is at the clue sites has to accompany you the rest of the way.

She should then take the bus to her next clue. Create about 6 clues where each one takes her to a location where 5 or 6 of your friends and family are waiting with the next clue. The final clue should take her to her father who is waiting with a treasure map with an X on it. You will be waiting at the X and when she finds you, propose. Then all pile onto the bus for a celebratory trip around the town.
Light of my Life

Use a set of Christmas lights to spell out the words “Will You Marry Me?” on your back fence or wall. Wait until night-time and guide your girlfriend to a good viewing spot - perhaps the kitchen window. Turn on the lights and wait for her reaction. When she turns around you should be on one knee holding up her dream engagement ring.

A Rose and a Ring

Get two dozen roses and make a trail of them to the bedroom. At the doorway, hang one of them with a ring around it and a note saying;

“I Love You - Will You Marry Me?”
Anniversary Proposal

Find out what your girlfriend’s favourite colour is. Then send her a single rose in that colour every day for however many years you have been together. On the last day include a card with the rose that says “x beautiful roses for x beautiful years.” That evening arrange to take her out to dinner and at dinner give her a single red rose with a card (or just say): “x of your favourite colour roses for the past x years, and 1 red rose for the rest of our lives, will you marry me?”

A Beach of an Idea

Go for a walk with your girlfriend along a cliff overlooking the beach and the sea. Along the way stop to just take in the view. While she is looking out to sea kneel down beside her and hold out the ring - when she turns pop the question.

This can be done at any picturesque spot.
Some other Quick Ideas...

• Cook her a romantic dinner for two. Tie the engagement ring using ribbon to the stem of a glass of champagne.

• Take her out for dinner at your favourite restaurant and arrange with the waiter to display the ring in a box as one of the choices on the dessert tray, or write “Will you marry me?” in chocolate sauce on the rim of her dessert plate.

• Rent your favourite romantic movie. Make it special with homemade popcorn and her favourite movie treat. Tell her you want your own happy ending by proposing as the credits roll at the end.

• Give her three roses: Tell her one represents the past, one represents the present and the last one (with the ring tied to it) represents the future.
More Quick Ideas...

• Turn out all the lights in your apartment or home. Make a trail with candle lights leading her to the ring.

• If you enjoy sailing, go for a sunset sail and propose at sea. Remember to bring some food, champagne and glasses for a toast.

• Is she a traditional gal? Start by asking her father for her hand in marriage. Then arrange for a family dinner. Propose in private and make your announcement at the table.

• If she loves animals, bring home a new puppy or kitten and tie the ring around the collar with ribbon.

• Go for a hot air balloon ride and propose as you’re watching the sunset. Make sure to bring a bottle of bubbly to celebrate.
ROMANTIC PROPOSALS FOR LADIES
Anything boys can do girls can do...

You’ve found Prince Charming, you know what you want, so why not ask for it? Here are some thoughts on how to propose to the man in your life.

Set the stage. Pick his favourite place - whether you consider it romantic or not - to pop the question. This might be a secluded camping site, a fancy restaurant or a golf course at sunset. Let your boyfriend’s taste be your guide.

Keep your plans flexible. You may have an evening of French cuisine and fine wine in mind; he may be in the mood for something more informal. Unless your plans involve other people or events, go with the flow.

Make a splash if your boyfriend appreciates the theatrical.
Keep the occasion subtle if your partner tends to like things more subdued.

Bring or plan an engagement gift. There’s no reason why you shouldn’t get him a ring, alternatively an engraved watch works brilliantly.

Give him some time to be surprised and tongue-tied.

Remember, even though he loves you for the unconventional woman you are, he probably won’t see this one coming.

Most of the ideas listed previously can be adapted for you ladies but here’s a few more to add to the mix.
Application for Love

Write a cover letter and CV to apply for the position to be your boyfriend’s wife and send it to him for Valentine’s Day. Explain why you would like to apply for the position and how you are qualified for it in a cover letter. Then fill your CV with history of events and times you spent together over the past number of years. Under skills, list special things you do to make him happy.

A Modern Proposal

If you are a social network-mad couple (anyone for Facebook or Bebo??) you can ask your boyfriend by changing your profile. Send a message to your boyfriend and ask him to check out your new homepage. There in great big letters under Latest News should read: “WILL YOU MARRY ME?”
Early Riser

Arrange to wake up about an hour before your boyfriend usually does (without waking him up). Go down to his car and tape a huge poster to his windscreen saying “Will You Marry Me?” You can decorate it with pictures, words and phrases of special moments in your lives. You should wait just inside the door so he cannot see you while he goes to the car - when he turns around you should go to him and give him a long, passionate kiss.

Valentine’s Gift in a Gift

Give him a large boxed present, inside this box is another box, inside that is another box, and so on. In the final box is a note saying “Turn around”. When he does, ask him to marry you.
A Proposal that Lasts Forever

For this proposal take a picture of each letter in “Will You Marry Me” from different signs. Place them in a photo album, one per page. The final picture in the album should be of you down on one knee.

Arrange to take him for dinner to somewhere nice. After dinner take him to the same spot where you took the picture of you on one knee. Give him the album to flick through. As he reaches the last page get down on one knee, like you are in the photo. Then pop the question.
Early Christmas Present

On Christmas Eve - allow each other to open just one present - your present to him will be a set of cufflinks with an inscription on them reading “Will you Marry Me?”

Director's Cut

Buy or tape a copy of his favourite movie and mid-way through the film record your marriage proposal message to him. It might be an idea to dress up in the same theme as the movie when you record yourself, just to give the surprise a little more depth and originality. Organise an intimate evening with dinner next to a fire and then suggest watching the movie. If your partner's favourite movie is a romance - you’re in luck, because you can slot your message in during the most heart-warming scene. If his preferred choice is a gory horror film perhaps you should consider another approach!
CELEBRITY PROPOSALS
Celebrity Proposals

Christina Aguilera & Jordan Bratman
While on vacation, music executive, Jordan Bratman proposed to pop singer, Christina Aguilera, in a hotel room filled with rose petals and gift boxes, each with a present and a self-penned poem. After she opened the last box (which contained a five-carat ring), Bratman got down on one knee and asked her to be his wife.

Brooke Mueller & Charlie Sheen
Actor Charlie Sheen and property investor Brooke Mueller headed to Costa Rica for a holiday. While there Sheen presented Mueller with a Patek Philippe Calatrava watch engraved with B, Wanna Get Married? Love C. He also surprised her with an 11-carat, natural yellow diamond set in platinum.

Heidi Klum & Seal
The day before Christmas Eve, Grammy-winning singer Seal and supermodel Heidi Klum flew by helicopter to the top of a glacier in Whistler, Canada. At 14,000 feet above sea level, Seal proposed to Klum in an igloo specially built for the occasion.
Tom Cruise & Katie Holmes
Tom opted for the ultimate cliché by taking Katie to Paris, the City of Love and proposing at the top of The Eiffel Tower.

Denzel Washington & Pauletta Washington
Forget the flowers and grand romantic gestures. One of Hollywood’s biggest sex symbols popped the question over the phone. Fact is, he had no choice. Denzel Washington was on location shooting ‘St. Elsewhere’ and he just couldn’t wait for the perfect moment.

John Light & Neve Campbell
British actor John Light went the traditional route when he proposed to girlfriend Neve Campbell. He got down on one knee and recited Shakespeare before he presented her with the ring.

Now it’s over to you
We hope this book has given you a little bit of inspiration. The following pages will guide you further in selecting the perfect engagement ring and remember Keanes’ staff are always on hand to help.
CHOOSING THE RIGHT RING
Choosing the Perfect Diamond Ring

Obviously this is a vital part of the perfect proposal. Before making a decision, you need to become a master in covert operations in order to find out exactly what she wants:

• Ask friends and family if she has ever mentioned a preference for a diamond cut and ring style.
• Pay attention to the jewellery she wears. Are her favourites delicate pieces or more chunky ones?
• Does she prefer yellow gold or white metals like white gold or platinum?
• Collect a Keanes Catalogue from your nearest store and leave it where she’ll find it. Without arousing suspicion, look through it together and take note of her comments.

Once you’ve determined her style leave the rest to the expert advice of Keanes’ consultants.
Determining His or Her Ring Size

This is not as difficult as it seems and you don’t have to worry if you don’t get it exactly right as Keanes will happily resize the ring if necessary.

Here are some techniques you could explore:

• Make an impression of one of their rings in a bar of soap.
• Trace the inside of one of their rings on a piece of paper.
• Measure the diameter of the inside of the ring with a ruler.
• Place one of their rings on your finger and push it down as far as it will go and mark the spot with a pen.
• To ensure a perfect fit take one of their rings to Keanes to have it sized.
Buying Diamonds - the Serious Bit!

Here are just a few tips on what to look out for when buying diamonds - it gets a bit technical but don’t worry - at Keanes we only stock the finest diamonds so you have nothing to fear.

The 4 C’s

Colour, Carat, Cut and Clarity are used worldwide to describe the quality of diamonds. These can vary hugely and impact on how dazzling and valuable the stones are. You want to be sure that the ring you buy will match the effort you put into your proposal, so read on!
Colour

We always think of diamonds as being “crystal clear” and the very best and rarest diamonds are colourless. The scale of colour quality goes from colourless to light yellow. The differences from one grade to another are very subtle. Diamonds with a very strong colour - such as pink, red or strong yellow are very rare and very valuable.

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<tr>
<th>Colourless</th>
<th>Near Colourless</th>
<th>Faint Yellow</th>
<th>Very Light Yellow</th>
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Carat

The size of a diamond is measured in “carat” which is a unit of weight. You’ll be glad to hear that big is not necessarily better - diamonds of high quality can be found in all size ranges. However one diamond of one carat is usually worth more than two diamonds of 0.50ct.
Cut

Put simply, the better the cut the more the diamond sparkles. Light travelling through a well cut diamond bounces back out the top of the stone allowing it to dazzle.

An ideal cut diamond makes full use of the light entering it, maximising its brilliance and 'fire'.

Cut also refers to the shape of the diamond itself. The most popular shape is the Round Brilliant Cut as this sparkles the most, but there are many other popular shapes.

The seven most common diamond cuts.
Clarity

Diamonds are naturally occurring stones and so most of them contain tiny natural marks within the diamond known as inclusions. The number of inclusions, how big they are and where they are located all affect a diamond’s clarity. The less inclusions a stone has the rarer and more valuable it is.

- FL-IF: Flawless to internally flawless (minor surface blemishes)
- WS\(^1\)-WS\(^2\): Very, very small inclusions
- VS\(^1\)-VS\(^2\): Very small inclusions
- SI\(^1\)-SI\(^2\): Small inclusions
- I\(^1\)-P\(^3\): Inclusions visible to the naked eye

Phew! The Technical Bit is Over!
Go forth and conquer!

We’d love to hear how you get on – email us at info@keanes.ie with all the details.

The best story, as voted for by us, will receive a €500 Voucher for Keanes Jewellers.

You’ll find these and more wonderful ideas on our website - www.keanes.ie

And remember if you want any help along the way drop in or give us a call - we have 60 years and 3 generations of experience to draw on!

93-95 Oliver Plunkett St., Cork Tel: 021 4271256
10 O’Connell St., Limerick Tel: 061 481080
2 High St., Killarney, Co. Kerry Tel: 064 31515

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