

*Welcome to Month #X of
"Diamonds & Drama Queens"*

Incredible beauty is often accompanied by incredible stories.

Welcome to our <insert number> month of *Diamonds & Drama Queens* Block of the Month! I am so excited to have you join me on this year-long adventure as we explore the most famous gemstones in the world and the people who were caught up in their orbit. The jewels will take your breath away and I hope the stories do, too.

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Our Drama Queen



Above: the 9-carat cushion-shaped Clark Pink (Photograph courtesy of Christie's)

Our *Diamonds & Drama Queens* pattern for May is inspired by the **Clark Pink**, a spectacular 9-carat, Belle Epoque cushion-cut diamond owned by Huguette Clark. The fancy vivid purplish-pink diamond was the star of the show when Christie's auctioned it in 2012. Expected to fetch \$6-8 million, the winning bid was \$15.7 million, making it the most valuable pink diamond ever sold in the United States. I enjoyed learning more about Ms. Clark for the video I created all about her life and adventures.

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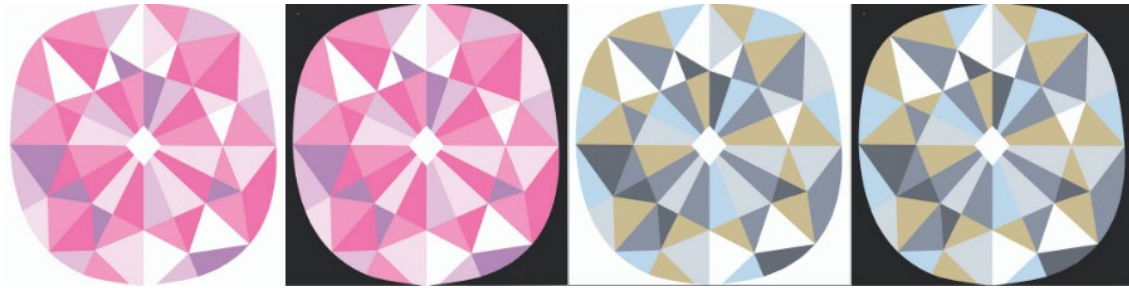
The Pattern: The Clark Pink

The pattern I created from the inspiration of this lovely diamond showcases the cushion-cut shape with multiple pavilion facets radiating from the center culet of the gem. I loved her soft color palette.

Here's a little fun fact...While geologists understand what factors make blue diamonds blue (a boron molecule in the structure), and yellow diamonds yellow (nitrogen molecules), and green diamonds green (the crystal sat too near a "hot" rock -- a source of radiation), they're not quite sure exactly what gives pink and red diamonds their blooming color. They think it has to do with an anomaly in their molecular structure, but haven't completely figured it out yet. Turns out that not only are these beauties gorgeous, they're mysterious, too!

As I was designing the quilt block pattern, I took some liberties with the number of facets and placement of value and color. I designed this pattern so that it didn't overwhelm with color choices, so you'll find just 6 colors within the gem plus a black background -- just 7 fabrics in total.

Be sure to watch the video all about Huguette's life and her fabulous jewelry!



Above: Our "Diamonds & Drama Queens" MAY pattern

This is traditional piecing using freezer paper as your template. If you can put two pieces of fabric together with a quarter-inch seam allowance, **YOU CAN DO THIS!**