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Light, Shadow & Skin Tone: The Complete Guide To Shooting Black & White Glamour Photography Both Digitally And On Film



Synopsis

In this groundbreaking new book, Bill Lemon explores the art of shooting black and white glamour photography. The book details the similarities and differences between digital photography and traditional film and provides numerous artistic, visual examples of each. Also covered is the post-production process for digital photography, with complete step-by-step instructions for effectively converting color images to black and white while maintaining depth, detail, and clarity to create a captivating image. Featuring both studio and outdoor settings, *Light, Shadow, and Skin* Tone explains, image by image, how each photo was created. Lemon discusses the equipment used, the type of light, fill flash, exposures, as well as the time of day that produces the best image and how to use the light to your advantage. Also included are hints on posing and working with models. The step-by-step, image-by-image information contained in this book is highly enjoyable, whether you are interested in learning the process or simply want to gaze at breathtaking, tasteful artwork.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Coffee Table book/Photography: Finalist of the 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Awards --Indie Book Awards

Really? The advice is frequently facile; e.g. apparently 'textures are all around us in nature' - 'yes, thank you detective'. Please think carefully before buying this book. If you're looking for something

that shows a real grasp of the subtleties of working with planes of skin and their textures, you'll get about as much good advice from a 3-4 page article on the subject in any reputable photo magazine. Given the book's price point it's dreadful value for money

Bill is a natural teacher. He guides you through various journeys - learning what the camera sees and why; how to become comfortable with your equipment; what to be aware of as you begin to shoot (especially important for those learning to shoot nudes, which can be stressful or effortless, depending on your experience and attitude); and how to develop and work with original images in various platforms to get the best possible result. He is respectful of the reader, regardless of experience. And most importantly, he is respectful of the models he works with. They, too, are professionals, and are too often under-appreciated for the time, energy and experience they contribute to this work. In short, everything you would want to know, as you undertake this ancient - yet each time fresh, challenging, and new - art form. If you get any book in this genre, let Bill show you how to do it.

There are plenty of books available that provide diagrams of where to place lighting, what type of modifiers to use, etc. This book is less about the technical side of photography and more about the practical side in how to use light to achieve the desired result. I walked away from this book with a better understanding of how to get the results I want. I'm not sure this is the best book for beginners. The subject material is the artistic nude primarily in low-key black and white. Some practical portrait photography experience is probably helpful to fully appreciate what the author is attempting to convey with his many examples. This book shows each image with a brief explanation of the camera setting used along with something about the image to help the reader understand why the image is included in this book. While there are many examples in this book taken in the studio, by far the emphasis is on location photography with an emphasis is on natural lighting. While some images were made with the help of additional lighting, the intent is to show how really wonderful photography can be achieved with using available light. Most plates include information on the F-stop and shutter speed used to take the image. Anyone wishing to take their portrait photography to the next level will likely benefit from this book. A rare find and one I know I'll refer back to often.

I bought the book because I have been a landscape photographer for many years but am interested in doing some studio and, possibly, outdoor nudes. Based on it's title and subtitle, I had some hope that this would give me specifics on lighting issues, posing/cropping and issues of correctly

representing the human skin tones in a film photograph. Unfortunately, this did not help a lot on most of the above. Pros: It has quite a few ideas on posing the model (by example pictures) and, if you are a digital photographer, how to correct skin tones in Photoshop. How good this info was is hard for me, a film shooter, to tell. Cons: It is particularly unhelpful in lighting issues in that it has no diagrams of lighting (either studio or outdoors). Other books, I consider more helpful, have diagrams of specific lighting & placement used along with the example photographs. While this book hinted at some of this lighting info. for the studio, I still had to infer a lot about how many lights were used and their specific placement. On outdoor lighting, quotes like "be mindful of the sun" really did not help me at all. He did talk about using strobe to "fill" outdoor scenes but, again, no diagrams as to where to hold it to get a specific effect shown in the example photograph. It did not talk at all about how to work with skin tones in black & white film shooting despite the fact that he indicates film is included in the book's preview and he used film in several of the shots in the book. (I had to find info on what filters to use to help with this in other books.) I guess the author assumes you can always "fix it in Photoshop" although, as best I can tell, he does not cover what to do with a scanned negative from b&w film; only digital color capture. Again, not being familiar with Photoshop, the process may be the same. Finally, and this may be nit picking but... Several times he comments on the importance of making sure you don't cut off body parts in awkward locations with your posing/cropping; yet he shows no examples comparing "right" and "wrong" places to crop and on several of his illustrations of supposedly good photographs he comments that the model was not correctly cropped. I guess I question why use badly cropped images as examples of "good" photographs. His just saying "I usually try not to crop this badly" [my paraphrasing] isn't very professional or helpful. Summary: The book states that the author gives workshops and perhaps these issues are properly covered in a live presentation, but this book is lacking. I get the impression that he took a set of photographs he liked and put "workshop notes" around them to create this; rather than analyzing how to write a text which would explain the subject without his being there to show you. This book may help some (especially digital photographers) but if you are in need of specifics on lighting, skin tone representation in film or posing/cropping, I'd suggest looking elsewhere.

a must if you are a beginner or a vet needing inspiration or reference.

More a skin book than light and shadow, more for the voyeur than the photographer trying to improve his technique

Photography is a great thing to do. Black and white offers many challenges. Glamour even more...so combined...wow...This book teaches you how to use light, shadow & skin tone to make it all work.

Bill Lemon's books is worth every penny for the photographs alone. However, it is an invaluable guide for developing the skills of glamour photography. Mr. Lemon is a master of the art and the technique.

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