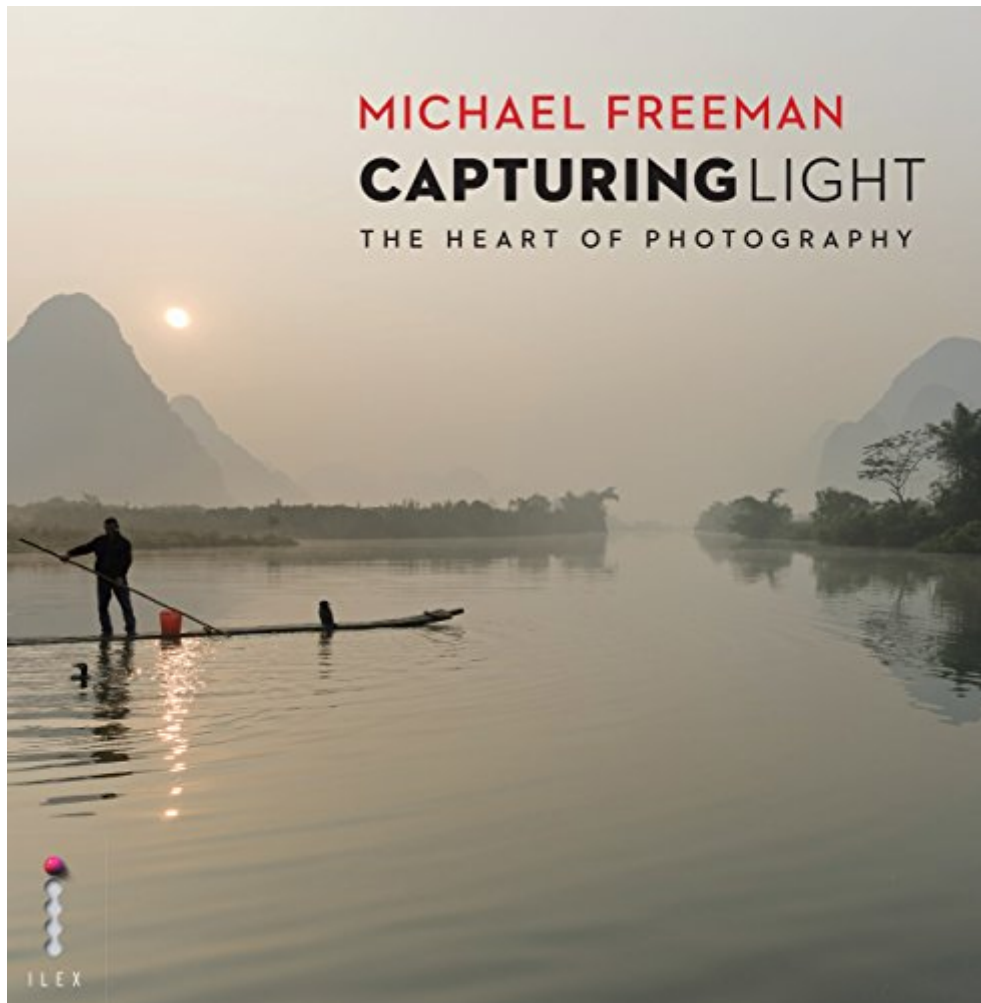




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Capturing Light: The Heart Of Photography



Synopsis

For professional photographers, chasing the light, waiting for it, sometimes helping it, and finally capturing it is a constant preoccupation and for some, an obsession. Drawing on four decades of working with light, Michael Freeman takes a simple but practical approach to interpreting, reacting to, and capturing photography's most valuable commodity. Practical advice is organised into three straightforward sections: Waiting, Chasing, and Helping. Begin by mastering the art of patience, and recognise the immense value of anticipating and planning for gorgeous light that's just over the horizon. Then learn the techniques to meet otherwise transient and fleeting lighting conditions halfway, with quick thinking and fast reactions. Finally, make the most of the tools at your disposal to enhance and manipulate light as you find it, covering everything from in-the-field shooting choices to technical transformations in post-production. This is the method of a working professional the way to interpret, approach, and master whatever lighting situation is thrown at you and always get the shot, no matter what.

Book Information

File Size: 23369 KB

Print Length: 208 pages

Publisher: Ilex Press; UK ed. edition (December 5, 2014)

Publication Date: December 5, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B00WX4WIGU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #398,135 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #36

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Photography > Lighting #76

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Photography > Nature & Wildlife #140

in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Lighting

Customer Reviews

There are probably three things I've purchased in the last few years that have fundamentally changed the way I shoot and improved the quality of pictures I make. The three things are: moving to full frame, getting Freeman's Photographer's Eye, and now this book Capturing Light. I've made substantial investment in the last few years procuring a nice set of gear, namely, Canon 6D, 24-70 2.8mk2, Sigma 35 1.4, 135L, 100Lmacro, among others. For a regular joe like myself, this is a lot of money. Although I saw my photos improving, I always felt that something's missing. The subject looks sharp, the bokeh is gorgeous, and the scene is properly exposed. What's missing? Then I stumbled across Freeman's Photographer's Eye series (along with Photographer's Mind, Story, etc). It's at that point I realized I was only a gearhead who didn't understand enough about basic elements in photography such as composition and exposure. Without digressing too much, it's after reading Photographer's Eye that I began to compose more creatively and received great feedback from people around me. Photography is similar to painting in that composition and how different graphic elements are put together is far more important than resolution. Now I'm sure you've heard of people mention the beauty of the golden hour (sunrise and sunset), and that other times of the day aren't good enough for photos in terms of quality of light. I bought this concept and for a long while I only shot during those golden hours. After reading this book I came to realize how many opportunities I missed because of such misconception. There's one example in the book that showcases a scene of a backlit building. I was amazed that Freeman was able to incorporate a huge tree with its deep shadow, using it as a graphic element to strengthen the composition. In other words he turned a problem into a creative solution. Another example from the book that blew me away is tungsten light against dark blue sky. I was always under the impression that tungsten light was ugly and I always tried to stay away from it. Little do I know that it could be so beautiful against deep blue sky (during the time after the sun has already set below the horizon). You'll learn a great deal more from the examples in the book. I feel enlightened and empowered. Freeman opened my eyes to many more possibilities. I feel that now I have fresh eyes to see everything around me, and the options are no longer limited to sunset. The book is not meant to be a manual. You can't think, in this scenario I'm going to copy what he did in the book. What I gained the most is a new way of appreciating light. It is precisely the lack of such quality that made my pictures so repetitive and dull, and I'm proud to feel that I've grown out of it. Even a gray cloudy day can offer photo opportunities. Certain things actually look better under such condition. He shows quite many pictures taken in pre-digital days, and it's incredible how he could nail the exposure just right. A new habit for me now is to look at a scene and mentally calculate how to expose it the way I want. I feel like I'm learning photography properly from an experienced teacher. Read his other book The

Perfect Exposure. Let me say this again. I honestly think that going full frame and having read these two books help me substantially more than the expensive gear I acquired. The low price of this book belies the weight of its substance. It's so worth it that I wouldn't even mind paying 10, 20 times as much for what I gained. It certainly doesn't hurt that the book is only 20 bucks. What a steal.

I've just started to read this book and can tell you that it is a very slow read. Freeman condenses so much into each sentence that you really must think about light: how it looks and feels and affects your subject. You are able to see how very differently you can craft your photograph depending upon when and how you take it and where you place your main subject. Something that I'm really enjoying about the book is how it has changed my feelings about light: I used to think that there was "bad" light, but now I know that every type of light has the ability to say something important about my subject if I am willing to explore it's possibilities. This book will definitely change you--I can think of no higher praise.

I love this book for one thing, and that is how he has painstakingly explored and broken down lighting situations that are so critical to photography. What I also like, are the illustrations that accompany each chapter, clearly showing how the light moves in each situation. What I would have liked off more, is the sections on HDR, but as he says - HDR is itself a book. Very well written and illustrated, this is a gem of a book, for beginners and people who sometimes take light for granted

This isn't a book you read from start to finish, instead it more like a reference books of sort where you look up the type of lighting situations that trouble you and see how does Freeman use these types of light to help enhance your photography. The book is rather huge and I would classify it as coffee table size, not something easily carried with you on daily commutes to work.

If you want to learn photography this book is essential. I have an entire collection of books by this author... but this one in particular is special. It helps us to visually see different light. 'How do you see the light?' The biggest part of photography is not your expensive lenses or big bags of gear. It's seeing and recognizing and using light. It doesn't really matter your brand of camera. If you know light you are way ahead of others in the photography world. This book is more or less an illustrated guide to different light (and how to use those different conditions) to create certain effects or feel to your images. It's a must have for anyone wanting to learn photography or improve their photography.

I liked his book "The Photographer's Eye: Composition and Design for Better Digital Photos" and I like the way he writes, but wasn't thrilled with this book. It contains some beautiful images taken in different lighting conditions, but I'm not sure how valuable it is if one is hoping to learn from it.

Quite technical in nature, but now after the third reading, a pleasure. I have 3 of Freeman's books, and this for me is the most mature. It is always about light, and Mr. Freeman captures that. Read it, but prepared to use it as you read it - it is not for the sofa nor the cocktail table.

For the serious photographer this is a very valuable book. Freeman is clear, makes important points about how to deal with situations that the non-studio photographer (the vast majority of us) find themselves. Read it at your own pace or select the situations that trouble you and you'll find valuable suggestions on how to handle the lighting and exposure. The combination of his avoidance of abstract rules and practical guidance with examples is like no other.

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