

Review - Hot Shoe Diaries

Peter Fitchett

The Hot Shoe Diaries

Big Light from Small Flashes

By: Joe McNally

New Riders : Voices That Matter

978-0-321-58014-6

Remember the name - Joe McNally - from last year's book that stirred our envy ... *The Moment it Clicks* ... wonderful, amazing, beautiful images, each accompanied by its own memory of the event. Just the memories

would be worth having, but with the images ... envy. My only regret with *The Moment it Clicks* was that it really didn't tell me how I could go out there and make my own images and memories.

With Joe's new book, *The Hot Shoe Diaries*, this regret is masterfully exploded. Using a similar format to *The Moment it Clicks*, Joe bares the thoughts behind the images, to tell us what he wanted to achieve, and how he went about getting yet another image to stun us.

Probably the one single aspect that distinguishes our family snap from a McNally image is Joe's ability to imagine and shape the light that illuminates the important subject of the image - the light that defines the emotion that hits us when we gaze upon the image. And the control of this light is really the subject of the book.

Joe may be a Nikon-man; he uses Nikon equipment, and after many years of this use, he knows his equipment intimately. And this is what he talks about throughout the *Diaries* - unapologetically. This isn't to say that what he writes is only of use to other Nikon users. The principles and examples are the same, no matter what equipment you use - you just need to adjust which button you press, and which dial you set. Like translating American into English.

Joe starts with the basics, the fundamentals of digital photography - although much also relates to camera and film if you still use that. Light is light. Then one flash lighting, then two flashes and lots of flashes. (Note to self - wouldn't it be great to have all that equipment on hand to play with - but then, I can get into trouble with just what I already have!) Joe isn't writing a manual; he is writing a series of diaries, and the diaries highlight the details as they become relevant; repetition and all, to give us a book that is readable, enjoyable, and best of all, instructive for anyone interested in the quality of their photography - from beginner to expert, we can all learn from these experiences. Highly recommended.

Thanks to Peachpit Press for providing a copy of this book for review.

