

YOU WILL
BE ABLE TO
**TAKE GREAT
PHOTOS**
BY THE END
OF THIS BOOK

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*“Great photographs can
be made in your own
backyard . . . Recognize that
fact and the photographic
world is your oyster.”*

FOREWORD

You Will Be Able to Take Great Photos by the End of This Book must be the longest book title ever, but it certainly catches the eye—and this is what Ben Brain is all about. His enthusiasm for the medium bubbles through his easy-to-follow descriptions of the many approaches to photography as he explains how important it is to visually engage with the viewer and make them aware that the most lasting images are usually the ones that are different from those that went before.

In addition to tackling the cornerstones of photography, such as composition, light, timing, and exposure, he dips into historical and contemporary practices to contextualize the medium. Ben also explains that “great photographs” can be made in your own backyard, because it is a fact that most of the time we are where we are instead of where we would like to be. Recognize that fact and the photographic world is your oyster—and speaking of metaphors, Ben also uses his own work to emphasize how photography can transcend the information that is in front of the camera. If readers come to that conclusion, too, it will confirm this book as one that makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of this most glorious medium.

— Professor Paul Hill MBE, FRPS, DFine Art, DArts
www.hillonphotography.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the next step of your photographic journey. Perhaps you're trying to find your photographic voice or realize your creative vision, or you want to comment on the world around you with a camera. Whatever your aspirations, if you want to explore your creativity and discover new ways to engage with the world through the photographic image, you're in the right place.

Photography is everywhere. Literally. Wherever you look, photography will be part of the story. Just take a moment to consider how many photographs in one form or another you've seen today— probably hundreds. It's estimated that nearly one-and-a-half trillion photos were taken in 2020, a number that's this long: 1,500,000,000,000.

From fancy-pants DSLRs to smartphones, digital cameras

"A good photograph is not usually about complicated techniques or what camera was used, but rather about the attitude, the approach, and the vision of the photographer."

have made photography easier and more accessible than ever before, and a staggering number of people are now taking photographs every second. Essentially anyone with a smartphone in their pocket has access to a sophisticated and

high-quality camera. There's nothing wrong with this—in many ways it's wonderful—but it means it is harder to make yourself stand out, especially if you want to use photography as a way of engaging with and commenting on the world around you. The onslaught of photographs cascading through social feeds can feel overwhelming, and if you want your voice to be heard, or should I say



seen, the sheer volume of images can feel daunting. Knowing where to start can be paralyzing if you want to contribute in a meaningful way. A good photograph is not usually about complicated techniques or what camera was used but instead about the attitude, the approach, and the vision of the photographer. This book seeks to explore photography from this perspective, and I hope that by the end of this book, you will have the creative tools and, more important, the attitude to make great photos.

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