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# Portrait Photography: From Snapshots To Great Shots



## Synopsis

In *Portrait Photography: From Snapshots to Great Shots*, author and photographer Erik Valind shows you how to get the best shots of your subjects—whether you're in a studio or outdoors, at a family get-together, or at a formal event. Starting with the fundamentals of portrait photography, including how to select the right camera settings and lenses and how to compose your shots, Erik covers building a rapport with your subject, and offers suggestions for poses that flatter your subject to achieve great shots. He then addresses the problems and opportunities of both natural and indoor light, offering ways to resolve lighting challenges of both, showing when and how to use a flash and how to add and modify light to improve the quality of your images. Finally, he walks through several portrait scenarios, including creating single-person shots such as headshots and environmental shots, and group shots such as family and wedding photos. Follow along with Erik and you will:

- Learn the basics of capturing great portraits, such as focusing on the eyes, stepping back and zooming in, and turning your subject into the light
- Evaluate focal length, compression, and working distance to select the best lens for any given shoot
- Establish trust with your subject and provide helpful direction and feedback so they feel at ease and look their best
- Address challenges associated with natural light such as shade and direct light and tame or redirect the light for improved photographs
- Improve the light with modifiers and other helpful tools such as strobes, umbrellas, and reflectors
- Go "behind the scenes" and walk through the process of creating great portraits with two chapters of start-to-finish examples

Beautifully illustrated with large, vibrant photos, this book teaches you how to take control of your photography to get the portraits you want every time you pick up your camera.

## Book Information

Series: From Snapshots to Great Shots

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## Customer Reviews

Erik Valind is a commercial lifestyle and portrait photographer, born and raised on the Florida beaches. Airy and energetic lifestyle imagery defines the style and vision of this Westcott-endorsed Top Pro Photographer. Inspired by the form, activity and diversity of people, Erik has lent his expertise to shape the public image of numerous national brands and campaigns. Erik shares his visual approach, techniques and passion for photography internationally at major photo events, as an author, and online as a Kelby Training instructor. Erik is based in New York, NY.

The book is very well written. The Author wrote this book in a very easy way to understand each topic of the book. What you will learn from the book is the camera setting, equipment to control the light and the way to have a better light condition on the model... What you won't learn is the composition that is missing from this book. By finished reading this book, I feel confident to take the portrait photo for my family or friend. What I just need is the equipment beside camera. The Author is really done a good job to sharing his knowledge and experience to the read...

I knew Eric's work from Kelbyone (former Kelbytraining). Thanks to his classes I start to appreciate the lifestyle genre in photography. This book is a valuable asset for those who want to develop skills in portrait photography, mainly in interesting locations with challenging light scenarios. I enjoyed a lot and became a source of consultations

I really enjoyed this book. I have bought many photography books in the past but I have to say that this is by far my favorite one. Erik makes it simple to understand and gives great examples in the book. If you're a beginner like I am and feel like you just need some helpful tips/explanations, then this is the book for you. I feel like I really learned a lot from this book. I will always use it for my "go to" book when I need some tips/clues. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn how to take some great shots!

Very useful. To me it is just the right mixture of tips, tools, and gadgets to get yo started. If you are an amateur photographer who wants to improve his portraits, but not invest \$1000+ in equipment,

this book is for you. It will yield better pictures instantly.

This book has helped me overcome the fear of doing portrait photography. I am only on chapter 3 but feel I have received my value. Can't wait to do my first shoot!

Great book. Erik deals with the technical aspects very well. Good range of chapters on light and lighting, both inside and outside. Recommended reading for beginner photographers.

LOVED IT! There are a lot of excellent tips and tricks along the book, where I didn't know they were mistakes I made all along. I believe this book has helped me improve my portrait skill. One thing I don't like about Kindle edition is the pictures are too small to see the detail but it's fine after all.

Although I am a professional photographer, there's always something new that you can learn. This book had plenty of simple but creative ideas to use for my next photo shoot.

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