

Freeze Frame

By Timothy L. Hale/Army Reserve Public Affairs

December 2011

Vol. 1, No. 5

All I Want for Christmas...

It seems like a good time to share some ideas on what you can tell your family, spouse and/or significant other what you would like for Christmas this year.

If you want a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, you're on your own with that one.

What I'm talking about are tools that will help you perfect your craft and add some items to your kit bag.

More specifically, I'm talking about photography and photojournalism books.

"But Reading is a Bore!"

Listen, I know that reading can be a bore but how can you expect to learn new tips, tricks and techniques if you don't spend some coin? Trust me, it's worth the price. Besides, you're reading this!

There are vast amounts of photography book resources out there written by photographers far more capable than I. At least three to four times a year I go to my favorite big box bookstore or online retailer and see what the latest offering is.

Besides, as the technology changes with cameras and software, there is always someone out there to show us how to work smarter and more efficiently so you have to keep up.

For the record, I am not receiving any compensation from the writers and/or publishers listed here. I'm just passing along information to you. So, here we go. By the way, the images were pulled off Amazon.com so don't try to click on the "LOOK INSIDE" ... it won't work!

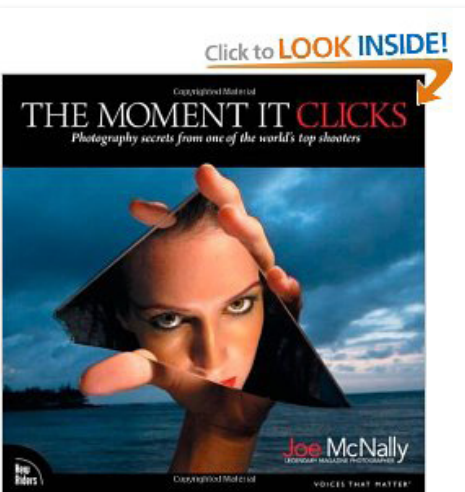
1 – The Adobe Photoshop CS5 Book for Digital Photographers, Scott Kelby, New Riders Publishing, Avg. Price \$54.95.

This book is slammed with some of the best tips that I have ever seen crammed into nearly 400 pages. Kelby gives you instructions that are easy to follow with great screen shots so you know what the heck to look for on selected PS menu items. And he should know, Kelby is the editor of Photoshop User Magazine and is the founder of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP). I have taken one of his classes and it was awesome!



2 – The Moment It Clicks, Joe McNally, New Riders Publishing, Avg. Price \$54.99.

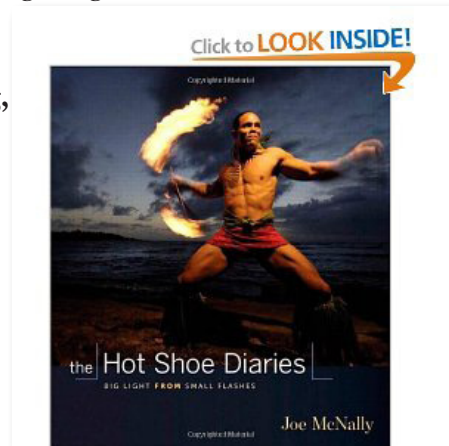
McNally is, in my humble opinion, the master of location portraiture. He has shot for all the majors to include National Geographic and Life magazines. If you ever get a chance to take one of his workshops, I HIGHLY recommend you do so! I have taken two of them and it changed the way I work and think when



approaching photo assignments. But enough about that, the book is almost 300 pages with highly detailed information about each shot to include: concept of the shot, the techniques used to get the shot and then the technical detail (lens, f-stop, lighting and accessories).

3 – The Hot Shoe Diaries, Joe McNally, New Riders Publishing, Avg. Price \$39.99.

Again, McNally takes you through step-by-step with each photo using only Nikon Speedlights, NOT big studio flashes for his location portraiture work. He captures some phenomenal images and shows you how he did it. It's all wrapped up in just over 300 pages.



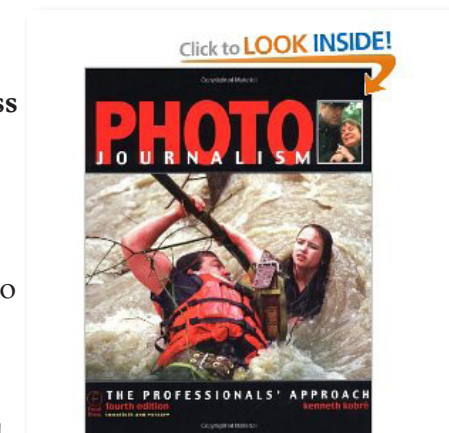
4 – Layers: The Complete Guide to Photoshop's Most Powerful Feature (2nd Edition), Matt Kloskowski, Peachpit Press, Avg. Price \$44.99.

Matt is an NAPP instructor, among other titles and jobs he has, and has de-mystified the Adobe PS Layers palette in easy-to-understand terms. Great photos and menu graphics enhance this book in just over 300 pages. It really is an "everything you wanted to know about Layers" book but was afraid to ask.



5 – Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach (4th Edition), Kenneth Kobre, Focal Press publishing, Avg. Price \$59.95.

This book highlights the thought processes noted PJ's made in making stunning images that you probably have seen before. It also covers how to find feature pictures, editing, ethics, law, wartime censorship and plenty of interviews. It really does showcase some of the best photojournalists and their work.



While I only listed five books here, there are literally thousands more to choose from. Again, I'm not endorsing any one author or publisher but you should be at that stage in your career when you ask yourself, "how can I be a better photojournalist?" Hopefully these books will help you do just that.

Merry Christmas and I'll see you next year with some New Year's photography resolutions to get your year started on the right track.

Timothy L. Hale is an award-winning photojournalist for the Warrior-Citizen magazine at the U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs Office at Fort Bragg, N.C. He is a member of Nikon Professional Services, National Press Photographers Association and National Association of Photoshop Professionals. When he isn't on assignment for the Army Reserve, he owns a photojournalism and graphic design service and he also freelances for an international photo wire service. He has been shooting professionally since 1981.