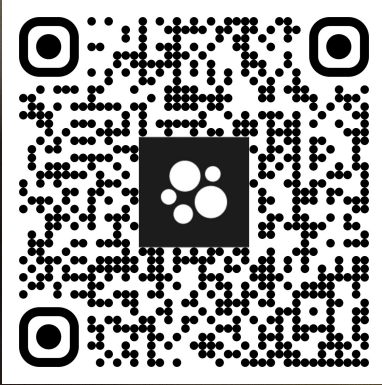


... at face value

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All photos taken between September and November 2022 and compiled in September 2024 for this publication. They have been edited from their original published versions. All identifiable persons depicted herein were photographed with their consent.













Cover feature: Lyn

After delivering the photos from the night we met, I invited Lyn for a full shoot. And after a slight hiccup regarding scheduling, we managed a full photo shoot at the lake one Thursday afternoon. Windy, unfortunately, so, like with the shoot with the Thai sisters, I wasn't able to use my diffusion panel to soften the harsh sunlight.

She said it's a new experience. But she really got into it once she relaxed and... she definitely didn't seem to be new at this.



















She brought a second outfit with her. She's Mexican and this shoot was the day before Mexico's Independence Day (September 16), and so I brought a traditional Mexican outfit. I had no issues accommodating her.














A pregnant woman with long dark hair is standing on a rocky shore at sunset. She is wearing a black cardigan over a blue and white plaid crop top, blue jeans, and black sneakers with white soles. She is looking down at her bare pregnant belly, which she is gently holding with her hands. The background features a calm body of water reflecting the golden light of the setting sun, with a dark, silhouetted shoreline in the distance.

Maternity shoots aren't really something I do. But when I saw her trying to take some shots of just herself by setting up her cell phone, I decided to offer my help and my camera.

From what she told me, she's due in December 2022 with a little boy.





















Lyn

Usually I advise against anything dominant green when having a photo shoot at a park. But fall colors had set it, so there wasn't much green to speak of. And we were at the beach shelter at Wyandotte County Lake, so there wasn't really any green to speak of for her shots.

We also just couldn't shake the wind, it seems. It was windy for her last shoot, and windy this time as well. Being around the beach shelter helped, since trees and the structure curtailed the wind a little.

The beach shelter has a lot more options for shots and poses compared to the dam and spillway where we shot last time. I've used it in the past and will be using it in the future. Which, rather interestingly, I almost never see other photographers doing a shoot in the beach shelter. In the vicinity of the shelter? Sure. On the lake shore? Absolutely. But actually in the shelter's structure? Not really.



















Amanda Gutierrez

I've encountered a lot of other photographers at the lake lately. Unlike most of them, Mandie wasn't here with her camera. It was only when I approached her that she told me.

She's still fairly new and learning, so along with the shots, I sent Mandie links to a few resources on YouTube to get to a good jumping-off point.

Learning the technicals and mechanics is one thing, and it isn't all that difficult since there really isn't much to learn. Learning your equipment is important as well so you can apply what you've learned.

Much of the practice, though, is to gain confidence as much as apply what you've learned.

And confidence as a photographer can really only come with practice. Like most everything else in life, you've got to put in the time if you want to improve.













KU friends

Similar to several other random encounters I've had, they were trying to take photos of each other with a cell phone. I was walking by when I spotted them and, after making sure I wasn't going to be in any of their shots, decided to offer my help and my camera. They're both business majors at the University of Kansas.

While I was taking a couple initial standing shots of the first friend, the second retreated to their SUV. "She's a little shy", the friend said. We managed to coax her back out and eventually got some great shots of her as well.

The last shot here was entirely by accident. Not sure why she was squatted down like that, but when I saw it, I just said "don't move".









Another after-dusk attempt. This one in particular turned out better than I thought, but most of the rest, unfortunately, did not. But that's part of the learning process.

I did have my speedlight on me at the time, but opted against using it as I wanted to see what I could get without it. And this was, pretty much, the last moments of light. The speedlight would've definitely helped.













Lyn

I really love the look and aesthetic you can get with a night shoot. And my first night shoot with Angie really introduced me to what is possible. And it's something I want to keep experimenting with to get the look I'm more-or-less after.

So with Lyn now being a recurring model, I felt that would be a direction to go with her. Especially with Daylight Saving Time about to end and our accelerating fall into ever shorter days. When I put the idea in front of her, though, I made sure it was clear that this was experimental.

Unfortunately things didn't go... exactly as I'd hoped.

I intended to use my flash on its wireless connection with it mounted onto a monopod with a shoot-through umbrella. Unfortunately I couldn't get the wireless connection working as expected, despite thinking I had it working before previously.

So instead I ran with the flash in the camera's hot shoe ("on camera"), similar to the first night shoot I had with Angie and the Christmas light shoot with Anna. But now I know what to set and how, and have taken a few steps to ensure this is easily verifiable in the future.

And new rule from this shoot: don't allow a client or model to show with a current significant other.











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