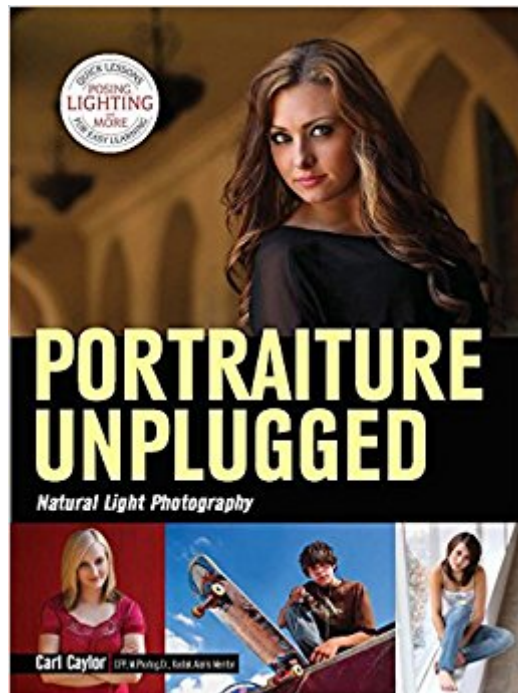


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# Portraiture Unplugged: Natural Light Photography



## Synopsis

Good lighting is everything in portraiture. The right light sculpts our subjects, smooths the skin, evens skin tones, and helps create the feeling of a third dimension in a two-dimensional image. The gold standard of lighting has, for the better part of a century, been produced by artificial lights (hot lights or strobes) in the studio. These sources allow for precise lighting effects on demand. However, artificial light cannot match the beauty or ambience that gorgeous natural light creates—and studio lighting can break the bank. In part 1 of this book, Carl Caylor introduces readers to a failproof method for understanding, shaping, and harnessing natural light for dazzling results that rival studio-lighting looks. Using your powers of observation, an understanding of the physics of light, and employing a couple of inexpensive tools (reflector panels to bounce light and a gobo to block light), Caylor shows you how to make the most of the sunlight for indoor and outdoor location shoots—and even studio work. You'll learn how to tweak the direction of light and manipulate lighting angles to re-create classic portrait lighting styles—short lighting, broad lighting, Rembrandt lighting, and more—that flatter and contour your subjects' facial structures to make them look their very best. In part 2 of the book, Carl provides an in-depth analysis into the techniques he used to create 60 beautiful natural-light portraits in myriad locations and circumstances, producing a wide range of portrait looks. Readers will learn how to integrate other elements that are important to building an effective portrait—including prop selection, wardrobe, composition, expression, posing, and even planning for a top-notch, contrasty black & white shot. The text in this book, along with inspirational images, will coax many readers to enjoy a back-to-basics approach that will allow them to produce technically exquisite and profoundly artful, flattering portraits that will sell themselves to clients every time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There is a quality to natural light that artificial lighting like strobes just can't provide. I know it's an ill-defined adjective but portraits made by natural light seem sweeter. The author provides a general introduction to the subject of natural light photography including such things as a discussion of the rule of reciprocity and the inverse square rule, as well as a discussion of some of the equipment he uses, like reflectors and lenses. However the meat of his book is contained in 60 portraits, accompanied by lighting diagrams and his discussion of the considerations of each image. These are money images, designed to keep paying customers happy, and not art, like say, Karsh or Avedon, but there certainly is nothing wrong with giving a loving photograph to parents of their high school senior to treasure. I was at first put off by the natural light photo room and the photo shed that the author built to best use natural light. Most of us have neither time, money nor inclination for such elaborate structures. But as I went through the images and his discussion I saw that the techniques Caylor used were just as applicable to even a single northern facing window, and his shots away from the facilities built to his specifications were quite instructive. Essentially he shows how to use the traditional concepts of main, fill, accent and backlight with natural light to achieve beautiful portraits. The author generally assumed that you understood the basics of things like exposure, focus, and depth of field and concentrated on ways to control natural light by adjusting the position of the sitter, the surroundings and the reflectors and gobos to get a particular look.

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