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Sierra Starlight: The Astrophotography Of Tony Rowell



Synopsis

Explore the strange country of the nighttime Sierra. Tony Rowell, son of wilderness photographer Galen Rowell, has created a compelling world in his "astrophotographs" of nighttime landscapes awash with light from the cosmos. This new book showcases iconic Sierra Nevada landmarks, both natural and manmade, against the spectacular night sky. The Milky Way illuminates a fleet of boats in the harbor at Lake Tahoe; the old Methodist church at Bodie looks both inviting and spooky against the expanse of the night. At Mono Lake, spectral tufa towers stretch up to meet Leonid meteors; and farther west, water from Yosemite Falls cascades into a lunar rainbow. Accompanying several of the photographs are Rowell's stories of achieving a particular shot, stories that often include arduous feats such as carrying heavy packs of camera equipment at over 10,000-foot elevation and filming all night in subfreezing temperatures.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Heyday; 1st edition (July 7, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597143138

ISBN-13: 978-1597143134

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

This is a beautiful, inspiring addition to the library of mountain photography. Everyone who loves the Sierra will want these photos. I have spent much of my life in those mountains and have never seen them in quite the spectacular way that Tony reveals in shots from moonbows to comets to climbing at night to the unrivaled Sierra starlight. Tony's father, the late Galen Rowell, would be extremely proud of Tony for producing this book and even more pleased for him.

Tony's father, Galen Rowell, took a famous shot at night in 1975 that showed stars above moon

drenched Himalayas. Tony took that shot as a starting point and is pushing the boundaries of what can be captured at night into new realms. Absolutely amazing photos that will make you want to sit back and look at the stars again, like a kid, waiting for a shooting star to swoop across the sky.

This would be an exceptional collection of images if it were only the beautiful variety of features and phenomena of the Sierra night skies that it somehow captures on paper in a way that evokes the sensation and perception of actually being there at 10,000 feet on a dark night. I did not expect to also be treated to an equally striking tour of the Earthbound Sierra landscape, from waterfalls, to tufas, to ghost towns, bristlecones, and beyond, all viewed in literally a new light. For those considering it not only for themselves, but also as a gift, well, I will let a recipient speak for themselves: "About an hour ago we got a marvelous surprise---our mail delivery man rang our doorbell and handed me a package. The Tony Rowell book is beautiful. As you probably know, I love the starry night sky and miss it a lot since I so rarely am away from city lights. Did you notice page 59---I had to look twice to find the meteor, because more obvious and lovely is the great picture of Orion which is not mentioned." It sounds like they enjoyed it as much as I did!

Beautiful images of the night skies from all over the mountains of California. Stars, lunar rainbows, comets, asteroids; all captured with majestic mountain scenery. A unique book. Great gift item.

One of the best natural photography books I've read in years - nice to have something tangible that everyone can look, learn and explore.

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