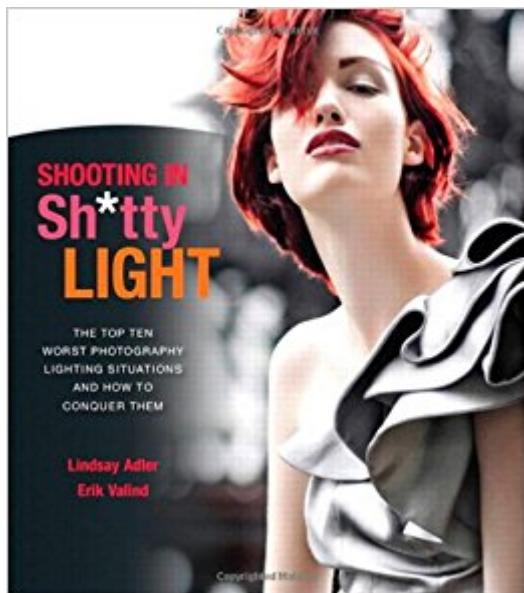


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# Shooting In Sh\*tty Light: The Top Ten Worst Photography Lighting Situations And How To Conquer Them



## Synopsis

Sometimes photographers have to shoot in less than ideal lighting situations. Maybe the wedding is mid-day in the middle of a field, or perhaps the event is in a florescent-lit room. These scenarios can be particularly intimidating for beginning photographers who don't know how to handle the many undesirable lighting situations they may encounter. In *Sh\*tty Light*, professional photographers Lindsay Adler and Erik Valind cover the top ten worst lighting situations and provide a variety of solutions for each. They explain which solutions are most practical and why one option might be preferable over another, examining such problems as extremely low lighting when no flash is allowed, strong backlight, and the light on an overcast day. Unlike other books that focus on natural light or lighting in general, this book addresses a very real need of beginning photographers, answering the question, "What do I do when the lighting is terrible?" Lindsay and Erik candidly show you the tools at your disposal, demonstrating the techniques essential to getting the job done with minimal fuss. Shows how to deal with ten of the worst lighting situations, such as harsh midday light, extremely low light, and mixed light. Offers real-life examples and practical solutions for handling poor light, such as identifying natural reflectors, bouncing light off a wall, or utilizing flash gels. Features a fun, conversational style to help you conquer the fear of poor lighting and approach any lighting situation with confidence!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lindsay Adler is a portrait and fashion photographer based in New York City. Her fashion editorials

have been featured in dozens of publications internationally and her images have appeared in advertising campaigns and billboards throughout the country. An author of three books, you can find her as a platform speaker at events like WPPI, Photo Plus, Imaging USA, Photoshop World, and online at creativeLIVE, Kelby Training, and many more. Learn more about Lindsay at [lindsayadlerphotography.com](http://lindsayadlerphotography.com). 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.

I'll admit I got some benefit out of this book; there were a few ideas that I hadn't thought of. But I've taken better photos than most of the photos in this book (my opinion). Mostly, I can sum this book up in three sentences:1. If you're shooting in hard light, get the model in shade or cover them with a diffuser2. Use clamshell lighting3. Use an off-camera flash with modifiers and gels to match the lightIf you didn't understand any of that, then this book is for you. If right now you're thinking, wtf, that's it?!? Then go and buy "Photographing Shadow and Light

I was impressed with the tone of the book when the very first suggestion for shooting in Sh\*tty Light was: "Don't shoot in Sh\*tty Light." But it wasn't just a whimsical statement. It was encouragement to control time and location of venue to the extent that you might be able with some practical suggestions on how to do that. The following suggestions are clear, well-organized with examples for each. The only "knock" I have is that with printing it is sometimes difficult to see the subtle differences of white balance especially, but other characteristics as well. The gross problems show up very well. It's a great book and as I mentioned, organized well so that using it as a reference for situational circumstances post reading should be very helpful. Also, it teaches you what to look for and how to evaluate what you are looking at.

While some of the reviews said that the information inside was just common sense basics, I decided to just buy it anyway and I'm glad I did. I'm new to flash and reflectors though I've used both before and read about their use in dozens of other books before this. What this book did differently that I loved so much was to actually SHOW the difference between slight tweaks in the set up. SHOWING what the portrait looked like with the reflector full on in the face from below and then again with the

reflector feathering the light and higher up, etc. Each small tweak helped me really get a feel for a lot of the concepts that I'd read about before, but hadn't fully grasped or utilized myself. I think there's an ocean of difference between knowing about a concept and then being able to apply it. This book was definitely more about how to apply concepts in a practical way rather than an abstract overview of said concepts. Maybe that's why some people felt like there wasn't enough breadth in material, because it was more indepth in just a few topics. I have enough books that say things like "avoid harsh sunlight, find shade, and use a reflector if necessary" but the discussion usually stops there and they expect you to figure it out. And while you CAN definitely figure it out yourself, some of us have very limited shooting time and want to figure out as much as we can before we get out there with our model and the clock and battery ticking. This book actually goes into the specifics like you're actually out there shooting. Loved this book. Very useful.

I want to list my criticisms first, just in case Linsey and Eric see this review, and can improve the 2nd edition of this veryy helpful tome:1.) There's no information about how they shot the image on the cover of this book. If it's on the cover, I would imagine it's supposed to be the best-of-all-possible worlds example of how these techniques can be used. And it's nowhere. C'mon. Put it in there. Show us how it's done.Secondly, and I'm guessing here because it's never addressed in the text, the authors never discuss what, if any, post processing has been performed on the images. Some of the images appear to have had some skin smoothing work...but I dunno. It would be good if the authors would talk about that aspect. Unless the authors are shooting JPEGs and putting them directly in the book, some work has to be done, and a beginner might not understand that and be confused as to why the results they're getting in-camera do not match what they're seeing on the page.

**Positives:**Very easy to follow, and great techniques for beginners. Consider this book an introduction that will get you started in understanding light, and how to bounce it around using very simple, inexpensive tools. I definitely recommend this book, found it helpful, easy to follow, and well-written.

I bought this book hoping it would help me with a variety of types of shooting in poor light. I am primarily a wedding photographer and often struggle with getting the appropriate exposure for my brides and their gowns, particularly for bridal portraits. This book focuses exclusively on shooting only the faces of models. More than once it mentions wedding issues but never addresses any of the problems they bring up. When shooting a bridal portrait i cannot hold a reflector right in front of my bride to get her face perfect because I have to get the wedding gown as well. I wish all of my

photography was just glamour "get the face right" shots. If you are a total beginner I guess this book may be helpful, but if you have shot anything at all there really isn't anything here. Most of this book is total common sense and it is so focused on just facial, or glamour stuff it won't help anyone but beginning glamour photographers.

I really like this book. Mostly because it's not trying to be too clever and solve all your photography problems at the same time. It specifically targets difficult light conditions one at a time, and gives you simple step by step solutions to getting the best pictures. The guides aren't excessively wordy, and include photos clearly showing the problem case and the solution case. I really couldn't be happier with this purchase, probably the best book I've seen for advancing photography technique

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