# THE MOMENT IT CLICKS Photography secrets from one of the world's top shooters



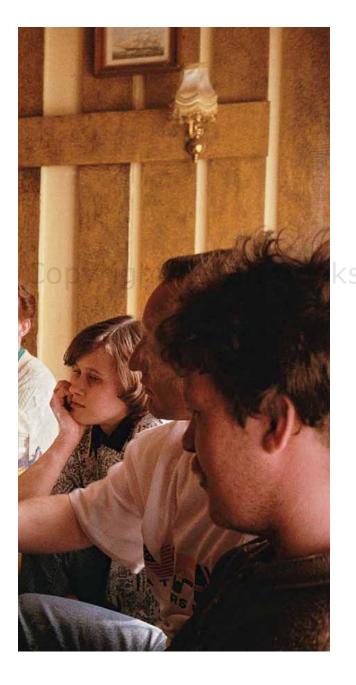
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So... Time for those blessed words that are uttered at the end of many a tough day in the field ...

# The Bar Is Open

Let's call it Louie's East, in honor of that semi-famous dive that used to be on the corner of 41st and 2nd Avenue and served as the unofficial watering hole, hideaway, strike war room, and confessional of the New York Daily News. Often, as a copyboy, I would be dispatched to the third floor, where in the din of presses that at the time jackhammered out over a million papers a night, I would pick up a few dozen one-stars, the Bulldog, the first edition of tomorrow's paper.

Next stop, Louie's East. I would not return to the seventh floor newsroom. I would go downstairs, cross the street, and walk through the doors and into a solid wall of stale beer smell. I would then walk along the bar and distribute papers, and editors would phone in their corrections over a boilermaker or two.

I'm not disparaging the place unfairly. It actually reveled in how scruffy it was. There was graffiti in the men's toilet that read, "Don't do no good to stand on the seat...the crabs in here jump 10 feet." I shit you not, to continue the visual.

It was part of the mix, the culture of New York journalism. Here would mix poets and scribes and columnists and editors and photographers, all reveling together in the imperfect and wonderful occupation of telling stories. It was here I think I first heard that old wink-wink tabloid mantra: "Some facts are too good to check....'

Tales got told. Here are a few...

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BAD DAYS CAN MAKE FOR GREAT PICTURES



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IT'S A ROCKY ROAD TO FREELANCEVILLE
"Gosh, you mean after I get approved by a bunch of 20-year-olds, and I shoot it for free, I might get to use it after six months? Where do I sign up?"
My studio manager got this not too long ago from a magazine:
"Thanks very much for your email. It looks like before confirming this, both of our ends have to check on remaining details, i.e., our whole creative team has to agree on contracting Joe. Additionally, while we are happy to take care of the production legwork—i.e., getting the talent, clothes, makeup and styling, location scouted, and permission acquired—we generally do not offer a fee for photography. Unfortunately, with the increase of our circulation came staggering print cost increases. It is a large shot (virtually a full page), however, and a dynamic image. I will also get back to you ASAP with regard to usage, but I imagine that he will be able to publish it wherever he likes after 6 mos. time."
Gosh, you mean after I get approved by a bunch of 20-year-olds, and I shoot it for free, I might get to use it after six months?
Where do I sign up?
One of the new road signs to Freelanceville.

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#### BE A PEST

I was shooting a *Time* cover on the launch of Disney's Animal Kingdom. Disney being Disney, they jumped into the zoo business with both feet, scouring zoos everywhere and buying up bunches of animals.

It was a cover story, so there was a lot of pressure. I needed certain things to happen which weren't happening.

The main attraction was the safari ride, which I was told I had to shoot from the safari vehicles on the established path of the ride. No exceptions. I told them this was impossible. How do you shoot a picture of something you're sitting on?

I also wanted to shoot behind the scenes with the animals, to show how they were being cared for. Disney didn't want to show the animals behind bars. They wanted the public to believe that at night, the animals were being cared for by Mickey and Tinker Bell, and instead of being caged, they were chatting amongst themselves and hanging around at Pleasure Island.

They told me behind-the-scenes photos were impossible.

I knew I had to go to the top. Michael Eisner and I go way back. I've put him in a tree. I've shot him with Roger Rabbit. We've also done some male bonding in an 80-foot bucket crane over Disney-MGM Studios. He's actually okay to photograph and knows the value of a picture.

Time's writer was interviewing Eisner over lunch at Animal Kingdom. Being the photographer on the story, I knew I wasn't invited. The only way I'd get close to the table was to put on a waiter's uniform. I hung out at the bar, biding my time. The writer had promised me he'd take my case to Eisner. Right.

The lunch broke. I made my move, cutting Eisner off in between the tables, giving him nowhere to go.

He rolled his eyes. "What do you want?" was the first thing out of his mouth. "I need to get off the safari path, and I need to get behind the scenes with the animals." You have to hit it hard and fast. He also knew I was a persistent pain in the a\$\$, which worked in my favor.

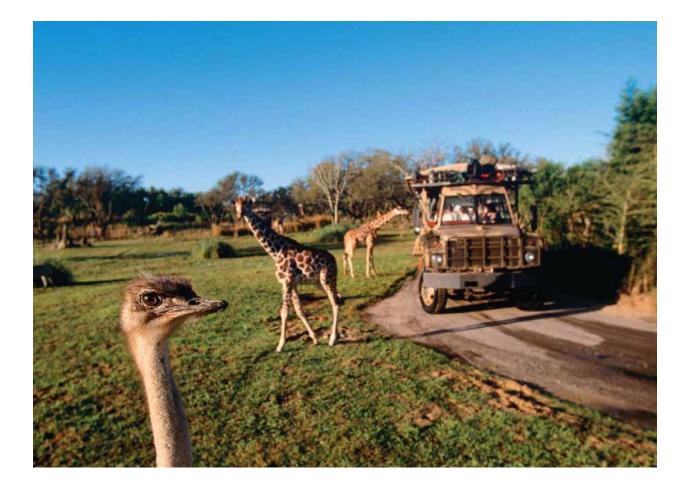
"Okay for the safari and behind the scenes if it's just for *Time*." He looked around and his people all nodded. Done.

Both pictures ran. Photographers... we're pests. But we know what we know.

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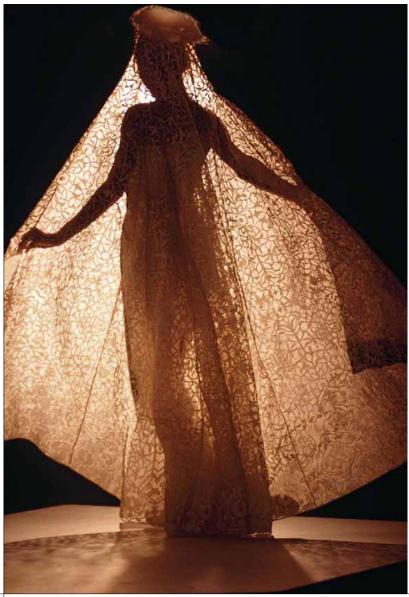
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"Be & PEST! They told me behind-the-scenes photos were impossible."

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"Then he beamed and clapped me on the shoulder. You could be MANAgement! "

Never live with a fashion model.

I did. What can I say? The guys at the Daily News loved her, and were always asking for updates about my love life. Particularly Caruso, who was one of those Italian guys from Brooklyn who just adored women.

But we broke up. Badly. Had to throw her out. In December. I moped into the News. Caruso saw me. "Hey howzitgoin'? How's the girlfriend?" I shook my head. "Not too good," I said. "I hadda throw her out. She's gone."

His eyes widened. He grabbed me and threw me back against the wall. He had a wild look on his face. "You trew her out?!" he screamed in his best Brooklynese. "In the deada winta? Right before da holidays? You heartless bastard!"

Then he beamed and clapped me on the shoulder. "You could be management!"

VER LIVE WITH A MODEL

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DEAD	) GUYS
	"I was always very careful when processing his film,
	'cause the outline of a huge handgun was always plainly visible under his sweater."
	pining visible under his subacci.
	Back in the '70s in New York, dead people turned up regularly. Subway platforms, street corners,
	parks—you name it. You just stepped over them on the way to work.
	Naturally, the Daily News had a crime photog who worked the overnight shift. Big guy, made bigger
	by the cowboy hat he often wore and the bulky sweaters he usually had on, even in the summer.
	I was always very careful when processing his film, 'cause the outline of a huge handgun was always plainly visible under his sweater.
	Not that it was ever complicated. He shot 20-exposure rolls of Tri-X <sup>1</sup> , and there were usually
	three frames: one out-of-focus frame of the trunk of his car (as he retrieved his gear and loaded his film), another out-of-focus frame of his feet as he walked over to the scene of the crime, and
	a reasonably sharp shot of the dead body.
	That was it. Short and sweet. I always told him I liked his work.
1 Tri	-X—Kodak Tri-X is the legendary black-and-white film for the ages, staple for many years of photojournalists everywhere.

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JUST	GO MAKE A PICTURE	
	How about kissing a moose? Well, maybe just kiss the baby.	
	It was my second story for Life. I was excited, but still terrified I would screw up and spend the rest of my career shooting for Compressed Air Monthly.	
	The story was on nannies, a newsworthy item back in those days. John Loengard, picture editor and provocateur, called me in to discuss ideas. To John, a nanny was Mary Poppins, complete with pram and starchy uniform. I was shooting the story out west and the visual changeup had John's juices flowing.	"Maybe if you had a wawwy kissiwg a moose. I'm just thiwking out loud, Joe."
	"How about all the proper nannies and their babies out in the Rocky Mountains?" he suggested. "Or maybe one (in uniform) with her pram walking through a dusty cowboy town?" None of that was going to happen, but that didn't matter to John.	
	He paused. "Maybe if you had a nanny kissing a moose. I'm just thinking out loud, Joe."	
	I, of course, nodded and staggered out of his office. Mel Scott, the deputy picture editor, saw me with my eyeballs rolling around. He knew what'd happened.	
	He motioned to come into his office and closed the door. "Okay Joe, what you gotta do now is put all that stuff out of your head and just go make a picture. Ya hear me?" He had this great Texas accent. "Just go make a picture."	
	John and Mel were the best good cop/bad cop act in all of photography. John would get you to think (and occasionally scare the bejeezus out of you), and Mel would calm you down and tell you everything was gonna be all right.	
	As photographers, as an industry, we sorely miss both of them.	
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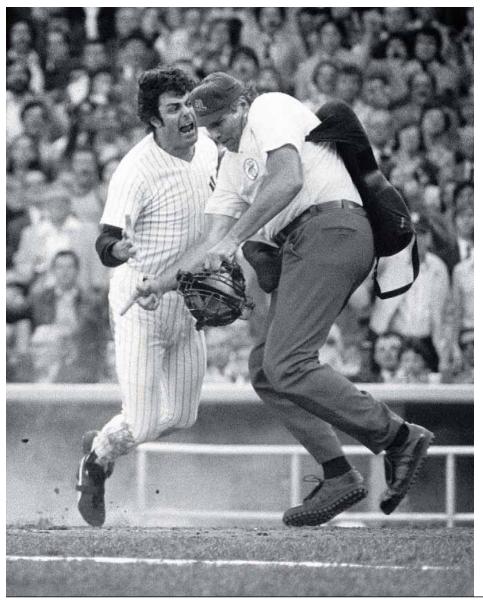


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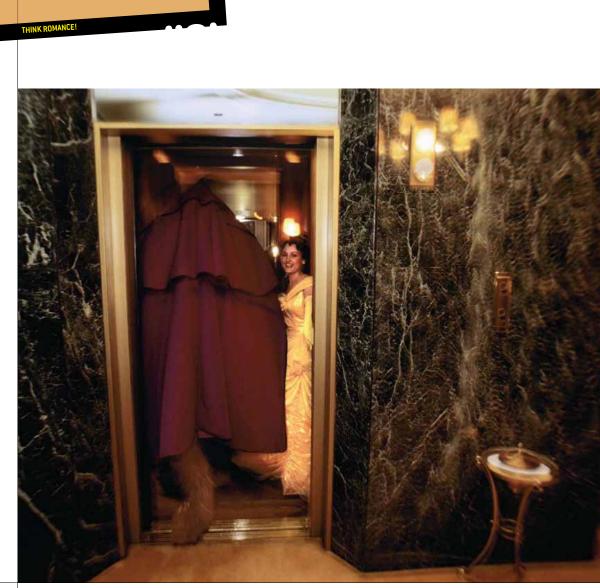
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Lou Piniella & Ron Luciano

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"Then I start thinking ... Beauty and the Beast! They're, you know, like, in LOVE! My mind starts racing. They're gonna go upstairs and do it!"

It helps to be a bit of a romantic sometimes. I was shooting the A Day in the Life of Hollywood book and one of my stops was to make pictures of Alan Menken getting a BMI music award for Beauty and the Beast at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

For a photographer, an award ceremony is a non-starter. Uhh, lessee...should I cover the award ceremony, or should I go get that long overdue root canal? Hmmm....

Anyway, Menken wins the award, and the photogs close in and go disco, shooting flash so motor-driven fast they must have had Honda generators strapped to their belts. I'm in the mix, doing the same thing, thinking, man, the movie might be a hit, but this picture I'm getting closes out of town.

The furor calms down, and Beauty and the Beast walk away. I walk away, too, but then I start thinking...Beauty and the Beast! They're, you know, like, in love! My mind starts racing. They're gonna go upstairs and do it! The Beast must have an enormous schvenstalker! They're heading for the elevators!

Luckily, the Bev Wilshire hotel has a sweeping staircase with two sets of steps. Beauty and the Beast lumber up one, and I sprint up the other. They get to the elevator bank and...there's Joe!

I got a frame that was a double truck<sup>1</sup> in the book.

<sup>1</sup> Double Truck: A double truck is a two-page spread.

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First time I ever saw Eddie being Eddie was at the 1980 Democratic National Convention. Eddie is Eddie Adams, of course—shooter, legend, raconteur, hero, rock star, sage, keeper of the "Shit List," friend, mentor, and (occasionally) irascible old coot. I didn't know him back then. I was a newbie, and he was Eddie. He seemed pretty gruff. I was scared of him. But I did notice him going around with this galoot of an assistant who obviously didn't

know anything about photography. Curious. The guy was big enough to play linebacker for the Chicago Bears, and in fact, probably did, but a photog he wasn't. But the guy was big. Real big.

So the last night of the convention, President Carter, ever the populist, decides to walk through the convention floor to the podium instead of using the back hallways like the elitist sumbitches most politicians are, and it drove the Secret Service nuts. Tension was high. People were jammin', trying to get a piece of the man from Plains, and security was determined not to let that happen.

What did happen was about a 100-yard free-for-all scrum across the length of the convention floor. Cops and G-men formed a flying wedge and drove forward, trampling all in their path. Conventioneers pushed back and mayhem ensued. I tried to get a picture by standing on a collapsible chair. Bad move. I went down, hard. Got nothing.

My one memory as I fell was Eddie Adams wading through the crowd like Moses with a Leica, astride the shoulders of his linebacker assistant, who was making short work of the respectable delegates from the great states of Alabama, Connecticut, and Rhode Island by simply picking them up and tossing them aside.

I was lying on the floor with the skid marks of peoples' shoes all over me and my gear and thought, "Son of a  $b!\& {\tt k\#}$  knows what he's doin!"

"My one memory as I fell was Eddie Adams wading through the crowd like Moses with a Leica, astride the shoulders of his linebacker assistant...."

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President Carter

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	NOT EVERYONE'S GONNA LOVE YOU
	"Not everybody's gonna think your stuff is the greatest thing since sliced bread. Put a picture out there, and anybody who sees it can say anything they want about it.
	It is J't the busivess for a thin skin." At the Daily News, we used to edit by projecting the negs on screens. It was a brilliant way to edit B&W, 'cause reading the neg instead of the contact sheet would give far better info about sharpness and quality. Editors like Phil "Stanzi" Stanziola were terrific at essentially reading in reversethe negative instead of the positive.
	When your stuff was on the screen, of course, the standard comment from passers- by would always be something like, "Whose \$#!% is this?" It would go downhill from there, especially if something was, you know, soft. (I'll leave that range of commentary to your imagination.) Some folks are gonna love your stuff and some are gonna hate it. Some editors will
	adore you as a shooter, and others wouldn't assign you to an "Editor's Note" job. I've always taken solace in the philosophy of good ol' Miss Lillian, Jimmy Carter's mom. Campaigning for her son, she was brought up short by an earnest young gentleman who shared that he liked her a lot, but he wasn't going to vote for her son.
	She just laughed and patted him on the cheek. "That's okay son, we didn't expect it to be unanimous."
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Miss Lillian Carter

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Never underestimate terror as a motivational tool.

National Geographic sent me to Hawaii to come up with an unusual picture of the Ironman Triathlon.

I was psyched. An underwater view of the Ironman! I did the whole thing—Zodiac boat, underwater camera rigs, permissions, you name it. I was ready.

Morning of the race. I'm in position (40 feet below the surface) waiting for the start. A few swimmers go overhead. Then a couple. Then nobody.

Ever get that sick feeling in your gut, the one that lets you know you really screwed the pooch? I had drifted on my dive. The swimmers went wide of me.

I surface and throw myself into the Zodiac boat and race to the first turn hoping the swimmers would gang up again. I'm trying to reload

my cameras and regrease the O-rings as I'm being tossed around in the boat, slammin' through the waves. No luck at the turn. So we haul a\$\$ to get to the finish before them. I throw myself into the water again.

It gets worse. As soon as I hit the water, one of my strobes goes disco, a sure sign of a flooded rig. I drop it on the bottom. I see the swimmers starting to funnel down into the finish and I get a camera ready.

And then my regulator starts getting pulled out of my mouth. I look up, and my air tank had slipped its cinch (my bad) and was wanting to scream to the surface, my air supply with it.

I reach up, grab the tank, and tuck it under my left arm. With my right hand, I got a camera to my mask, and squeezed two frames of the bunched swimmers. They never grouped up again like this. I was done for the day.

I mean, how was I gonna call my editor and explain that I just freakin' missed 2,500 relatively slowmoving people?

"Never underestimate terror as a motivational tool. I mean, how was I gonna call my editor and explain that I just freakin' missed 2,500 relatively slow-moving people?"

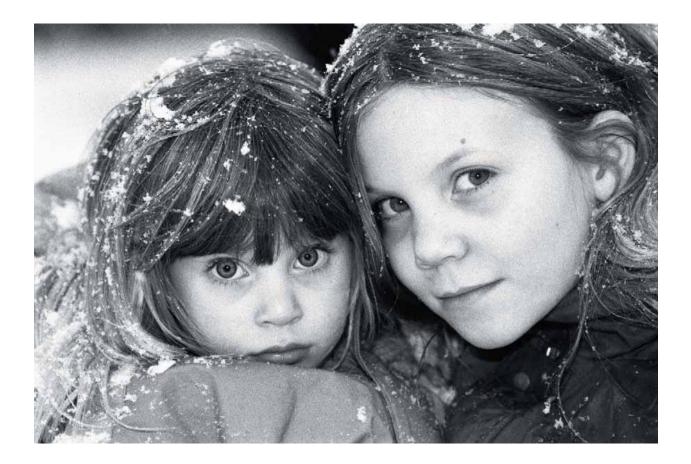
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IT'S HARD TO STRIKE A BALANCE	
"She reached over with her little hand	
and patted me on the shoulder and said,	
"Don't worry, "Daddy, just do the best you can."	
Occasionally I am asked about how to balance the life of a photog with, well, life. In response, described my three roles of husband, father, and photographer as three people drowning at	
There is a lot of grabbing, splashing, and flailing about, no one is on the surface for very long generally none of the three of us are doing particularly well.	g, and
Sometimes you try to be a good dad and it means you're a bad photographer—you go into the no sleep, no prep, and without an idea in your head. The converse is often true. Prepare, get dwell on the job, go out there and knock it back and bask in the reverb of a good frame, dream	obsessive, about the
phone ringing from JLo's agent for the cover of her next CD, andwhat were my kids' names	-
I used to even screw up bedtime stories, I was so exhausted most of the time. Caitlin (my 22- old daughter) regularly busts me about this now. She even remembers the night I returned from Chicago and tried to tell her the story of the three little pigs. Somehow, what came out of my mou "And all the ships were made of bricks, and it was a good night to Chicago." No joke. That twist fable stuck in her head, and she trots it out now and then to embarrass me.	n a job in uth was,
We were snuggled one night, and I looked at her and said, "You know, sweetie, daddy's so tir I don't think I can even get through one story." She was about two. She reached over with her and patted me on the shoulder and said, "Don't worry, daddy, just do the best you can."	-
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Claire and Caity

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	Hways ask the tough question. It's a long Name flight home if you don't.
And the	more sensitive the question, the
	ueeds to be asked, and very directly. Aying to be harsh, just direct."
im not s	aying to be haron, just airect.
	One of the privileges of my career has been to meet Kim Phuc, a.k.a. The Napalm Girl. Horribly burned at the age of nine in Vietnam, she crusades now for peace.
	I was sent to find people who had been the subject of Pulitzer Prize- winning photos. When you're the subject of a Pulitzer, it is generally not by choice, because by and large, they're not happy moments.
	So it was with Kim. She's alive because AP shooter Nick Ut took the picture. Then he dropped his cameras and got her to a hospital. But because of the photo, her life became a bizarre, propaganda- driven odyssey. If I ever think pictures aren't important, and I get tired, frustrated, and down, I think about Kim. Her whole life has spun on a photograph, a slice of a second.
	Returning from a Moscow honeymoon, she and her husband applied for asylum in Canada, so I went to meet her in Toronto. We talked. I told her I needed to see her scars. Otherwise, there was no point to my being there. She understood.
	Luckily, she was breast-feeding Thomas, her new baby, which gave us the perfect way to show how this beautiful dumpling of a baby sprang from her scarred and battered body. It is a hopeful picture, appropriate for Kim.

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Kim Phuc

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	THE PUCKER FACTOR
	You always know when you've got the frame. I mean the one you come for. Sometimes something we thought sucked actually works out, and sometimes the client hates what we thought was pretty good. But now I'm talking about <i>those</i> frames—the ones that stick. They only come along every once in a while, but when you get one, you know it.
	You may know it by a skip of your heart, a short gasp, a split-second of vertigo in your brain, or a feeling like you've just gotten a quick punch to the gut.
	Or, you may feel it elsewhere. One of the old-timers at the <i>Daily News</i> once looked at me and made a little circle with the tips of his fingers and his thumb, which he then started squeezing and releasing in rhythmic fashion. "You always know when you're gettin' good stuff, kid, 'cause you can feel your @\$\$hole goin' like dis." He continued squeezing until he was sure I got the point.
	l once related this story to a class of military photojournalists, who immediately classified this as "the pucker factor."
	"You Always know when you've got THE frame. You may know it by a skip of your heart, a short gasp, a split-second of vertigo in your brain, or a feeling like you've just gotten a guick punch to the gut."
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IN SPACE, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU PUKE

"With the windowless plane dipsy-doodling, and people standing on the ceiling, and me looking through a lens, I realized why the plane's nickname was the 'vomit come
Bring money! When it comes to getting something done in the field, pronto, there is nothing like cold, hard cash. This is very true in Russia. It's painfully true when it comes to the Russian space program. U.S. greenbacks are the fuel in the boosters.
I went to shoot a story for Life in Star City, the cosmonaut training center. We had a deal with the Russians. They reneged. Greetings, comrade! We have lied to you repeatedly!
I got onto this plane and got this frame by stuffing \$7,500 into the hands of my Russian contact at Star City on a runway in an ice storm. He jammed the wad in his pocket, turned to the pilots, and gave the signal. They spun the props and rolled down the runway.
The zero-G plane flies parabolas—a series of steep dives followed by rapid ascents. At the top of the curve, just before the plane dives again, you go weightless for about 30 seconds. As one American astronaut told me, it's the most fun you can have with your clothes on. Maybe so. But with the windowless plane dipsy-doodling, and people standing on the ceiling, and me looking through a lens, I realized why the plane's nickname was the "vomit comet."
I retched at least 50 or more times. After a while I forgot about the bag and just horked up what was left of my stomach inside my flight suit. I was a sweaty, stinking mess. The Russian doc got so worried he started massaging my ears during the dives so I wouldn't pass out.
Astronaut Mike Lopez-Allegria held my feet to stabilize me while he was anchored to the floor with a bungee cord. I floated up and made fill flash pictures on Kodachrome. I just kept cleaning out the eyepiece to my camera and hammering frames.
When we landed, I was standing with a bunch of astronauts on the ground, and my stomach dry heaved again. Heard chuckles all around. "Somebody wanna tell Joe here the flight's over?"

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	CHODSING IS NEVER EASY
	"I wept for her, for me, but mostly because the siren call
	of my first big story with a yellow border around it was more powerful than the call of fatherhood."
	was more powerful than the call of fatherhood.
	There needs to be a course in school about how to be a parent and a photographer. Not that we'd listen. All of that is so far away.
	I missed a whole bunch of my kids' growing up. Every traveling shooter does. I have a memory
	of a day when I was leaving for a four-week trip to Africa for National Geographic. My daughter Caitlin and I were in the driveway. It was hot and the sun was harsh. She was about three years
	old and had watched the familiar ritual of Dad loading the taxi to go to the airport many times.
	I hugged her hard. Told her the usual things. She didn't understand or care about what I was saying. I knew that. The things we say in these moments to our kids make us feel better, not them.
	The cab pulled out and I twisted around and looked back, desperately waving. She couldn't
	see me. The light was too bright. She waved once, and left her arm pressed against her forehead, shielding her eyes. The sun was glaring through the dirty window, and she faded
	from view, hot and yellowish, like an old Polaroid from the '50s.
	I slid down in the seat and began to weep. I wept for her, for me, but mostly because the siren call of my first big story with a yellow border around it was more powerful than the call of fatherhood.
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IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE

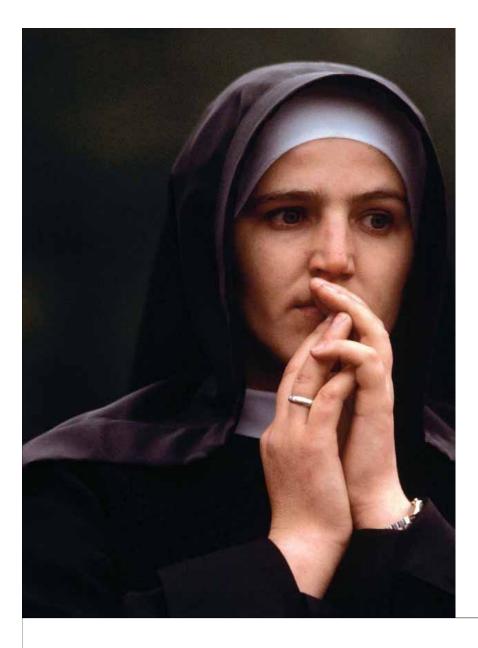


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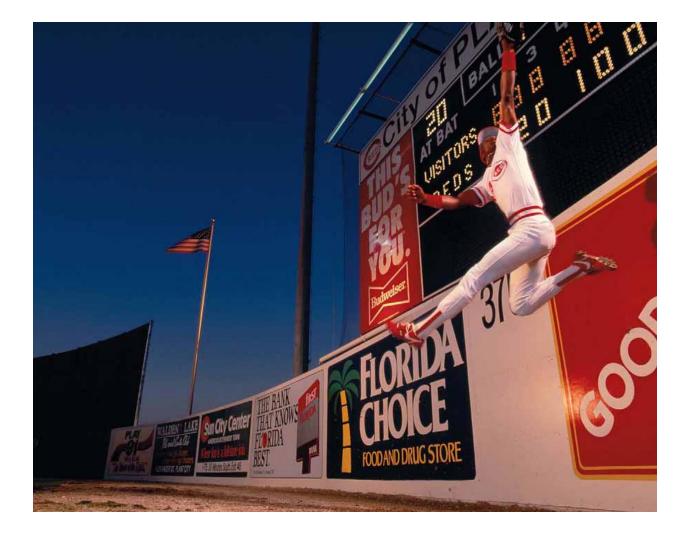
LISTEN TO YOUR ASSISTANT Listen to your assistant. They can save your butt. The baseball editor at <i>Sports Illustrated</i> looked at me and said, "I hate the baseball pictures. Go to Florida and make them look different." Turn the page and I'm at spring training, bombing around with a movie grip truck, an 18-wheeler, lighting up the Citrus League, doing simulated action pictures of the defensive stars of baseball. We shot them at dusk, after the games, and had to draw so much electric that we needed a truck with a 600-amp generator so we could fire the 10 to 15 2,400-watt-second Speedotrons we were routinely using. Shot Eric Davis of the Reds, star outfielder, stellar defender, specialist at the leap-at-the-wall-rob-your-ass-of-a-home- run move. Which is exactly what we set up.	I was shooting a Mamiya RZ with a 50mm lens, on a sandbag lying on the grass. Things were going great. I had about 10 frames of Superman-type leaps. Small problem—they were all on one piece of film. The Mamiya has this clutch button that if it's depressed, you can fire the camera but not advance the film. Ideal for multiple exposures, if that's what you're in the mood to shoot. My assistant on the job, Howard Simmons, who has gone on to a terrific career as a staffer at the <i>Daily News</i> , was roaming, as all good assistants do. He bent over
We lit up the outfield, got Eric out there, tossed a ball up to the wall, and he'd leap spectacularly and grab it. You're out! "Listen to your Assistant. They can save your butt."	to check the camera I was shooting. I heard a gasp. He whispered in my ear, "We have shot no film." He left out the "dumb\$#!%" part, which I appreciated. Whaddaya do? Eric was ready to leave. He was huffing and puffing. "Uh, hey, Eric, those looked sooooooo fantastic that I need to get just a few more on another roll of film. You know, just in case we lose the one we just shot." Or in case some idiot behind the camera made art
 The Moment It Clicks	when he should've been making pictures.

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	GET A CAMERA WHERE YOU AIN'T
	Sometimes the camera has to do all the work. You may have to do a lot of work to get that camera into the right spot, but then you just have to sit back and hope it all goes okay.
	I worked for about three weeks to get this camera attached to the frame of a T-38 during a flight with Senator John Glenn in the back seat. Anything that gets attached to a tactical aircraft has to go up, down, and sideways through an approval process.
	Then, when you get the approval, ya gotta figure out a way to make it stay put while the flyboys are up there rockin' and rollin'.
	It would not have been a good day in the field if this camera had gotten loose in the cockpit.
	The NASA engineers were great about it, devising plates and bolts to get it tucked away safely. This particular shot was with a Nikon N90 and a 16mm fisheye.
	Senator Glenn and I shared a credit in the magazine on this, which was a cool thing. I told him, "John, just squeeze the button (on a remote cord run to his fingers) and look toward the light." He did it perfectly.
	Working with the Senator was one of the honors of my career. He was great about being photographed. I always teased him that he had gone to the Ralph Morse School of Being a Photo Subject.
	"Sometimes the camera has to do all the work.
	You may have to do a lot of work to get that
	camera into the right spot, but then you just have to sit back and hope it all goes right."
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John Glenn

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You don't have to go to Afghanistan to shoot good photos. The most important pictures you will shoot are right there in front of you, of the people and places closest to you.

My kids and I were at Walt Disney World, at the hotel pool. Claire, about eight at the time, decided to be a torpedo and pushed off the bottom in the nine-foot-deep section to zoom to the surface. Thing is, she zoomed at an angle, not a straight line, and her face crashed full speed into the wall of the pool. Ouch.

After we got everything calmed down and figured out no permanent damage had been done, I pulled out a Coolpix to JPEG a damage report to her mom. (This was my first vacation as a divorced dad with just me and the kids. Figures.)

The result was one of my favorite pictures. At a tough, painful moment in her young life, Claire looks back at the camera undaunted and unbowed (you lookin' at me?). Her eyes are deep pools of resolve. I suspected then, as I do now, that Claire will live life on her own terms, and won't take much grief from anyone. (Uh, this would include her dad.)

Lovely, intimate bits and pieces like this are the glue that hold together the scattershot life of a photog. In my helter-skelter pursuit of "big" pictures, I ignored too many quieter, close-to-home moments. As I look back, I wish I had more of 'em. Especially now, 'cause my kids won't put up with me pointing a camera at them anymore.

"In my helter-skelter pursuit of big pictures, I ignored too many quieter, close-to-home moments. As I look back, I wish I had more of 'em."

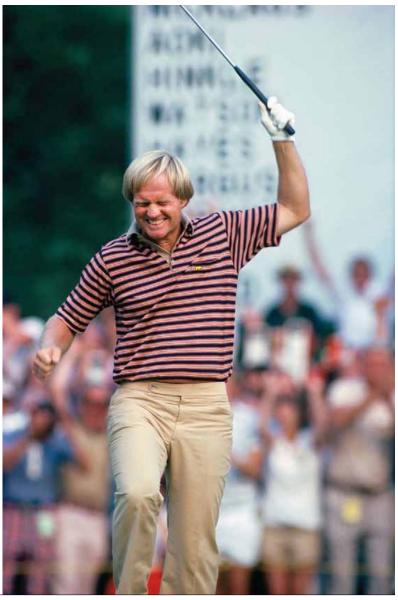
Claire

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LEARN FROM THOSE AROUND YOU	
"Like I said, there ain	o't Nobody like him."
	Face it, Walter looss is the coolest photographer walking. I mean, he's just Walter, man, and there ain't no other.
	I was assigned to shoot the 1980 U.S. Open Golf Championship out in New Jersey. I had never shot a golf match before in my life. I had no idea what I was doing.
	But Walter looss did. So I stuck with Wally all day. Looking back, I was kind of blatant about it, but he didn't seem to mind. I was a pup, and he was, you know, Walter, even back then. He had an assistant who carried only one camera, I think, with a 600mm lens. Walter would stride down the fairway unencumbered.
	I was carrying all my stuff: a six, a four, a three, all with motors, wide glass, camera bag, strobe. It was tough keeping up, I tell ya. Walter takes one step to every four of mine.
	We come to the last hole. looss gets a spot, and I'm right next to him. Nicklaus holes out and wins the tournament, and goes jubo right there. I get the only good golf frame I've ever shot.
	Like I said, there ain't nobody like him.
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Jack Nicklaus

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MY MOST IM	PORTANT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT	
	"She said, 'It's f	for luck, Daddy."
		I was in the basement preparing to go off somewhere, as
		usual, and I was doing the checklist thing. You know: cameras, lenses, batteries, film, chargers, cords, bunny head
		Bunny head?
		My daughter Caitlin was about three at the time, so I brought
		it upstairs and asked her about it. She said, "It's for luck, Daddy."
		It's much bedraggled now—it's lost its eyes and mouth, and it
		could use a run through the washing machine. But it's stayed in my camera bag through wind and rain, bad locations, Godforsaken
		places, dicey jobs, big jobs, small jobs, bad jobs, you name it.
		Caitlin just turned 22.

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KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO



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It's tough being a photog dad. You miss a lot of first steps, ball games, recitals, birthdays. When your kids are young, they don't care or understand that you're trying to make a living. They just know that you're gone.

You try to make up for it in little ways. They become travelers along with you, sometimes. They hopefully get a sense that this is a larger world. They (occasionally) think it's cool when you show them a cover or a picture of somebody famous.

And maybe, just maybe, years from now, they'll look up at the blinking light atop the Empire State Building and know that their names are inscribed there.

"Caitlin and Claire...your daddy loves you."

"When your kids are young, they don't care or understand that you're trying to make a living. They just know that you're gone."

Self-Portrait on Empire State Building

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