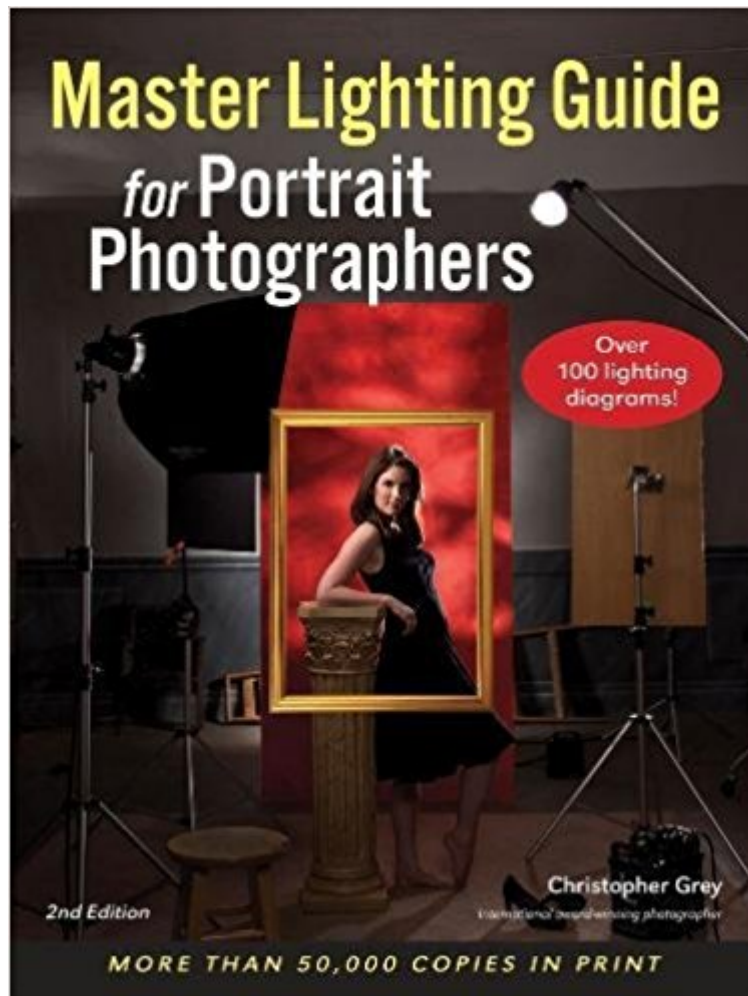




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# Master Lighting Guide For Portrait Photographers



## Synopsis

Light, vibrant and malleable, is the greatest tool at the disposal of portrait photographers. In this acclaimed book "with over 50,000 copies in print" Christopher Grey walks you through studio portrait lighting from start to finish. Dozens of image sequences and before/after pairings show you precisely how each change of light position and modifier affects the look of the lighting on the subject. From classic portrait lighting patterns to unexpected but powerful looks, Grey teaches you everything you need to know to control light effectively. Armed with these powerful skills, you'll be able to create portraits that are more flattering, more marketable, and more creative.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christopher Grey is the author of Creative Techniques for Nude Photography and Photographer's Guide to Polaroid Transfer. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The following is from the author: For over 30 years, I've dedicated my professional life to be the best generalist photographer I could be, and over the course of that time I've had the opportunity to photograph an amazing variety of people, products and services. My work has been, and continues to be, a rich, visual exploration of people and culture, of psychology and motivation, of line and form and love of life. Good fortune and hard work has seen a number of national and international awards come my way, the ownership of which has opened even more doors for me. Among my personal victories, I shot the most interest-generating ad photo in The Home Depot's entire history, a logistically challenging image from concept to completion, involving sculptors, bakers, and model painters, in less than a

week. Some time ago I realized that others might benefit from my experience, and I began to write and teach. This ignited a new creative spark within me, which I'm happy to say has lit fires under other photographers and enabled many of them to reach their immediate goals more readily. I'm thrilled to be working at the forefront of the "digital revolution", although I believe that term is a misnomer. It's really "evolution" because it's changing every aspect of my industry, my own business and the way I work. At last, I have complete creative control over my images. Today is a great day to be a photographer. Tomorrow, even better.

The Kindle version is NOT the second (latest, 2014) edition even though the image shown on the page for the Kindle edition is of the cover for the newer, second edition. The Kindle version content is from the older, 2004, first edition. I have the paperback version of the 2014 second edition and thought I'd get the Kindle version for convenience of reading on my Android when away from home or on my PC even when home at my desk. I've compared them -- they are NOT the same. Either the photo should be changed or this should be clearly stated -- preferably both since the two covers are only a little different.

I'll get straight to the point: the book is fine and I learned a lot from it, but the formatting on the Kindle version is awful. There are lots of pages with only one or two small pictures in them. Sometimes, these poorly diagramed pages go on for 5-7 pages in a roll and having to refer back to the text describing them gets very tedious (back-back-back-[back](#), next-next-next-[next](#)). Photography is a hobby to me and I read photography related books to improve my technique. I started out buying the print versions of some of the more popular books and I was happy with that approach until I realized the added convenience of owning their electronic versions instead (I'd get both versions if only publishers would bundle them at a discount). For instance, I could more comfortably read in bed, easily create and share bookmarks, and have a lightweight portable library on multiple devices, including [Kindle](#)'s online reader. If you're an e-book convert already, you know exactly what I mean. When I purchased this e-book, I did not have its corresponding print copy for comparison. But it didn't take long before I noticed that there was something very wrong with it. While I was enjoying the book's contents, I was constantly getting annoyed by the book's diagraming and the lack of resolution in the pictures. Any time I'd zoom into one of the small pictures (and there are tons of them), I'd be looking at such a pixelated image that I'd immediately be forced to zoom out and just examine the small version instead. This made it unnecessarily difficult to follow the illustrated examples of lighting techniques presented by the

author throughout the book. Then there were the multiple strings of pages with 1-2 small pictures in them which I mentioned earlier. Very frustrating. The only reason why I'm giving the Kindle version of this book 2 stars is so I don't lower its overall star rating too much. It is a very good book, as confirmed by other reviewers. However, until allows for reviewing the Kindle version of its books separately, this is the only outlet I have for my complaint that might make any difference. So do yourself a favor and think twice before getting the e-version of this book and don't hesitate to ask for a refund if, like me, you end up feeling like you made a bad investment.

Christopher Grey's "Master Lighting Guide for Portrait Photographers" is a well-written, easy to follow guide that does an excellent job describing how to set up your lights to achieve different effects when shooting portraits. The photos that he uses provide superb examples of the effects of changing both the power of the light as well as how different modifiers affect the final image. In this book, Mr. Grey begins with a quick lesson on the physics of light and basic lighting equipment. After that appetizer, he starts in with the real meat, discussing:

1. Lighting ratios and how to represent them in a universal language that is easy to translate to actual flash settings
2. Basic lighting, including broad lighting and short lighting
3. Classic lighting, where he gives specific details on how to arrange your lights to achieve several classic looks such as loop lighting, closed-loop lighting, Rembrandt style, side lighting, and butterfly lighting.

For each of these techniques, he presents lighting diagrams and sample "builds" to achieve the final product. Following the overview of the specific lighting techniques, he discusses "Portrait Lighting in Practice", where he covers numerous topics including business photography (such as head shots), applying makeup, location photography, bridal portraits, high-key lighting, and many other topics. Whereas the previous portion of the book was written for a universal audience, this section is tailored slightly to the aspiring professional photographer. As an amateur with a minimal set of equipment that I set up in my living room, I was able to appreciate and understand everything he discussed in this area of the book, but there are definitely topics that I don't expect to need. I would imagine that these topics would be of more value to someone looking to become a professional. I purchased the Kindle edition of this book for my iPad after reading my friend's copy of the physical book. The book presents nice, large, crisp photos that are extremely instructive. In the physical book, you can see the subtle differences that changing a light modifier or boosting the strobe a 1/2 stop has on the end photograph. In the Kindle edition, however, most of the photos are very small, grainy, and lose much of their value because they are so poor. Additionally, the layout of the Kindle edition is awful. For example, with the physical book, a page will show up to 8 different photos that allow you to compare the results of

changes in light at a single glance. In the Kindle edition, however, there are at most 2 photos on a page, so not only can't you easily see the subtle differences in the photos all at once, but the text describing the differences is often 5 "pages" away. Finally, the Kindle edition conversion does not seem to be able to handle displaying fractions other than 1/2, as any time Mr. Grey uses a quarter-based fraction in his text (e.g. 1/4 or 3/4), all that you see in the Kindle edition is a square. One would think that when converting a book about photography, whose value is as much tied to the actual photographs as the content, that there would be an emphasis on great photos in the Kindle edition. Sadly, this is not the case. I do not know if or Amherst Media (the book publisher) is to blame, but the quality of the Kindle edition is really unacceptable and if I could return it I would. Perhaps I should take some of the blame for not downloading a sample of the book first, but, please, improve your Kindle editions of these books.

Don't get the kindle version on a retina display. images look awful! Great info but the kindle version is so pixelated it looks horrible.

Found it useful, but these days you can gain the information on YouTube, so unless you require a hardcopy I cannot recommend this one.

The pictures and images in the Kindle edition are very poor. The Kindle edition can be used for reference away from home; however, it will be hard to see the details in the images that are discussed in the text. Luckily, I have the print edition to use at home.

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