

POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY

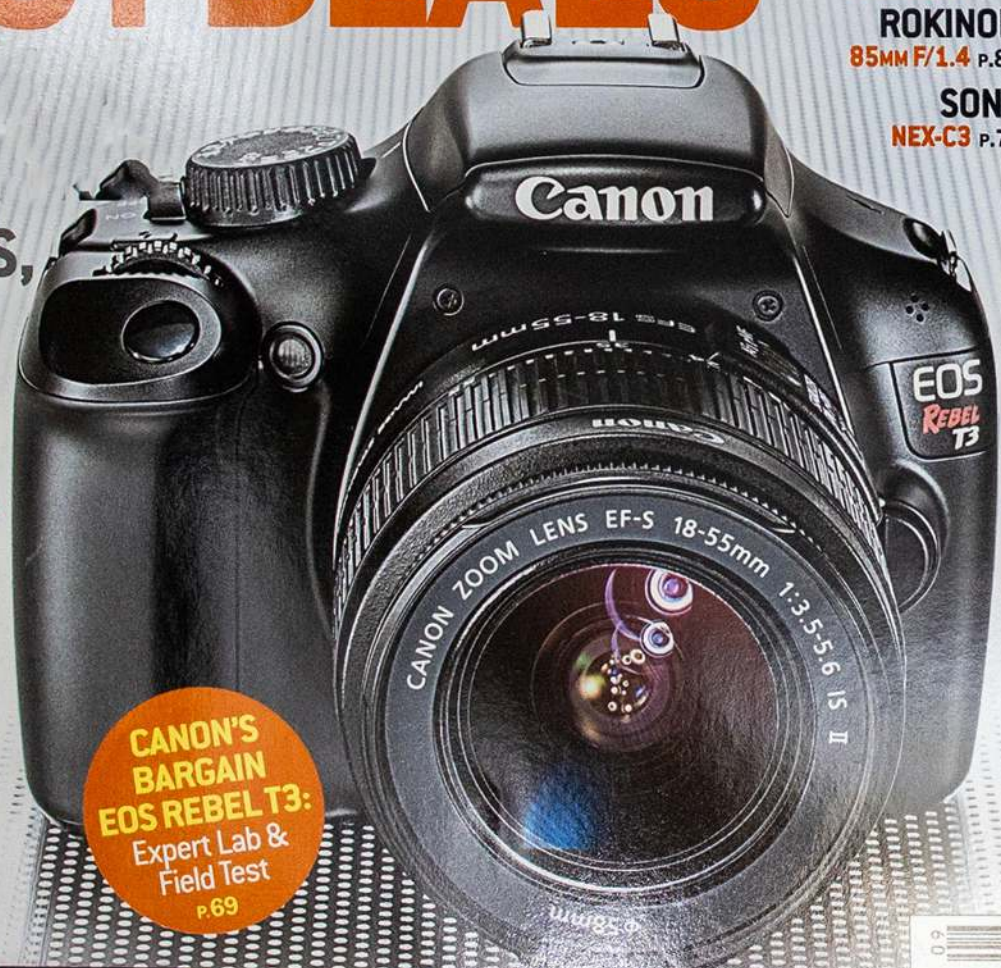
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PHOTO CHALLENGE

BETTER BRIGHT

A high-key photo brings out a bride's beauty

SEATTLE-BASED wedding photographer Clane Gessel (www.clanegessel.com), 26, loves portraiture, he says, because "it's about faces, and each one is completely unique." The challenge of this draws him to try new techniques in photography—and made him the winner of our June Photo Challenge to shoot a high-key image.

Capturing this bride, he noticed that the soft curves of her face might be accentuated by a high-key approach, and as a result shot several close-ups of her at f/1.2 for shallow depth of field, overexposing slightly. "I got lucky with this composition," he says, "catching her at just the right angle, with the wind catching her hair."

Later in Adobe Photoshop, he used a Curves layer to enhance the overexposed look while also adjusting contrast to bring out the shadows and retain a sense of form. A 1.3x zoom-in sealed the photo's beautiful simplicity.

He loved the result, as do we—most important, the bride loved it, too.

—Lori Fredrickson



NEXT PHOTO CHALLENGE

In his feature story this month (page 50), Paul Marcellini explains his approach to wildlife photography in black-and-white. Send us your best monochrome image of an animal by September 30, and you could earn \$100 and your photo here. See PopPhoto.com/contests for the rules.