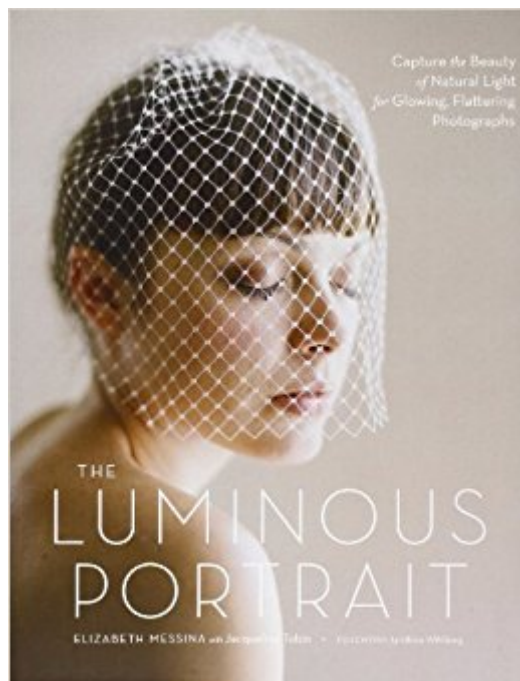


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# The Luminous Portrait: Capture The Beauty Of Natural Light For Glowing, Flattering Photographs



## Synopsis

Infuse your images with glowing, luminous light From high-profile wedding and portrait photographer Elizabeth Messina comes this beautiful guide to shooting lush, romantic portraits exclusively in natural light. Whether you're photographing children, weddings, maternity and boudoir, or portraits of any kind, *The Luminous Portrait* will inspire you with Elizabeth's personal approach and award-winning images, sharing the art to making flattering portraits that appear lit from within.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

ELIZABETH MESSINA was named one of the top ten wedding photographers of 2010 by Adorama, one of the top ten wedding photographers of 2008 by Pop Photo and American PHOTO, and one of the twenty-five trendsetters of 2008 by Modern Bride. Her images have graced the covers of *Us Weekly*, *OK*, *Grace Ormonde Wedding Style*, and *Professional Photographer* magazines. For more about Elizabeth, visit her award-winning blog, [kissthegroom.com](http://kissthegroom.com). JACQUELINE TOBIN is the executive editor of *Rangefinder* magazine and the former deputy editor of *Photo District News*. She is also the author of *Wedding Photography Unveiled: Inspiration and Insight from 20 Top Photographers*. ULRICA WIHLBORG (Foreword) is the West Coast weddings editor at *People* magazine.

I really love this book. I purchased it because I read an article about it in a photo magazine and

wanted to know more. Elizabeth Messina's work is beautiful and classy and I've admired it for some time. I enjoy collecting interesting photo books of all types and wanted to add this one to my collection. The portraits throughout are really great. I love the snippets of information she gives about each one. Now mind you, if you are looking for a photo book that's very detailed about shooting information, camera info, lighting, settings, etc. this is not it. I'll tell you now, for the most part she shoots film at F2 or F4 at 1/60th. This book is about learning to see the light, to study it, to get comfortable in all types of light and practice lots so that when you're out there, you know what to do and you understand your tools well. It's more of an intro to how she thinks when she's at a shoot. She covers some important aspects to take into consideration but it is not a super detailed technical book. For me, it's exactly what I had expected. Beautiful photographs with a little background on each one and glimpses of what goes on in Messina's mind. If this sounds interesting to you then you'll probably love it!

I'm a professional photographer and bought this book for the purposes of seeing a great shoot through someone else's eyes. For me, it delivered marvelously. You see, in reading this book, I listen to someone who loves light, beauty, femininity, details, and photography. She talked about what called her to take certain images and what elements drew her to a certain shot. I absolutely loved this book. It read like an afternoon coffee discussion, not an instructional how-to book. This is the best book I've purchased on photography because it talked neutrally, positively, inspiringly, and casually. My second favorite book would be Jose Villa's book. I find that so many books talk down to the reader (or appear to) due to their instructional matter-of-fact tone. It's not that they don't have their place, those books are good for new learners. But Messina's gentle tone and benefit-of-the-doubt level of detail were perfect to me. I'd highly recommend this book for photographers looking to have a good "chat" with another professional. I've read it twice and enjoyed it both times.

Great book and an easy read if you understand exposure and exposure compensation. I'll likely reread this book to go over some finer points and techniques again. It's a keeper. Messina is primarily a natural light photographer who shoots film but her techniques are easily understood in the digital world. Light is light and knowing your camera and how it responds to light and how to compensate for its metering is key in going for that luminous look. The book is nicely printed with numerous photos taken by Messina with the camera settings explaining her exposure settings. She covers more than the luminosity techniques and also delves into some photography basics and equipment suggestions. A good exposure is the goal of every shot but tweaking your exposure to

slightly over expose for luminous photos is a purposeful rule bending technique. You buy this book to understand how to make your photos take on a luminous quality as part of your repertoire /style that has become so popular in portrait photography. If it's not your style you may have a client that requests that luminous look in their portraits so having this book as a part of your photography library is a great choice!

First you flip. Over and over, only stopping to marvel or show someone else in the room a particular photo. Don't do that though because they will invariably take the book away from you. The images are elusive, stunning, and magical. The intimacy and quality of light are unmistakable and I am now able to recognize her photos instantly. It's like hearing a new Adele song but knowing in a few words who the artist is. Although I would love to shoot like Elizabeth, of course I can not because I am me. And that's what she'll tell you. Trust yourself but this is how I do it...She is constantly re-inforcing the importance of natural light by showing you how she hunts it down for every shot either by moving a subject near a window, diffusing a strong light source, making a group of people stand under trees to shade them, etc. It's a simple concept but sometimes we try to shoot for the light we have instead of looking for the best light. So says Elizabeth, get to your shoot early and hunt it down! It's there and you need to find it. The best advice to a writer has always been "show don't tell." Throughout the book she shows you how she created amazing moments by establishing trust and intimacy with her subjects. Elizabeth's prose is intelligent and articulate and sneakily dense with advice and clear guidance of how to create a great portrait. She makes you feel like you are in an actual conversation with her while doling out instruction in technique in a non-patronizing way. For example, she says to have a baby's mother out of their eyesight so that the baby engages with you. I actually thought of that this weekend while I was shooting my four year old nephew watering beans. His mother kept trying to "direct" him so I asked her to make some sandwiches. When she left he started squirting the hose all over everything. He ended up soaking wet, taking off his shirt, squirting the hose straight into the air and laughing hysterically. I got some great shots of a delighted four year old boy with a hose instead of the more posed looking shot that his mom wanted. Guess what? She loved them. Thank you, Elizabeth!

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