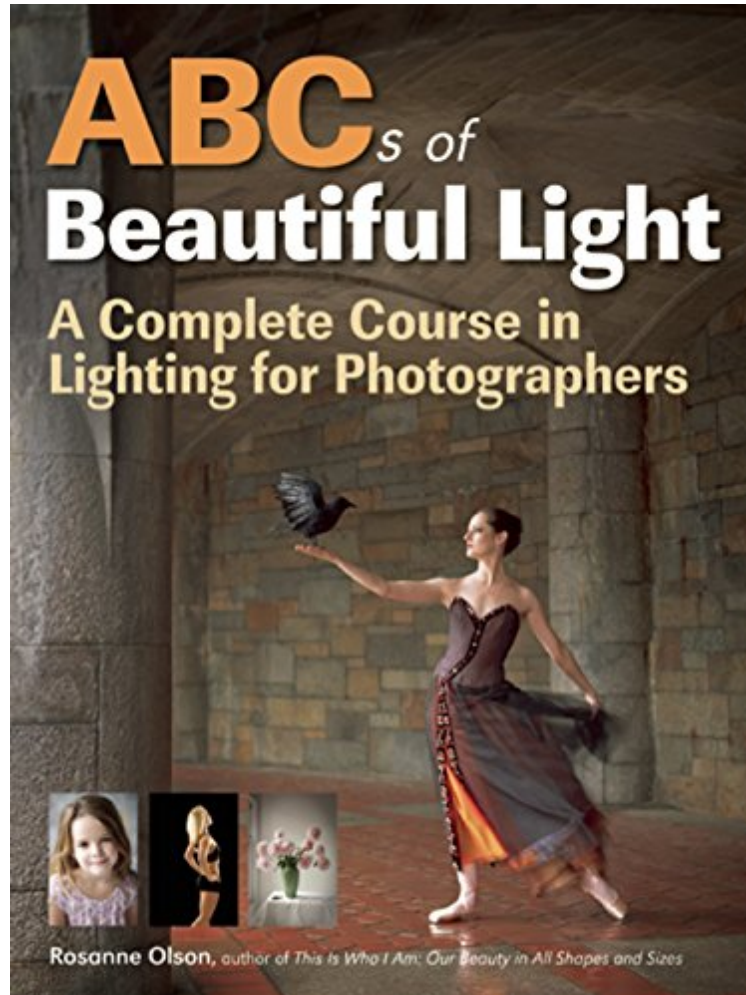


## ABCs of Beautiful Light

Rosanne Olson

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**Rosanne Olson : ABCs of Beautiful Light** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised ABCs of Beautiful Light:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This was a "game-changer" for me. A must own. By Jeanette Beth Means  
Some books tell you a few things; others are game changers. For me this book is a game changer. I do know a bit about light. But this book made me realize that I have only been speaking "pigeon-light." A tourist, not a native. Now, I am looking for difference in catchlights, and edges, and shadows in everything now. I see the world differently. And I love books that do that. And it is not a giant tome. Olson is so clear and easy to understand, it's a pleasure to read. The first chapter does an amazing job of getting a diverse audience on the same page, using the same terminology. I loved her inclusion of a system of naming, saving and archiving photos so you don't get lost in a "wilderness of files"; later on. Been there. I also like the simple explanations she gives of technical choices, so you really understand, for example, why you want photograph RAW rather than jpeg files if possible. She

says a RAW file is like an raw egg with the possibility of being made into a thousand different things from frittatas to soups, whereas a .jpeg is like a hard-boiled egg. The possibilities are much more limited. She did not mention the word pixel once, but I totally got it. Chapter Two has a wonderful, concise collection of composition tips. Good lighting can improve a badly composed photo, but it won't fix a boring composition. After setting the table, she starts the light banquet in Chapter 3, The Language of Light. Once she helps you see the world differently, she goes into practical ways to create the lighting you want, using different light sources, angles, and modifiers. She always helps you see how light tells stories. But, once again, she makes it very easy to grasp. On one page, she compared lighting modifiers like grid, softbox and beauty dish on a billiard ball. So you can easily see exactly how the modifier changes the shape of the catchlights and the softness of the shadows on a simple form. Then, she shows the same thing on a human with closeups of the eye. She ends with practical ideas on managing photoshoots in the studio and outdoors. This includes solving some common lighting issues using multiple shots with different light settings for use inside Photoshop. It's a great little book. Not a long read, but one worth doing several times over. I am getting a second copy to hide out in the car as a quick reference until I can learn to speak "light" more fluently. I would recommend the paperback over the Kindle. I don't think you can see some of the details in the photos on a Kindle like you can in print. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What a wonderful, thorough book on lighting. Whether you're new to photography or an experienced photographer, this book will be one you will want to have on hand. Rosanne clearly explains the many ways in which to see and use light. This book answers your lighting question impeccably. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Expected More I Guess By Kristi C Based upon the other reviews, I expected more diagrams and lighting layouts. This book is more for the beginner who is going to go through the steps of testing all the lighting situations. For the photographer whose been lighting subjects for awhile, you might want to skip it. Since it's gotten so many 5 star reviews, I'm guessing those are beginning photographers - or friends/students. For me - someone whose been photographing for over 30 years - it was just okay. Didn't learn anything new. But it is a well put together book.

Everything we see is lit by one source or another. The questions are: what and how? That is what this book is designed to teach you. Through Rosanne Olson's tried-and-true course on lighting principles for photography, video, and art in general, you will discover how the angles and heights of your light sources affect your pictures. You will learn how to work with light modifiers to change the quality of your light, and how to control light to create a feeling of depth and dimension—whether you're shooting with natural light, continuous artificial light, studio strobes, dedicated flash, or a combination of sources. Assignments are included to help you put each concept into practice as you perfect your skills and train your eyes to see the subtleties of light. You will never look at a photograph or painting in the same way after you read this book!

...the book explores the many nuances of lighting portraits — whether it be with natural light, studio strobes, continuous artificial light, dedicated flash or a combination — and she also includes assignments to help teach her concepts. — Rangefinder Magazine