

The Things We Almost Miss



A QUIET INVITATION TO NOTICE
THE BEAUTY, COURAGE, AND HUMANITY
THAT SURROUND US EVERY DAY.

JEFF HITZLER

THE THINGS WE ALMOST MISS

*A quiet invitation to notice
the beauty, courage, and humanity
that surround us every day.*

This book is an invitation to return
to the moments we pass too quickly.

Not to find what is hidden,
but to notice what was there all along.

Life is like art.

The more we look,
the more we see.



What did you notice first?

Stay a little longer.

There was something about the little tree that made Brian stop.

It wasn't large. It wasn't where a tree should have had an easy time growing. It had somehow found its place among the rocks.

Across the water, Brian noticed something else: a larger island of trees seemed to echo its shape.

He could see the photograph he wanted.

But he couldn't make it.

Not yet.

There was too much happening behind the little tree. Too much competing for attention.

So Brian left.

And came back.

The scene still wasn't right.

He came back again.

Then one day, the fog arrived.



*Some things become easier to see
when everything around them grows quiet.*

*Perhaps they were never difficult to see.
We were simply looking at too much at once.*

Nature's Tranquil Embrace

Photography by Brian Taylor

"What initially stopped me was this persistent little tree finding a way to grow right out of the rocks. Its shape was almost a mirror image of the larger island of trees in the background.

It took a few visits to get it right. The scene was usually too busy, so I waited for a layer of fog to soften the background. That natural separation finally allowed the little tree to stand out without all the surrounding distraction."

— Brian Taylor



Look again.

Has anything changed?

*We don't always need to understand something
to be changed by it.*



What caught your eye?

What did you notice next?

Jessica was driving home from an art fair in La Crosse
when she glanced to her left.

Something caught her eye.

She could have kept driving.

Instead, she turned around.

Jessica pulled over and took the photograph as the clouds
converged around sunset.

Only then could she really take in the scene.

The flowers and grasses close by.

The fields.

The small red barn.

The trees.

The landscape stretching into the distance.

Layer after layer.

*All of it had been there as she drove past.
She just needed a reason to stop.*



Valley Farm

Photography by Jessica Curning-Kuenzi

"I took this photo on my way back home from an art fair in La Crosse. I was driving and glanced to my left and saw this scene, which caught my eye.

I turned around and pulled over to take the shot as the clouds converged around sunset.

I like this photo because of all the layers from close foreground to very far background, and lots of details in between."

*Seeing something before doesn't mean
we've seen it today.*

*Sometimes what we almost miss
is worth turning around for.*

- Jessica Curning-Kuenzi



*What do you notice now
that you didn't notice before?*



Stay here for a moment.

What draws you in?

There are messages here.

What do you notice?

Is there a message that resonates with you?

Some patterns become part of us so gradually that we stop noticing they're there.

We carry them in the ways we think about ourselves, in the stories we repeat, and sometimes in the person we believe we are.

Then something shifts.

A pattern begins to break.

And in the space it leaves behind, there may be room for another story.



Breaking Pattern

Lila Brochá (Maria Victoria Walker)

"This piece shows a different kind of fragmentation—not cracks on the skin or literal breaks in the face, but the internal fragmentation of identity patterns I've carried for years.

Some are the breaking of old identity patterns, while others are the reconstruction of a new narrative, woven into the strands of hair."

*Some patterns are chosen.
Others are simply repeated.*

*We carry pieces of who we've been
into who we're becoming.*

We look.

But do we see?



What did you feel
when you first saw this?

Don't think about it too much.

Somewhere along the way, life can become a little more serious.

There are things to accomplish. Responsibilities to take care of. Places we need to be.

We don't decide to leave playfulness behind.

It can simply get crowded out.

The bright colors. The ridiculous idea. Trying something simply because it sounds like fun.

And curiosity doesn't always care about what matters.

Sometimes it's a changing patch of sunlight, a strange shape between two boards, or something that simply makes us stop and look.

There doesn't always have to be a reason.



Rainbow Regatta

Art by Heather Peterman

Heather spends a lot of time in Door County and loves being near the water. She finds it relaxing. Color is important to her, too - she is interested in color therapy and healing.

Those things came together in Rainbow Regatta.

*Not everything meaningful
has to be serious.*

Sometimes wondering is reason enough.

"It is a fun summer painting."

- Heather Peterman



*Sometimes enjoying something
is reason enough.*

*What are some things you enjoy
simply because you do?*



What are your first impressions?

Robin had passed this barn many times.

There was something about it that continued to catch her eye.

Perhaps part of that came from childhood. She remembers playing in barns on her uncle's busy dairy farms.

Years later, when she began painting, she knew she wanted to paint this one.

Today, the barn is quiet.

Its roof has rusted.

The land has begun growing around it.

Its working days are behind it.

But Robin sees more than what it has become.

She remembers what barns like this once were.

Someone's pride and joy.



Old Barn

Art by Robin Dequaine

"I am fascinated with barns and am sure it goes back to childhood memories of playing in them at my uncle's busy dairy farms. I truly feel a peaceful energy and tranquility in old, abandoned barns.

This particular barn captured my eye many times. Years later, when I started painting, I just had to paint it.

Old barns, this one retired now as many are, were someone's pride and joy."

*What something is today doesn't erase
what it once meant.*

*What has changed may still have
something to offer.*

- Robin Dequaine



Do you see it differently now?

We see.

We think we know.

But do we?

We do this outside these pages, too.

A problem can fill our view.

So can a goal.

A responsibility.

Something we want badly enough
that everything else begins
to fade into the background.

But life rarely exists in only one place.

There are people, moments, pleasures,
possibilities and parts of ourselves
still there - sometimes simply waiting
for us to notice them again.

What we notice beyond the thing
we're pursuing may not pull us away from it.

Sometimes it helps us see it differently.

Sometimes what holds our attention
is only part of the picture.



This is a sunset photograph.

The sun was setting in the west.

Scott was looking east.

What caught his attention wasn't the sun itself.

There was a pink band forming in the eastern sky - part of an atmospheric phenomenon called the Belt of Venus.

Closer to him were summer flowers and grasses. Beyond them, the water, bridge, buildings and sky created layers within the scene.

Scott saw the bridge as a leading line, drawing the eye farther into the photograph.

*The sunset was happening behind him.
There was still something worth seeing in front of him.*



The Other Side of Sunset

Photography by Scott Francis

"The flowers and grasses represent summer and add a cheery dimension along with a color pop. The bridge itself is a sort of leading line drawing viewers into the picture. The combination of the baseline flowers and clouds sort of frame the shot.

Most importantly, I thought it might look kind of cool and be a picture that I might like."

Where we look can change what we see.

*Sometimes there's something worth seeing
in the other direction.*

- Scott Francis



*What might you see
if you looked another way?*



What do you see happening?



Scott didn't know this family.

He happened upon them as they stood together near the water, silhouetted against the shimmering water and setting sun.

He didn't know what they were thinking.

He didn't know what the moment meant to them.

But he noticed it.

Scott had been hoping to find an opportunity to make a photograph like this.

And suddenly, there it was.

*We don't always have to experience
something the same way
to experience it together.*

*Sometimes what we've been looking for
appears when we aren't expecting it.*

Shared Moment

Photography by Scott Francis

*"I came across this random family and was lucky enough to
capture their silhouettes against the shimmering water and the
setting sun.*

It was the type of picture I had been working to find."

- Scott Francis



*What moments have you shared
without needing to say much at all?*

*Some moments are ours alone.
Some become ours together.*



Take your time.

Jessica was driving through Baraboo
when a horse caught her eye.

She pulled over.

The horse was what made her stop,
but it wasn't the only thing she saw.

Beyond it was the farm.

The fields.

The trees.

The buildings.

The sky.

Layer after layer,
stretching into the distance.

*One thing caught her attention.
Then she noticed everything around it.*

One thing can catch our attention.
Staying lets us discover the rest.

Sometimes noticing is only the beginning.

Wisconsin Farm

Photography by Jessica Curning-Kuenzi

"This photo location I found while driving through Baraboo. The horse caught my eye so I pulled over and tried to capture the horse along with the farm and background all in one shot.

I was hoping to capture the depth of the landscape with many layers to look through and the horse as a focal point."

- Jessica Curning-Kuenzi





Maybe the things we almost miss
aren't hidden at all.

Maybe sometimes we're simply
looking too hard at something else.

Life is like art.

The more we look,
the more we see.

The Artists

This book was made possible by the artists
who allowed their work and their stories
to become part of these pages.

Brian Taylor

Nature's Tranquil Embrace

onevisionfineart.com

Jessica Curning-Kuenzi

Valley Farm

curningphoto.com

Lila Brochá (Maria Victoria Walker)

Breaking Pattern

lilabrocha.godaddysites.com

Heather Peterman

Rainbow Regatta

facebook.com/GoodEnergyArtbyHeatherPeterman

Robin Dequaine

Old Barn

robindequaineart.com

Scott Francis

The Other Side of Sunset

facebook.com/scott.francis.37

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Wisconsin Farm

curningphoto.com

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