

Adobe
Photoshop Lightroom® 5
Streamlining Your Digital Photography Process



ROB SYLVAN & NAT COALSON

WILEY

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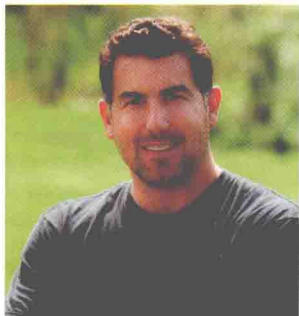
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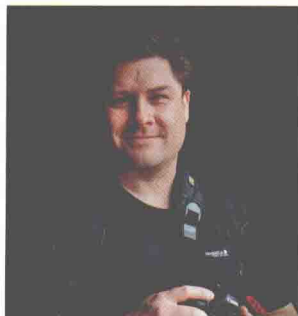
About the authors



Rob Sylvan is a photographer, trainer, and author based in New Hampshire. In addition to serving as the Lightroom Help Desk Specialist for the National Association of Photoshop Professionals, he provides academic support to KelbyTraining.com subscribers. Rob also writes the Under the Loupe column for the Lightroom section of *Photoshop User* magazine.

Rob is the author of many photography-related books, including *Lightroom 2 for Dummies*, also published by Wiley. He teaches a four-week Lightroom class at PPSOP.com, is a founding member of the stock photography co-op Stocksy.com, and is on staff at thedigitalphotoworkshops.com.

For more information about Rob, and to stay up-to-date with Lightroom, head over to www.lightroomers.com.



Nathaniel Coalson is a fine art photographer and mixed media artist based in Colorado, USA, and Leicester, England. Nat has worked professionally in photography, imaging, and printing since 1987; his work has been exhibited extensively, received numerous awards, and is held in private and corporate collections. Nat is an Adobe Certified Expert on Lightroom and Photoshop and an

experienced teacher, speaker, and mentor, teaching photographers and artists working at all levels. He is the author of many photography-related books including *Nature Photography Photo Workshop*, published and distributed worldwide by Wiley.

For Grampy and Cookie

Acknowledgments

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I have been helping fellow photographers (at all levels) to understand how the Lightroom catalog paradigm works, how to become more efficient in its use, and how to avoid and solve common problems since Lightroom was first released in 2007. As the sole member of the Lightroom Help Desk for the National Association of Photoshop Professionals for the last six years I have seen and heard every type of question ever asked about Lightroom, and have a good understanding of the most common pitfalls new users are likely to encounter. I approached this book with the goal of providing content and structure that will give you a strong foundation in understanding what makes Lightroom tick so that you can move forward with confidence in your ability to use this workflow tool with the greatest amount of ease and least amount of frustration.

Adobe has done a wonderful job of making Lightroom relatively easy to use as a post-processing tool, but the underlying catalog (i.e. database) model at Lightroom's core adds a level of complexity to the file management side of the equation that is not nearly as intuitive. It is not that using a Lightroom catalog is inherently hard to understand, it simply requires a basic understanding of the fundamentals before you begin so that you are not left to making wrong assumptions based on your experiences with other software. Lightroom is just different enough from the file browsers (such as Adobe Bridge, Mac Finder, or Windows Explorer) most people are used to dealing with that the uninitiated users can easily create huge problems for themselves without realizing what they have done. By picking up this book you have taken an important step in avoiding the same mistakes of those who have come before you.

Looking back, I am amazed by how much Lightroom has evolved and matured over of the years since its introduction. In my opinion, there is no better beginning-to-end workflow tool for photographers available on the market, and it only seems to be getting better. With each version of Lightroom we have been given a more powerful set of tools that allows us to improve image quality and the speed at which we can push our work out into the world. Lightroom 5 is no exception.

As you move forward with this book and your understanding of Lightroom increases I want you to keep in the back of your mind the fact that there is no single right way to use Lightroom. What matters most is that you learn how to use Lightroom in ways that make sense to you and your workflow. As long as you are able to remain in the driver's seat when it comes to making decisions at each point in your workflow, and you are delighted with the output of your photos, then that is all that really matters. We all continue to learn and refine our own processes over time. I am honored to be at your service at this point in your Lightroom experience. Let's get to it!



