

JULY 2020



365 Picture Today

365 Picture Today!

YOUR "WHY"

Why are you taking pictures? Who are you taking pictures for? Why do you post your photos?

Think about it for a moment... or two.

Do you take pictures so that you can get Instagram Likes? Facebook Comments? Are you shooting to please others or are you shooting to please yourself? Is it a competition?

Do you try to get every photo perfect? Do you just want to capture the moment?

If you are trying to please only other people with your photography, you are setting yourself up for a letdown. If you are only posting photos to get comments and likes, you may end up disappointed. If you take photos for you, it might surprise you to find that others like them too.

What if... you take photos to only please yourself? What if... you don't compare? What if... you don't monitor likes and comments? What if?

Very few of us will be National Geographic photographers and have award-winning photos. We might win a competition or get published, and that's great... but is that the goal?

This month as you take your photos, don't think about how others might receive them. Take them for making yourself happy.

Don't worry if your bird photos aren't as crisp as others. If you want to capture that bird, you do it.

Don't worry if your kids don't look as if they stepped out of a magazine or catalog. Capture the moments.

Don't worry if your landscape doesn't have the sunburst or the smooth water. Capture the scene to remember.

Shoot for yourself. Enjoy capturing the moments. Don't compare.

What is your "why"?

Amy, Garnett, Kris and Lee



JULY 1

International Joke Day

Congratulations we are half way through the year! It has been a strange year so far, and, even now, most of us are still social distancing, and not yet back to what we think of as normal.

There is no better way to celebrate the present moment than to have a good laugh. So today let us have fun and make people laugh. How to do this?

There are various ways. Find something that makes you laugh. Create a levitation photo or use forced perspective to play a joke on us. Find a moment of silliness and capture a laugh from those around you.

How are you going to make us laugh?

Lee

365 Picture Today

JULY 2
... Day

We have been doing the international and national days of the year for half a year now; so, I thought I would ask you for what would you like there to be a day of celebration?

Today there was only one celebrated day, it was Anisette Day, now I didn't even know what Anisette was, apparently an aniseed drink. If you want to take a photo of this then go ahead.

But ...

Why not make up your own day, do you want a fun day, a silly day, a washing day, a flower day or even a serious day?

Create a day that is special to you, one that you think should be on the calendar today!

Lee



JULY 3
Drop a Rock Day
BLACK & WHITE

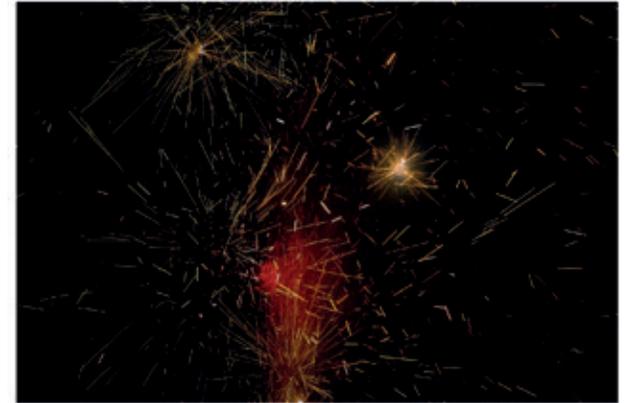
On July 3rd, International Drop a Rock Day encourages creative inspiration. Paint designs on small rocks then hide them for others to find. Your artwork will bring smiles of delight to whoever finds them.

I am feeling sad that I have never found one.

I was thinking that this day would be better if it wasn't black and white day, but black and white makes you look at the design instead of just the colours.

If you are lucky enough to find a painted rock on your walk today, yay! But for those that don't just show us the rocks that you find on your daily journey.

Lee



JULY 4
Independence Day

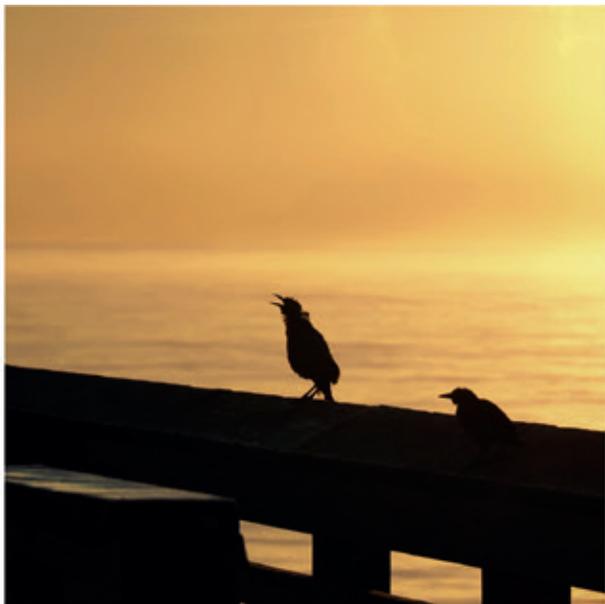
Today is Independence Day in the United States. This federal holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring the country's independence from Great Britain.

Many of today's celebrations include picnics, parties, celebrations, singing, flags and ending with fireworks. There are many cities that provide extravagant fireworks displays! Our family prefers to keep it low key with home fireworks in our own driveway.

If you want to try and photograph fireworks tonight, here are some tips:

1. Use a tripod.
2. Use a cable release or wireless remote to trigger the shutter if you have one (many cell phones have a feature that allows you to use them as a remote trigger)
3. Choose a low ISO setting (start with about 200)
4. Use a fairly narrow aperture at f/11.
5. Instead of choosing a shutter speed, set the camera to Bulb (B) which allows you to keep the shutter open as long as you want. You can then have control to expose for the entire fireworks burst.
6. Turn off the autofocus and manually focus your lens to infinity if it has that feature.

Garnett



JULY 5
Workaholics Day

Today is dedicated to workaholics; which by definition means a person who works a lot of the time and finds it difficult not to work. I don't know about you but I think that describes a great many of us!

Let the workaholic in you out because today we are going to be "working" on photography techniques! There are dozens and dozens of techniques to pick from; bokeh, silhouettes, long exposure, panning, HDR, leading lines, night photography, etc.

It's your choice; try something new, go with a trusty favorite or maybe you "work" on that one technique that gets the best of you every time... which for me is panning!

I'm looking forward to seeing the results of all your hard work!

Amy



JULY 6
International Kissing Day

Pucker Up it's Kissing Day!

The object of the day is to appreciate and enjoy a kiss!

Some are romantic like a kiss on the lips or the XOXO salutation of a message. Some are affectionate like a peck on the cheek or kiss on the head. Some are cute and sweet like Hershey kisses or the frog prince. Some are dark & moody like the rock band Kiss or the silhouette of an embrace.

Fun fact: the World Record Kiss lasted over 58 hours!

There are all sorts of kisses to be had today- whatever one you find I hope it's a good one!

Amy



JULY 7
Global Forgiveness Day
 SELF PORTRAIT

"Forgiveness offers the possibility of two types of peace: peace of mind ~ the potential healing of old emotional wounds, and peace with others ~ the possibility of new, more gratifying relationships in the future." Author Unkown

It's that time of the month when we encourage you to get in front of the camera. Don't fret this time we are asking for just a little! Your Hands!

Let's focus on our hands and the story they can tell. Before you get started, though, consider your focal point? Is the object your holding the focus? Is the focus the hands themselves? Maybe your hands are just part of a much larger scene and that is the focus. Need some inspiration? Try a quick google search of "hand photography." You will quickly discover the the posing options are endless.

In the spirit of Forgiveness - Wishing you all a peaceful day!

Amy



JULY 8

Chocolate with Almonds Day

What a delicious combo!

Chocolate covered almonds are a dangerous treat in our house as they don't last long at all!

Are they a go-to treat or snack for you too? If so, you could go literal with your photo today; or, take a creative approach with a macro or fill the frame shot. Maybe they are only part of something yummy your whipping up. You could try an overhead of your recipe ingredients or a deconstructive flat lay.

Whatever photography approach you take... don't forget to enjoy those edible props!

Amy



JULY 9

Cow Appreciation Day

Have you Herd? It's Cow Appreciation Day!

Today was created by the restaurant chain Chick-fil-A to celebrate their largest, single-day customer appreciation event that showcases their iconic mascots; the "Eat Mor Chikin" Cows. Those famous cows made their first billboard appearance in 1995.

So you might want to break out your Cow apparel and grab yourself a sandwich selfie!

Or you could show some appreciation to a cow near you!

There are lots of Utterly great options for today's photo so get MOOVing!

Amy



JULY 10

Clerihews Day GUEST PROMPT

I know... I had to look it up myself! I thought, here's another weird and wacky day. But, after doing a little research, I think it actually sounds fun. The clerihew is a rhyming whimsical poem That is made up of four lines and that is written about a person. It was invented and named after Edmund Clerihew Bentley. He was a 16 year old student in London when he wrote his first clerihew.

Clerihews follow four rules:

- 4 lines in length
- 1st line ends with a person's name
- line 1 rhymes with line 2 & line 3 rhymes with line 4 (they can be any length)
- it should be silly

Here's where the fun begins! Create your own clerihew. Any subject, it doesn't have to be a person. There's really no need to be too strict with the rules. Just have fun with it. Choose a subject, write your clerihew and then take a fun photo that will tell us the story! You may even want to use text and add your poem to your photo as I did with my little grandson Cain's photo!

Let's have some fun!

Lee Ann Mize



JULY 11

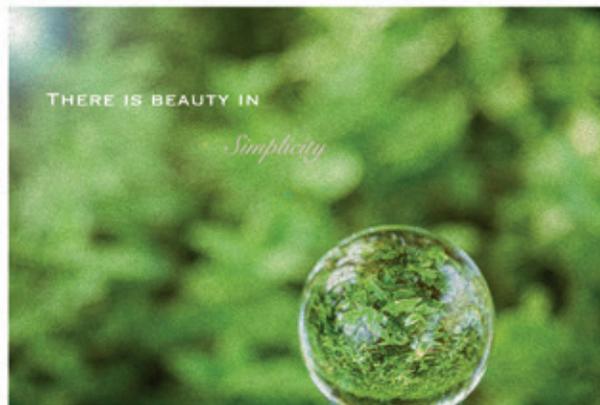
Cheer up the Lonely Day

Today we want to encourage you to photograph something that lifts your spirits and brightens your day!

Then in an effort to pay it forward...we want to encourage you to share that photo with someone who may need a little extra love and attention. This small act of kindness can make a big difference. This special consideration may brighten their world at just the right moment.

I'm looking forward so seeing all the cheer you spread today!

Amy



JULY 12

Simplicity Day

Today is Simplicity Day. The day was created to honor Henry David Thoreau who lived his life as many things including: an author, naturalist, philosopher and historian. He embraced the idea of simple living in natural surroundings. We have all had a crash course in simplified living this year.

For our photos today, we are going to concentrate on Minimalist Photography. The concept of minimalism in photography (and art) emphasizes the use of a minimal number of compositional elements: color, objects, shapes and texture.

Keep it simple. Don't overthink it. Have fun with it.

Garnett



JULY 13

French Fry Day

According to the National Day Calendar, National French Fry Day on July 13th recognizes a staple food on menus across the country. They come in so many different cuts and styles, there's a favorite for everyone to enjoy! French fries, also known as chips, fries, finger chips or French-fried potatoes, are batons of deep-fried potatoes. No matter what we call them, they're common fixtures at fast-food restaurants and are loved by adults and kids alike!

Think about straight lines as you take your photo today. You are certainly welcome to photograph your french fries! But...you can also choose subjects such as trees, railroad tracks, bridges, straws, pencils, etc. Try composing both horizontally or vertically. Which orientation best showcases your subject?

Getting your lines straight is a common struggle for many photographers. Often we think we can just "fix it" in our post processing but it is much easier to get it right in camera. To do that, you need to line things up squarely, factor in lens distortion and find vertical and horizontal elements that serve as your image anchors.

Have fun lining things up today! See if you can get everything right in camera with minimal post processing.

Garnett



JULY 14

Tape Measure Day

Today is National Tape Measure Day. Let's have a little fun with forced perspective.

Forced perspective is basically an optical illusion. You can use it to make an object appear farther away, closer, larger or smaller than it actually is. There are many ways to approach forced perspective. It all comes down to angles and placement when the background and foreground of a photo seem to interact. My example photo is an old Tonka truck. I shot low and photographed so that the obvious "toy" parts aren't showing.

You can use miniatures such as toy cars, dolls, or action figures and other props for your optical illusion; or you can use friends or family members and place them in such a way to create a perspective such as giant and ant.

This day may be more challenging than you are used to, but let's get our creative juices flowing!

Garnett



JULY 15

Give Something Away Day PICTURE YOUR DAY

Today is National Give Something Away Day. This day gives us an opportunity to share with others. Today is also "Picture Your Day" where you put yourself in the photo!

You can give time, money, talents and belongings away.

Look around and see where you might be needed. Jump in and help and put yourself in the photo!

According to the National Day Calendar, here are some ideas of how you can observe this day: paying for the coffee of the person behind you in line. Clean out your closet or garage and make a donation. Donate to the local food pantry or little library. Serve at a homeless shelter. Volunteer your time or skills. Create gift baskets for shelters.

You can also be the recipient of someone's good heart today! If someone is doing something for you, snap a photo of that as well!

Garnett



JULY 16

Get to know your Customers Day

Today is Get to Know Your Customers Day and reminds businesses to reach out to patrons and get to know them better. The day is observed annually on the third Thursday of each quarter (January, April, July, October).

We are all consumers and many of us have businesses. Do you frequent a certain coffee shop? Restaurant? Store? Does your mail or package delivery person stop by your house a lot?

This could be a great day to try street photography. Challenge yourself to look for business owners and/or patrons that you can photograph. Street photography can be scary if you haven't done it. If you are new to this type of photography, the best way to start is to hide yourself behind an object or building so that you can take your picture unnoticed. You can also be bold and walk right up to people and ask to take their photo.

This is going to be fun!

Garnett



JULY 17
Yellow Pig Day

National Yellow Pig Day on July 17 honors the unique attributes of the number 17 and its significance to mathematics.

I bet you thought you had to find a yellow pig, didn't you? Good luck with that! 17 is a prime number that has significance in mathematics. It is the sum of the first four prime numbers - 2, 3, 5, and 7. A prime number is a number that can only be divided by 1 and by itself. Several studies have shown that when people are asked to choose a number between 1 and 20, a majority of people choose the number 17.

So today... look for the number 17. It is not as random as you think. Here are some ideas: Find it on a milepost sign. Look for a word with 17 letters. Create a flatlay using 17 items. Photograph a person who is 17 years old. You can approach this anyway your mind works. I'm looking forward to the diversity in the gallery today!

Garnett



JULY 18
**Toss Away the Could Haves and
Shold Haves Day**

According to the National Day Calendar, the third Saturday in July recognizes Toss Away the "Could Haves" and "Should Haves" Day. In short, don't go through life with regrets. Created by author and motivational speaker Martha J. Ross-Rodgers, this day is intended for everyone to let go of the past and live for the present.

We are going approach this day for our photography as a retro or vintage day. Photograph something from days gone by. You can either find a subject that is retro, like the record player in my example, or you can edit something with a vintage feel.

If you process with a vintage look, be sure and tell us how you did it!

Garnett



JULY 19
Ice Cream Day

For many, ice cream is a favorite summertime treat. How do you like your ice cream? I'm picky. I prefer it made with almond milk, in a cup instead of a cone, with chocolate sauce, and no cherry on top. Sprinkles are OK, too.

There is no question that ice cream can be messy, especially in the summer heat. That is part of its story. Whether it is dripping down the sides of a cone or the front of a shirt, has covered a little one's hands and face, or is beautifully scooped into a bowl, treat yourself and those around you to some ice cream and show us how you like it!

Kris



JULY 20
Moon Day
MACRO MONDAY

Today is a tough one - Moon Day and Macro Monday. I love photographing the moon, but, unfortunately, today is a new moon and the moon will not be visible in the night sky; so, we'll focus on the macro part of the prompt. Macro photography is all about making the small details of an object or environment look bigger than life.

In this photo, the tiny Lego minifigure looks bigger than he really is. I chose to focus on the details of his silhouette, especially the tiny paintbrush in his hand. Placing the moon in the frame was an added challenge. It is always fun to see how we can make objects interact in a photo.

Be creative! Find something small, get in close and make it look bigger than life. For an added challenge, place a second object in your image to create a bigger story. Consider playing with silhouettes, shadows, something round (since the moon itself is not visible)... the sky is the limit!

Kris



JULY 21
Leave the Office Early Day

According to the National Day Calendar, " National Be Someone Day challenges each of us to take ten seconds to make a difference in a child's life." Ten seconds seems like such a short span of time, but so much can happen in these moments - a smile, a hug, a thank-you, a high five, a shared tear. We have an impact on every single person we encounter no matter how brief that encounter is. We choose whether the impression we leave with a person is a positive or negative one. I have to remember this every single day when I walk into the classroom.

Many times, we have no idea how we might have "been someone" in the life of another. That's OK. But it sure feels good when you know for sure you have done something to keep someone safe and healthy, helped them achieve their dreams, or just made their today a better day.

Be someone to another person today. Or, say thank-you to someone who has been a bright spot in your own life.

Kris



JULY 22
Hammock Day

National Hammock Day is a day set aside to encourage us to find a shady spot with a hammock and enjoy a little relaxation. This time of year in Texas, even in the shade, it is too warm to relax outside for very long. The dogs, however, enjoy the shade under the hammock. Their perspective prompted this photo. The rope and fabric from which a hammock is made create some interesting lines.

If the temperatures are enjoyable where you are, you may want to focus on relaxing in a hammock. What do you see from your perspective? No Hammock? How and where will you relax?

Kris



JULY 23
Refreshment Day
COLOR DAY - RED

Today is Refreshment Day and photograph the color red day. The intent for National Refreshment Day is to grab an ice cold beer and and cool off while enjoying this simple pleasure. At our house, summer refreshment and cooling off is more often achieved with ice cold watermelon. And, red makes for a better color prompt than does pale ale or dark lager.

Photograph your favorite refreshment today. Maybe the extra credit should be a photograph of a beer with a red label!

Kris



JULY 24
Drive-Through Day

During "normal" times, we don't do much drive-through. Lately, however, that has changed since everything from grocery stores to pharmacies to dry cleaning, as well as many of our favorite eat-in restaurants, are encouraging drive-through business. It is a whole new experience.

What drive-through opportunities create convenience for you? Photograph them today.

Kris



JULY 25
Merry-Go-Round Day

Today is Merry-Go-Round Day. In my area, merry-go-rounds are few and far between. This photo is my most recent sighting and it was on a cruise ship! Merry-go rounds remind us of carnivals and fairs, those larger than life experiences that many of us remember from our childhood. Can you find a merry-go-round?

Another possibility for shooting today is to capture intentional motion blur. Place your camera on a tripod or other stable surface. Focus on a portion of the frame that is stationary. Use a long exposure to allow your camera to capture motion through the frame.

Most importantly, enjoy yourself!

Kris

BEGINS WITH 'A'	A FLOWER	YOUR REFLECTION
SOMETHING ROUND	THE SKY	COLOUR RED
WITH WINGS	A BEVERAGE	AN INTERESTING PATTERN

JULY 26
All or Nothing Day

National All or Nothing Day allows people to throw caution to the wind and go for broke!

So I thought that as you asked for another scavenger hunt I would oblige.

The idea is that you take all these photos on the day, if possible, that is your All or Nothing challenge for the day!

- Begins with 'A'
- A Flower
- Your reflection
- Something Round
- The Sky
- Colour Red
- With Wings
- A Beverage
- An Interesting Pattern

To put a collage together go to Garnett's Blog about how to make a collage!

Lee



JULY 27
Love is Kind Day

National Love is Kind Day encourages you to become aware of how you are treating people, how people are treating you, and how you can become emboldened, supported and empowered to lead the joyful and productive life that you deserve. With improved and proper support, families can know and experience the freedom and love found in an abuse-free home. When children grow up with positive role models, both adults and children then lead more productive, happy, and mentally healthy lives.

Yes, to kindness! Yes, to sharing my voice! Yes, I am worth it! Yes, my life matters. Kindness rules!

I decided to find a heart today to share my voice in my photographs.

Where will you see a heart today?

Lee



JULY 28
Waterpark Day

Don't wait! The water is perfect at a waterpark near you. Grab your bathing suit and make a splash! They say, but are the waterparks allowed to be open?

Wherever we may be, let us play with some water. If it is raining, all is well and good for you. Go and capture those rain drops on the plants, on the windows or even in the puddles.

Need to water your plants? Show us your watering can in full flow. Or, maybe you are like me when you try to water the plants and end up having to let the dog drink the water first!

How are you Making a splash today?

Lee



JULY 29
Lipstick Day
PHONE

The question is who has been wearing lipstick during lockdown? Not me that is for sure, cause I rarely wear it anyway.

You can either do a product shot like above! Using a black background makes things look more appealing, or do you prefer a white background for your product shot.

No lipstick? Not to worry. Take a shot of a product that you use daily or take a photo of your lips. Oh, it is phone photo day so shoot with your phone! That will be interesting to try!

Lee



JULY 30
International Day of Friendship

International Day of Friendship on July 30 encourages building and sustaining friendships both near and far. Core to developing strong friendships worldwide is the hope that of a growing spirit of human solidarity.

I have found so many good virtual friends from starting a 365 project back in 2014. It is surprising how many from the start are still friends today, whether they have carried on taking a photo a day or not. Some I have even met up with over the years.

My husband and I have been together for over 40 years. We have our ups and downs but my husband is still my best friend.

To show friendship today, don't go back into your archives to show us good friends, go for your best friend or try to show us someone who you have made friends with recently, be it a new neighbour or someone you passed on the street. Maybe we will still have to be social distancing so don't get in too close.

Lee



JULY 31
World Ranger Day

World Ranger Day honours the dedication, and crucial work rangers do around the globe every day. This day offers an opportunity to show support to rangers for the services they provide.

I like that we have this day, as I come across the rangers on a regular basis here in the parks and forests that I walk. They do a great job, especially this year.

To be able to walk along the paths of the forest, they need to be managed.

Do you go regularly to a park that is looked after by rangers? Show your appreciation.

No park? Photograph something that is looked after by a person for whom you are grateful!

Lee

365 Picture Today

JULY PROMPTS

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365 Picture Today

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND YOUR CREATIVE VOICE?

When our photos are not turning out how we'd like, we often go down the road of thinking that if we had a different lens, or a specific filter, or different editing software, or even a different camera, everything would be better. We turn to books and tutorials filled with lots of ideas about things we can try or buy to improve our photography. After traveling this path, I often meet its end feeling more overwhelmed and frustrated than inspired and energized. In such times, it is best for me to step back and simplify.

I find it helpful to limit myself to one lens, usually a prime lens, for an extended period of time. Doing this make me work a little harder for the shots sometimes, but it also teaches me to move, to change my perspective, to rely on the artist within rather than equipment I have or wish I had. I have done this experiment with both a 50mm lens and 105mm macro lens. Placing these kinds of limitations on your shooting has much to teach about the process of taking pictures.

The same kind of simplifying process works with limiting your aperture. If you tend to shoot wide open most of the time, stop down for a few weeks, or vice versa. You may not like the results. They may not accurately reflect your personal style, but you will learn something along the way. And, it is one less thing to worry about when you set out to take photos.

If you could only shoot at one aperture for two weeks, what would it be?

If you could only use one lens, which one would you use?

Give this experiment in simplifying your shooting choices a try. The benefit comes from thinking about what you discovered along the way. Share what you learned in the Facebook group.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP OF THE MONTH

TROUBLE WITH BEING CREATIVE

When the going gets tough and the creative juices aren't flowing like you'd like, simplify. Focus on one aspect of your shooting at a time. Changing too many things at once usually results only in frustration.

365 Picture Today TEAM



AMY

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With only having a couple of lens picking one for month isn't too hard ~ I would have to go with the most versatile one my Olympus 12-40mm f2.8 Pro it was a splurge a few years ago and well worth it! When there is not user error it is very sharp and the bokeh is always dreamy!



GARNETT

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This is a tough one because I like all of my lenses for different purposes. If I could only use one for a month, I would pick my most versatile lens... the Canon 24-105. It allows me to shoot landscapes at pretty wide angle, and zoom in on people as well. It also focuses to infinity for night photography and does well in bulb mode. This is the lens that is on my camera most days.



KRIS

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If I could shoot with only one lens for a month, I think it would be a 50mm 1.4. This is a versatile lens that makes me move around and carefully consider how I compose my photos. Admittedly, I usually have a 24-70 on my camera and let the lens do the moving rather than me.



LEE

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Oh interesting question, but I have a stand out winner for my everyday photography, and that is the Canon Zoom Lens EF 24-105mm 1:4 IS USM, this lens spends the most time on my camera, it is the most versatile lens that I have, and it isn't too heavy!