



Seeing The Light

Quality · Direction · Shape — the bridge between exposure and creativity.

WHY IT MATTERS

Why Light Matters

EXPOSURE = CORRECT

Technically right



LIGHT = BEAUTIFUL

Emotionally right



THE FRAMEWORK

The Three Qualities of Light



01

Softness

Hard or soft transitions



02

Direction

Where the light comes from



03

Shape

How light wraps a form

QUALITY OF LIGHT

Soft vs Hard Light

SOFT = GRADUAL TRANSITIONS

Gentle light into shadow



HARD = SHARP EDGES

Defined, high contrast



WHERE TO FIND IT

Soft Light Examples

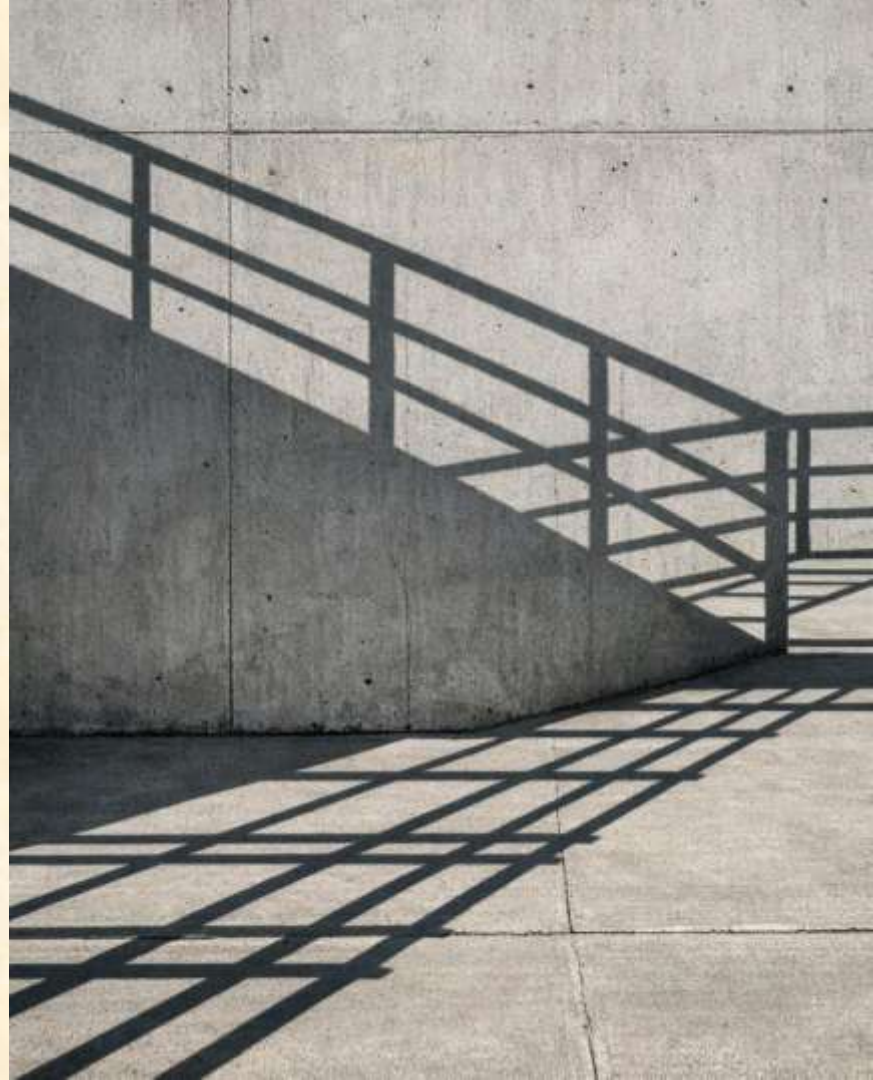
- Cloudy sky
- Window light
- Shade



WHERE TO FIND IT

Hard Light Examples

- Midday sun
- Bare bulb
- Street lamps



LIGHT IS EMOTIONAL

Softness & Mood

SOFT = CALM

Gentle and natural



HARD = BOLD

Graphic and intense



SECTION TWO

Light Direction Overview

Front

Clarity

Side

Depth & texture

Back

Atmosphere

Top

Drama



DIRECTION · FRONT

Front Light

—

— Clear

— Simple

— Low shadow



DIRECTION · SIDE

Side Light

—

— Texture

— Shape

— Depth



DIRECTION · BACK

Back Light

-
- Silhouettes
 - Rim light
 - Atmosphere



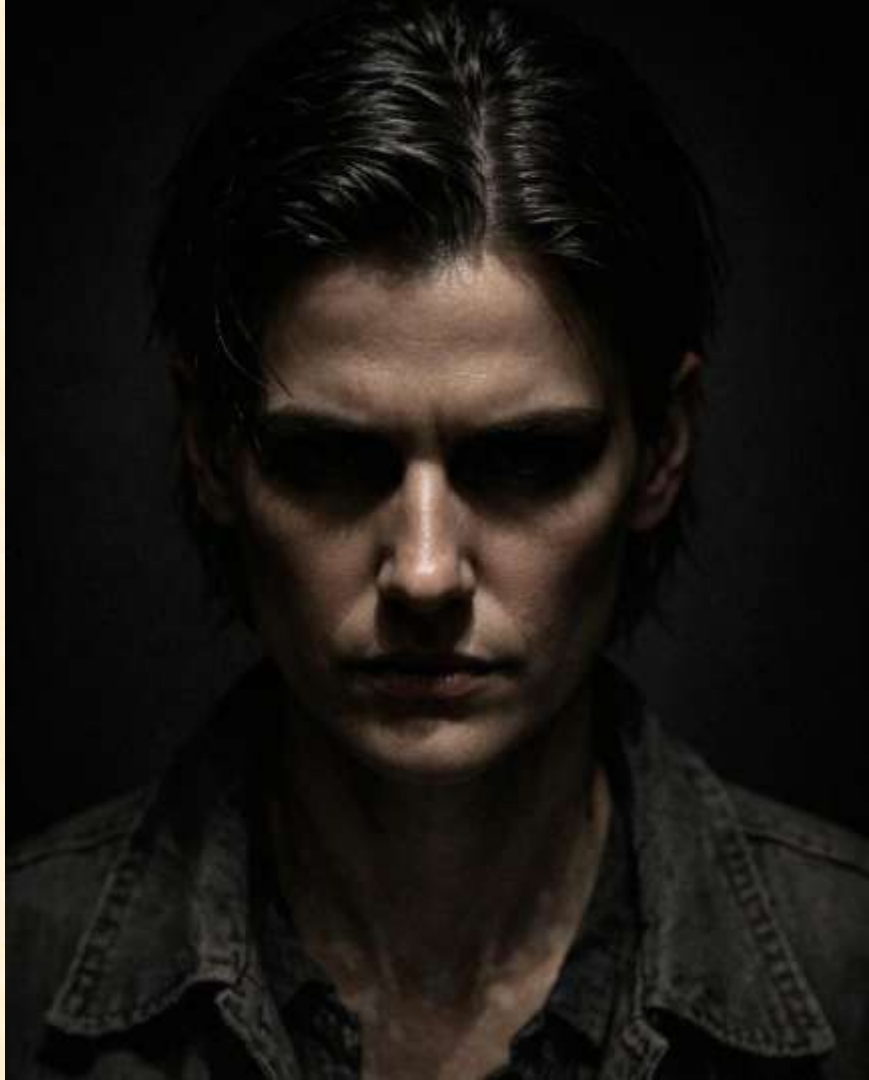
DIRECTION · TOP

Top Light



— Harsh shadows

— Dramatic



SECTION THREE

Shape: Light as Sculpture

Light creates form.

The sculptural part of photography — the difference between flat and dimensional images.



PORTRAIT LIGHTING PATTERNS

The Four Classic Shapes

01

Flat

Even & clear

02

Loop

Gentle contour

03

Rembrandt

Triangle of light

04

Split

Half light, half shadow

SHAPE · FLAT

Flat Light

—

— Even

— Undramatic

— Clear



SHAPE · LOOP

Loop Light



— Gentle contour

*A small nose shadow adds subtle depth
without harsh edges.*



Rembrandt Light



- Triangle of Light
- Sculpted

Dramatic and classic — mood and depth for storytelling portraits.



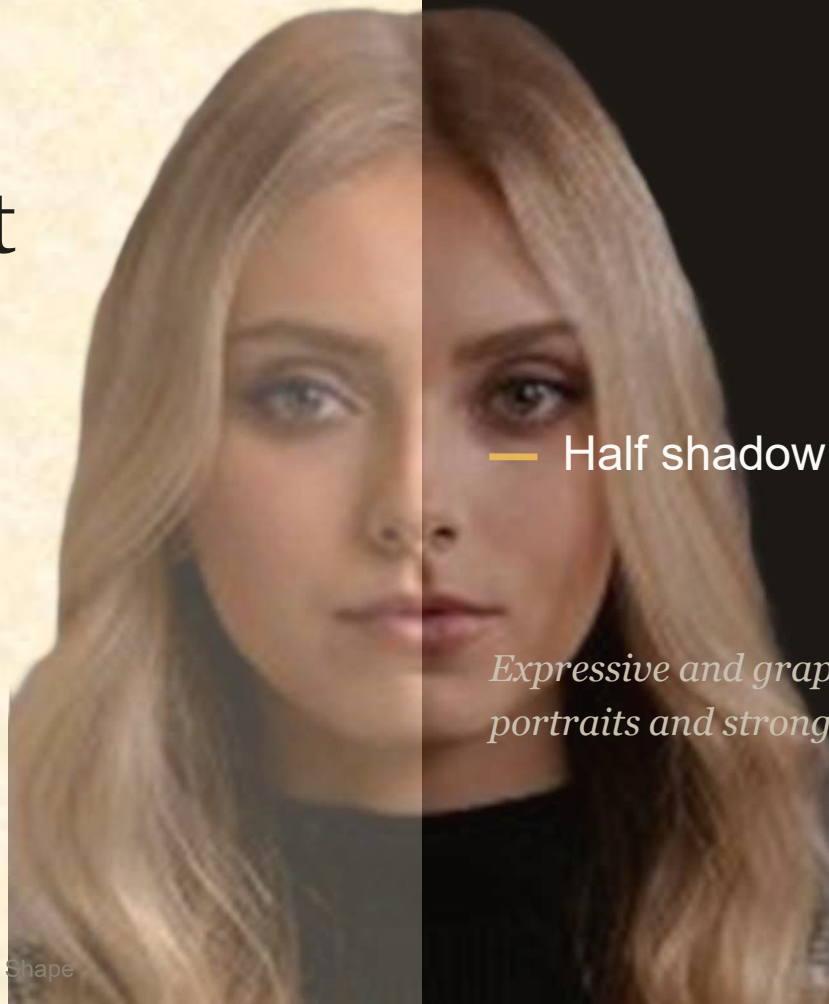
SHAPE · SPLIT

Split Light



— Half light

— Half shadow



Expressive and graphic — ideal for dramatic portraits and strong emotional tone.

THE SYNTHESIS

Putting It All Together

Quality

How soft or hard

Direction

Where it comes from

Shape

How it wraps form

YOUR TURN

Field Exercise

Walk around and find one real example of each:



Find soft light

Gentle, wrapping



Find hard light

Sharp-edged shadows



Find side light

Depth and texture