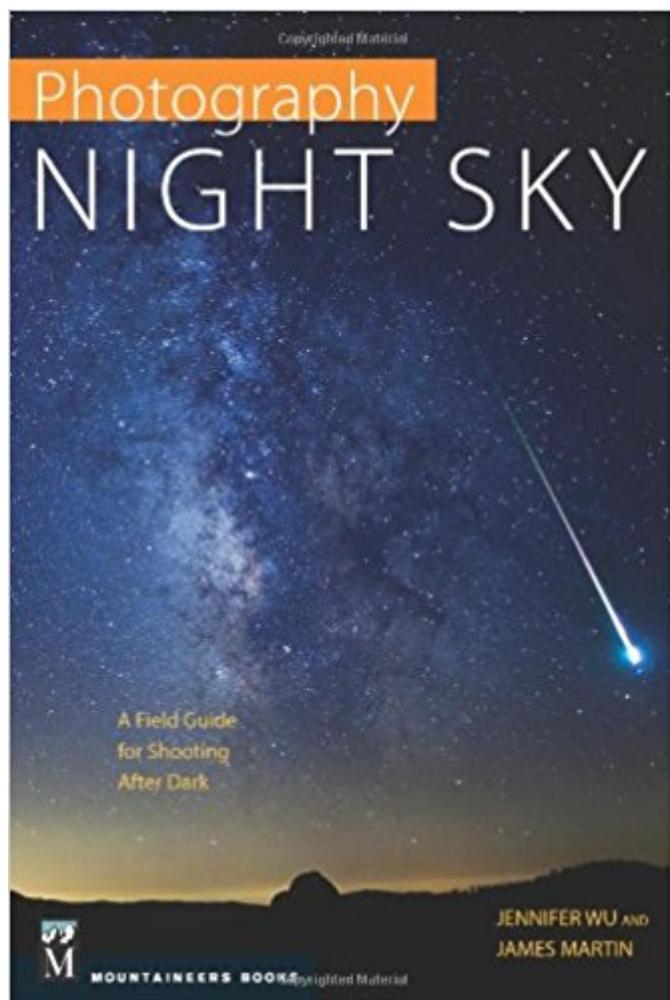


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# Photography Night Sky: A Field Guide For Shooting After Dark



## **Synopsis**

Photography: Night Sky will give you the tips and techniques you need to take stunning photographs in the dark. You'll learn how to overcome the unique issues that confront nighttime photographers and capture images of which you'll be proud. Co-author Jennifer Wu, an elite Canon Explorer of Light professional photographer, has become renowned for her ability to capture nighttime phenomena, from quarter-phase moon rises to shooting stars to the ephemeral Milky Way. This new guide reveals her methods and concentrates on photographing four principal subjects: stars as points of light, star trails, the moon, and twilight. These subjects share common photo techniques and considerations, but each also requires a distinct approach. Once captured, your digital images must be finished on the computer; co-author and author of the bestselling Photography: Outdoors, James Martin, delves into the settings and procedures that elevate an image from mundane to striking. This clear and practical guide will help photographers of all levels portray the stunning spectacle of the night sky, preserving those special memories and moments from a life outdoors.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Mountaineers Books (April 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594858381

ISBN-13: 978-1594858383

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (109 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,212 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Handbooks & Manuals #15 inÂ  Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Star-Gazing #16 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Landscapes

## **Customer Reviews**

Disclaimer: I've been capturing images for 40+ years, am very familiar with my [Canon] DSLRs and lenses, am reasonably competent with composition, and have explored night sky and astrophotography for many years. I bought this book from .com in the hope of gleaning some really good information about that goes beyond what's already in my library. I was looking forward to this

book both because I'm aware of Jennifer Wu's reputation and the reviews on .com were so positive. Unfortunately I've been disappointed. Maybe I expected more from a Canon Explorer of Light whose reputation for night sky photography is so strong. While the content is very good—well-organized with a lot of useful information—and the photos are very nice, I found most of the information pretty basic. Much of the book is devoted to what I'd consider basics: how camera controls work, how exposure variables work, what causes DSLR noise, using proper support and so on—information that's present in most photography books on my shelf. I think she missed huge opportunities to introduce readers to devices that can track the sky—telescope piggyback mounts, prime focus photography, simple camera trackers that can be packed (OK—lugged) into the field, and so on. Also missed were extremely useful focusing and camera control aids like CamRanger and even wired control from a computer. I think she should have at least mentioned these kinds of topics and included pointers in the Resources section. Another missed opportunity: many people I encounter are attempting this kind of photography with very capable point-and-shoot cameras and even cellphones. These devices aren't even mentioned in the book. Her discussion of astronomical factors that can impact photography is good and will be mostly new to many photographers—but probably not so to people who have been attempting nighttime photography for a while. The composition information is good and useful, as are her recommendations for initial exposures. But again, the information is pretty basic and should be familiar to many people who have been creating images for more than a few years. I was very disappointed by the brief post-processing chapter. It revolves around Adobe Camera Raw and Photoshop capabilities with virtually no mention of the plethora of other software available. Importantly, a lot of really nice night sky photography involves image stacking, and Photoshop isn't necessarily the best (or second-best) software for this. No mention at all of alternatives here. So overall: This is a good book, and it's a very good size to carry into the field. If you're new to night sky photography, want to extend your DSLR-based photography capabilities, have been looking for a good book to get you started, and are currently using Adobe image processing software, then this book might be for you. But if you're looking for something that goes far beyond the basics, I'd suggest that you look elsewhere.

Is the best book I have seen that is a "how to" book on photographing stars, star trails, and the Milky Way. Author takes you through all of the above step by step with breathtaking examples of her photos. She details how she shot each. You walk away from the book trying to decide where you can shoot. She tells you how to find the spots. Great book to go back to double check how to do

something.

I got the Night Sky book and am enjoying all the information you supplied. It was well worth the wait. I can't wait to start executing my newly acquired knowledge that I learned from you. Thank you so much. This will be my new "Go To" reference book for all my night photography needs. No other book has it all in one place like your book does. It's wonderful. I now know the best locations and seasons to capture the Milky Way, and your post processing techniques help produce a stellar photo, no pun intended... yes, pun intended. Thank you for this making this book, I really needed it. Joe

To be fair, I probably would have given this book a higher rating after I bought it last year. I was new to night photography and I did learn quite a bit. However, I still felt my ability to capture images at night was not up to par with some of the night photographers I've seen on the web. I tried a couple other books but none of them really went beyond the basics. Then, I recently came across a book called "Collier's Guide to Night Photography" that also covers all the basics, but then goes on to explain more advanced techniques. It covers many things in detail that aren't covered or only briefly covered in Jennifer's book, including focus stacking to increase depth of field, photographing lightning, and using star trackers. It also goes into more detail on blending multiple exposures and stitching large images. I can't tell you how much this has already improved my images. The skies in almost all of the photos in Jennifer's book are blue. This is fine if there is a moon out, as the Rayleigh scattering effect causes the night sky to be blue for the same reason it appears blue during the day. But there is no Rayleigh scattering under no moon and therefore the sky is not blue. You can artificially make it blue by lowering the white balance but then you may lose any air glow in the shot. Air glow is usually green or red and is a fascinating phenomenon that you can lose in your shot by putting too much of an artificial blue cast in the sky. Air glow is not discussed at all in Jennifer's book. Finally, one of the biggest issues I've found with this book is that Jennifer Wu is a Canon Explorer of Light and therefore only lists the brand names of lenses if they are Canon. Unfortunately, Canon lenses suck for night photography. I bought a really fast, expensive lens from Canon and it had awful image quality in the corners. I've since replaced it with much less expensive lenses recommended in Grant's book and I am much happier with the results. It's a shame that Jennifer is unable to provide an accurate review of lenses because of her ties to Canon. This being said, Jennifer Wu's book is still a good book and has a lot of useful information. It is better than

several other night photography guides IÃ¢Â™ve read, but IÃ¢Â™ve just found this new book by Grant Collier to be that much better.

Recently attending a workshop, in Alaska with Jennifer Wu, had me convinced as to her expertise in photography and workshop leadership. Her attention to detail is as unending as her enthusiasm and energy in the field. Next, she blows me away with this awesome textbook on Night Sky photography. Again, her attention to detail and specifics reminds me of texts written by Ansel Adams. Page after page of "how to" and photographs, that make this book not only a tool of learning but a collectible as well. This book, will make you a better photographer!

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