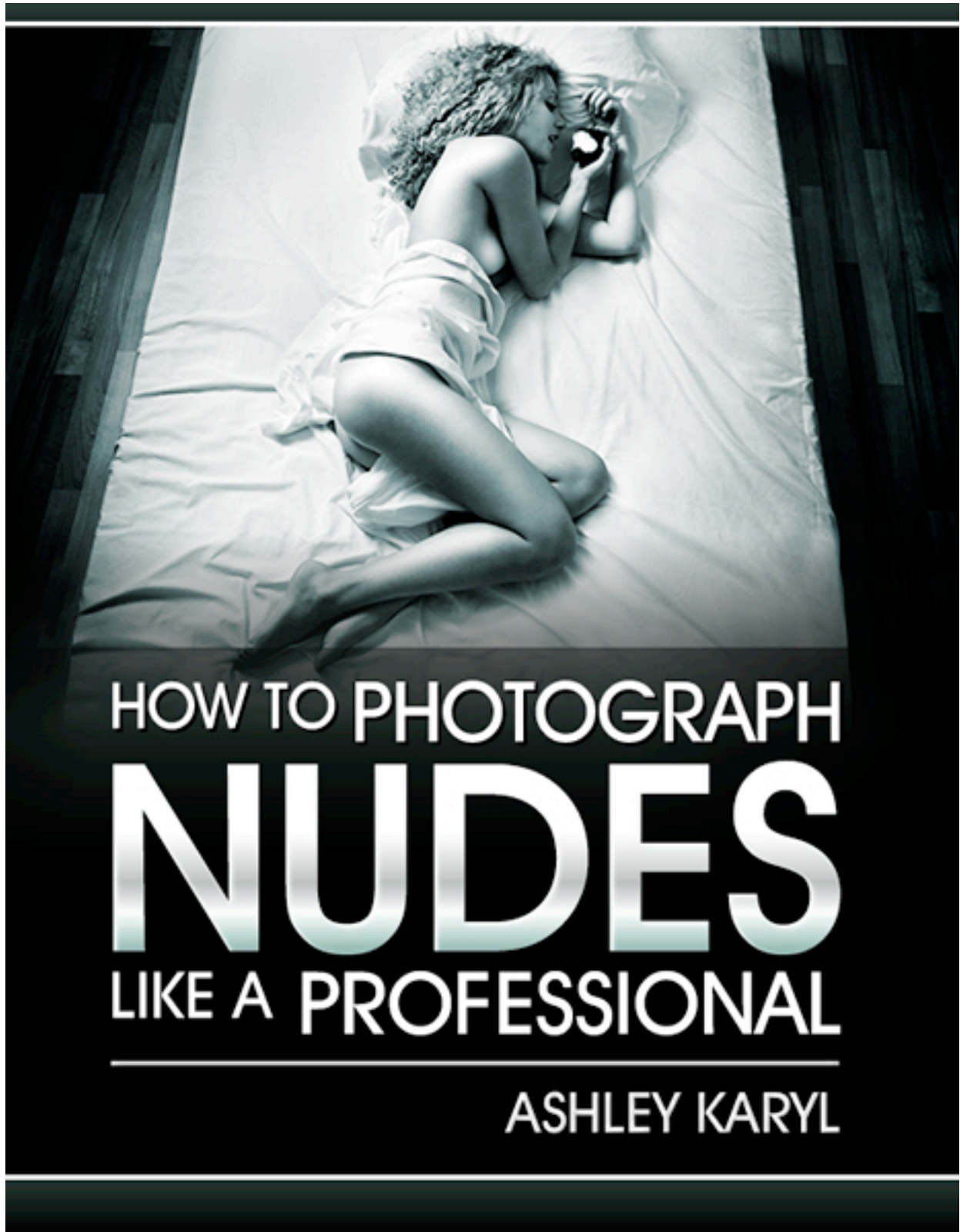


How To Photograph Nudes Like A Professional - Ashley Karyl

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This PDF file contains a sample excerpt from the ebook “[How To Photograph Nudes Like A Professional](#)”.

Based on almost 20 years of international experience as a working photographer, this ebook by Ashley Karyl contains 23 chapters and over 325 pages of facts, information and insight on how to photograph nudes like a professional.

Written in an easy conversational manner with a clear simple layout, this inspiring book is aimed at the future professional or anybody who wants to learn how to shoot effectively, while avoiding all those expensive and time consuming errors, which even experienced photographers often make.

Excerpt from chapter 12 - Think Like A Pro

Think Like A Pro

When shooting the female nude, whether for glamour, beauty or fine art purposes, it's vital that we give great attention to aspects involving the pose, camera angle and choice of lens.

Not even working with a gorgeous model in a beautifully lit situation, will provide you with professional looking images, unless you pay great attention to your angles and all aspects of the model's body, as she moves.

- Not even an experienced model can be 100% sure of what you are seeing through the viewfinder or know what you want. More to the point it's your vision and you are the boss!

I am constantly surprised at the number of times I see images, which had all the right ingredients to make a great picture, but were let down, because the photographer failed to identify that subtle tweak that would have changed everything. It might be the movement of the legs or just a slight arch of the back, which would have made all the difference adding a touch of sensuality to the image.

- Remember that no model is perfect (well maybe a few) and they will all have good & bad points, so you have to exploit their advantages, while covering any weaknesses.

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Here are a few thoughts to bear in mind when evaluating whether or not you should be shooting pictures or making changes:

- Is the model's stomach sticking out? Very often a model might think she is looking good but just inhaling a little to produce a flatter stomach can make all the difference
- Look at the hair and ask yourself honestly; is it looking as good as possible? In certain situations like the the shots you saw earlier, having some hair in movement or out of place is desirable, but on most images, it's just something that is going to ruin your day.

The amount of work required, to retouch messy hair, can be quite awful; adding a huge amount of time to your post production retouching. Don't hesitate to stop everything and give some attention to the model's hair, if it isn't looking as good as possible. Simply taking the time, to wash, blow dry and brush a model's hair, before a shoot, can make a major difference to your end result.

- Are the hands looking good? Look carefully at your model's hands if they are going to be present in any way. Check for rough nails, poorly applied polish, areas of abnormally red discolouration near the cuticles. On most beauty shoots I not only hire hair and makeup, but also a hand specialist.
- It's not uncommon to see protruding veins on hands, caused by heat, which can sometimes be lessened significantly, just by holding them up for a few seconds and then putting them quickly back into position. The veins will come back, but you have a few seconds to grab your key image without the veins.
- Long slender hands will generally be an advantage, but I've seen some potentially beautiful nudes ruined, simply because the model had rather chubby hands and the photographer failed to use them well enough. On one occasion, I did a shoot and was forced to slightly lengthen the model's hands afterwards in post production, to make them look more elegant.
- Look at the model's skin to see if it is suffering from blotchiness.

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I have to be brutal here and say that if your model is suffering from poor circulation and blotchy looking skin, you are looking at a lot of extra work. The best solution, frankly, is one of prevention and finding a suitable model with good skin.

In general, whenever I've had to deal with this problem, it has always occurred with naturally pale skinned models, who haven't been anywhere near the sun and it's one of my biggest nightmares when shooting nudes. Most often, you will see this on the arms and legs but it's always a pain to deal with.

In a worst case scenario, try to keep the studio warm and get the makeup artist to rub the model's skin with some non greasy cream, generally massaging the skin to improve the circulation. This will reduce the problem, but you will still have work to do in Photoshop. This is one of the many reasons that I generally prefer to photograph models with a base tan because it hides all sorts of problems like this. Healthy, young models getting regular exercise shouldn't have these problems.

- When looking at the model's pose, try to carefully, but quickly, analyse every aspect of her appearance, asking yourself, what needs to be changed that could make it special in some way.

Is it the curve of her back; the way her toes are pointing or even the way her face is subtly angled towards the light?

- This is where you get to create visual poetry, so be bold and imaginative.

Look at the details. Above all, when photographing the nude, it's about communicating the emotion and feel of a particular moment. **Practice makes perfect**, so over time, you will become quicker and better at analysing what needs to be done, losing any shyness about making the appropriate changes.

- Is your model comfortable?

While it may be possible, for a model to hold a tricky pose, for a few moments, you can't expect a girl to lean on hard rocks or maintain a twisted position for an extended period without a break. You need to be reasonably considerate in this respect. To ease matters, ask her occasionally, if she wants to take a break or if there is anything she needs.

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I always make a point of asking the model, at the start of the shoot, to tell me if they need anything. This puts the responsibility on the girl, to let you know if they are uncomfortable in any way. Generally speaking, if you have planned out your shoot with some forethought, you shouldn't have too many problems.

- Is the makeup appropriate for what you are trying to achieve?

It's no good going for a completely wild and colourful makeup, if you are trying to shoot a low key abstract nude in black & white. Similarly, you might want to pump up the sexy makeup for a glamour shoot to match the clothes and setting. As a general rule, I tend to favour soft natural looking makeup, but each image has its own needs so it's important for you to identify that and make the necessary changes.

- Is the light really what you need, or at least as good as you can make it, under the given circumstances?

Don't be lazy here, but also try to be practical. First, bear in mind what you have available and secondly how it fits into your overall objectives. Also ask yourself, if the lighting is helping or hindering your attempts to get the best out of your model. For example, a ring flash may look cool on the end of your camera, but is it really offering the most flattering light for your model's skin?

- It won't take you long to understand, whether or not your model is truly comfortable working with you and doing the pictures.

There is no doubt, that a look of nervousness or awkward body language, will ruin everything. You first need to cast the right model. Secondly, make sure she is completely aware of your objectives and happy to be involved.

- As I pointed out earlier in this book, your greatest asset when photographing nudes, will be a calm, professional and competent manner, but that can't just be an act. In other words, you have to become a true professional in your capabilities and approach.

- Have you checked...

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- **Learn how to think and work like a professional**
- **Covers glamour, beauty and fine art nudes**
- **Including 17 case sample images with explanations from professional assignments on location and in the studio**
- **More than 85,000 words of text**
- **Specially formatted for easy viewing and printing**
- **Includes two free bonus chapters**

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