



By the River

Photographs by Joe Lipka

THOUGHTS FROM A RIVER ROAD

Water. Where would I be without it? I am drawn to it because water calls to me. There is something about water which attracts me to it and which inspires me. I know rationally that water is necessary for my physical well being and I know intuitively that it is also necessary for my artistic well being. I find that whenever possible I include water, in one form or another, in almost all of my landscape images. In those images I have captured water in many of its visual forms. Water can be calm, reflecting the light and the images of its surroundings. It can flow slowly and majestically toward the sea. Or it can vigorously challenge the rocks and other impediments in the river bed in the head long race to find its lowest level.

As you know, water has sounds, too. Waterfalls may roar with the spring melt or with the run off following a sudden summer storm. Slight rivulets of water may gently trickle in a late August drought. I've heard gentle streams whisper on a hot, windless day. Their tender murmurings have frequently suggested a stream side stop-over. I have often yielded to these propositions while my camera waits patiently on a nearby tripod. After such a sojourn, I find that I arise refreshed and inspired by my brief respite.

I've tried to understand why I am so drawn to water and why I find it appeasing and appealing. I have considered negative ions which I am told are created by moving water and cause a relaxing affect on living creatures. I have been told that because I was born from a watery environment it is natural for me to feel an affinity to water. Here's what I do know: as a photographer I thoroughly enjoy including water in my landscape photographs not only because of the element which it brings to those images but also because I derive great pleasure from interacting with water while I indulge myself in the process of creating.





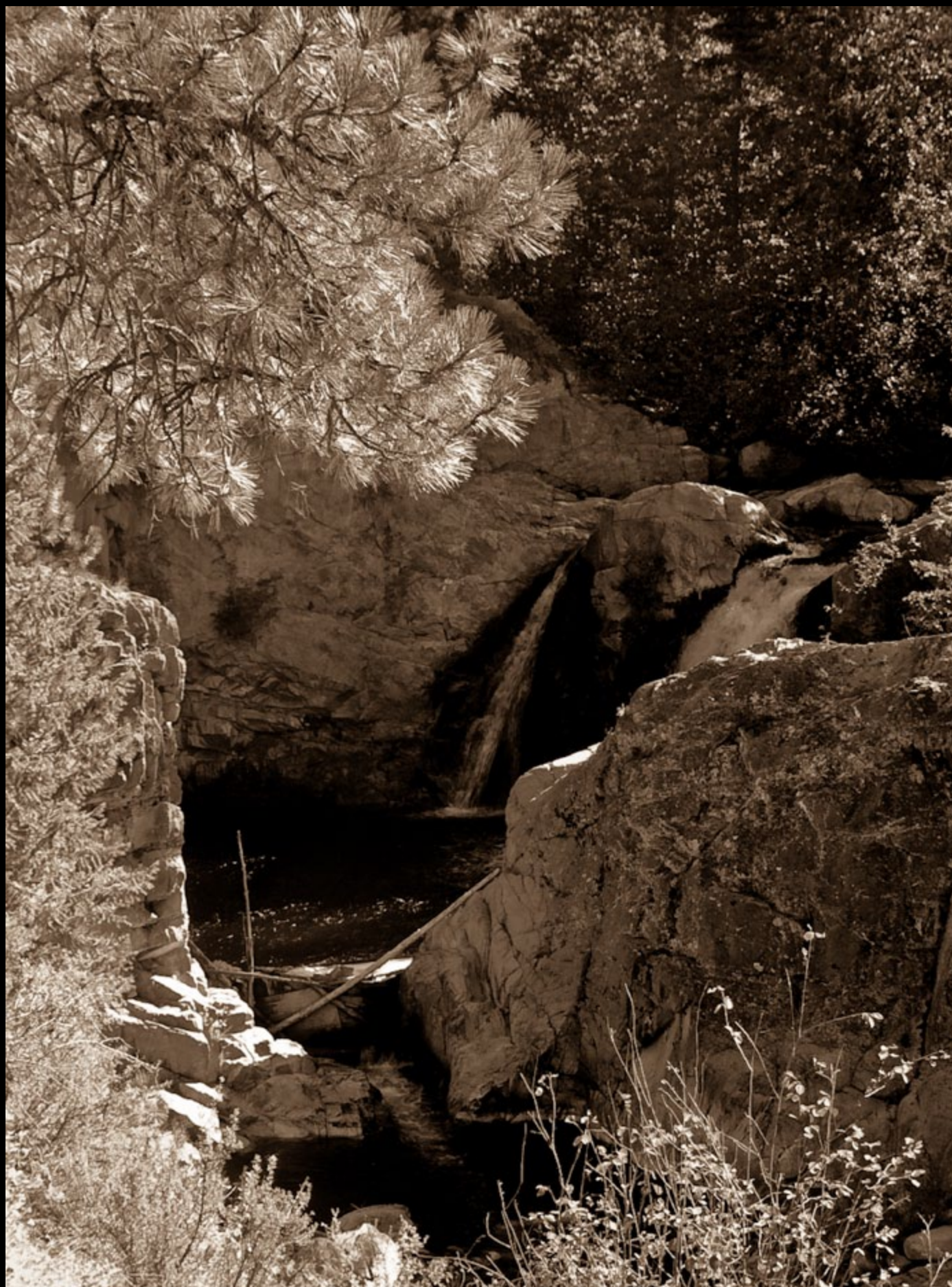














On Making these Photographs

These photographs were made by a number of rivers during “The Annual Photo Safari of 2009.” Brooks Jensen and I go off for a week every year and try to act like fine art photographers. We wind up driving around and making lots of photographs. A lot of these photographs occur on the banks of rivers. It may be because there are always roads that run next to rivers. It may be because that’s the best way to get from one place to another as we survey the land. None the less, these photographs represent what we see as we drive along. Or at least, what I see from the passenger side of the truck. There is a whole world looking back from the river to land. Maybe one day, I will photograph that, too.

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