

Lost in Fog

Joe Lipka



When she was very young, our daughter became afraid when she saw fog for the first time. We told her fog was a cloud that got lost. Eventually, the fog would get tired and would go back up into the sky.

She was happy with the explanation. At her age she wasn't ready to understand the thermodynamics of cloud formation.






Fog comes and goes, eddies and swirls around us. It seems to be a living thing enveloping the surface of the earth. It fits perfectly and minds its boundaries with the land and the sea.





A sepia-toned photograph of a forest. In the foreground, there is a dense thicket of low-lying shrubs and bushes. Behind them, several tall, slender evergreen trees stand prominently. The background is shrouded in a thick, soft fog or mist, which obscures the details of the distant trees and the sky, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The overall mood is quiet and serene.

Fog is silent.

The only thing quieter than fog is snow.

Fog is jealous of that.



Fog is silent to everyone but me.

In the fog, I hear the Chanting of Monks.
The ancient music surrounds me. The
harmonies and tones float through
the air becoming part of everything
they touch.





Birds know when they can fly in the fog and when to wait for a break in the fog. The knowledge is innate, for those birds that weren't smart enough to avoid flying in the fog died flying into an oceanside cliff. Sometimes Darwin was right.



These were among the first photographs made with a new digital camera. I figured I only needed to learn about twenty of the two hundred page manual because it covered the basic functions of the camera.

After making this photograph, I accidentally touched some combination of tiny buttons on my camera and the camera came alive. The EVF began a slide show of my recent photographs; with musical accompaniment (and not Gregorian Chant). I started laughing because what else was there to do?

I finally made it stop by turning off the camera.

Now I read the entire manual.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and have been printed in both *LensWork* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) Magazines.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, is a collection of his photographs and thoughts on the creative process.

COLOPHON

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*The images in this portfolio
were made in September, 2011
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