



Jump Off Joes

Photographs by Joe Lipka

Jump Off Joes

I knew it was down there. I could feel it. My back slid into the seat as the truck headed uphill. Soon I heard that unmistakable sound that commanded me to stop. Picking up the camera gear, I headed over the guard rail and down the hill. Twigs crunched beneath my feet. Leaves rustled and in some places ground gave way as I inched my way down a steep hill to the source of the sound. Then I picked up the scent of the trees. Finally, the path leveled out and as I peered through the leaves, I knew I had arrived.

The water tumbled over the rocks, eddied and flowed downstream. Sometimes it quietly filled deep pools of crystal clear water. I spied fish swimming well below the surface. The sound of the water surrounded me. The air was cooled by sprays of water. I was forty feet below the road, but it felt like I was alone in another world where time stands still.

That afternoon's photography passed by in what seemed like a few minutes. Too soon, it was time to leave this magical place. With one last look over my shoulder, I climbed the hill back to the road and hoisted myself over the guard rail which had been labeled Jump off Joes by a previous visitor.

The following day I felt as though I was being beckoned back to that amazing spot to repeat the joy of an afternoon of perfect photography. I drove the road again to no avail. The landmarks had all disappeared. I could not hear nor could I see the clues that led me to the success of the day before. What happened that made yesterday great and yet left a mystery for today? I concluded the Fates must have decreed Jump Off Joes have a Brigadoon-like existence; existing only for the single afternoon I was there.

















COLOPHON

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*The images in this portfolio
were made in September, 2014
near the Oregon Coast*

Myriad Pro and Myriad Pro Italic fonts were used for the text.

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