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5 THINGS I WISH I WOULD'VE KNOWN

01. OFF-CAMERA FLASH

This will save you so much time and you will notice such a major difference in your photos. Your clients will also thank you when they decide not to do a first look and all your portraits are at night. I always remember a great photografriend share some words of wisdom:

Photography is 90% lighting 10% everything else and he was right.

TWO CAMERA BODIES WILL BE YOUR BFFS

I always wondered why some of my photografriends carried two cameras around at weddings. I couldn't fathom doing this. I always felt so beat up with one camera alone, two would just kill me. Until... I bought my second full frame camera and strapped it on for a wedding. One carries a 70-200mm and the other one carries a 24-70mm during the most crucial times.

03.

OFF BRAND GEAR IS OK.

When I first started I wanted to have EVERYTHING Nikon, well guess what 7 years later if you look through my bag you'll find tamron, sigma, and some flashpoint flashes.

It's ok to buy things that are NOT Nikon or Canon brands. And it will save you a TON of money. I sold one of my used Nikon flashes and bought 3 Flashpoint flashes for the price of 1. And guess what? They work just fine. My 70-200mm... TAMRON!

Remember the saying: "It's not the gear you have, it's what you can do with it".

OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE YOUR FRIENDS

In this industry you'll find A LOT of people that do the same thing you do or aspire to become photographers. These people are your friends! Yes, you might meet a few not-so-nice people but most people are willing to lend a hand, give you advice, and have you learn with them. Don't be afraid to ask!

Look up: Rising Tide - Community Over Competition

05. FIND YOUR IDEAL CLIENT

Not everyone that inquires will be a good fit. Don't book people just to book. Your clients want to see if you're a good fit for them but you also have to see if they're a good fit for you. I know at first you want to book everyone that comes your way but not everyone means well. And you should definitely not overwork yourself.

"Quality over Quantity" should also be your motto.