Wren ★ Feathers

Golden Hour

Have you heard about golden hour? Basically it's a really small window of time where you can get some great photo effects. Depending where you are, it can be an hour, but in the mountains here, it isn't. A few minutes on google will give you more info than you need about it! :)

My husband is great at it with his "real" camera. Sometime I'll post more of the gorgeous pix we got of Claudie in a not-yet-released 1920s collection. They were taken over several days during golden hour in early fall, which is one of my favorite light angles where we live. Here's one of my favorites:

What makes this pic so magical is the light of the setting sun backlighting Claudie and showing through all the greenery. There's no direct sunlight actually on her face, although sometimes it can help to have a reflector to direct some light there.

It doesn't always work well with my iphone camera, because it tries to compensate for unusual lighting on faces, but I was trying to get all the SSA photos taken at once back in May during golden hour and while the daffodils were still blooming. As you've seen, most of those photos don't show the GH effects, but in this case I thought the result of the was interesting.

In contrast to the pic above, this one did have light hitting her face directly. In person, it was beautiful, but the iphone didn't quite capture what my eyes did.

Of course, there are other issues with the photo, like the grass in front of her that ended up too much in focus and cast some odd shadows on the skirt. A secondary issue is that the colors of the dress really don't suit her coloring; the cool pastels don't really work with her warm skin tone and face paint, especially with warm sunset light.

In any case, since one of the goals of the SSA is for you to share your creativity, I'd like to encourage you to think about experimenting with outdoor light in your photos. There are apps and calculators online that will help you find the perfect time to run out and snap those pix!