



Writer'sBlock
WORKSHOP



Cendrine Marrouat



Who's in the Spotlight?

Writer's Block Workshop welcomes **Cendrine Marrouat**!



Cendrine is an avid photographer, an award winning social media blogger and trainer, a French language instructor and an accomplished author living in Canada. She has authored two social media books, five collections of poetry and three photography books. (Wow!)

Her latest release is [Life's Little Things: The Quotes](#), which combines her own personal quotes with her beautiful photographs.

Cendrine explains her inspiration for this book:

*Quotes bring us a sense of comfort and keep us grounded. They force us to think and question our preconceived notions of our surroundings. Most importantly, they **inspire us to become better people**, especially when they are paired with photography that tells multi-layered stories.*

*This is the idea behind Life's Little Things: The Quotes. The second book in the Life's Little Things series pays homage to the world in a way that you may never have seen before. **Each page is an invitation to reflect on the human condition and our never-ending connection to nature.***

*Not only will Life's Little Things: The Quotes brighten your day, but it will also open your mind to what is possible and what truly matters. In a world where negativity seems to be winning, the 25 high-quality photos and quotes in the book are intended as a balancing act. **They will encourage you to reconnect with yourself, think more positively, slow down your physical pace, and find your inner rhythm.***



Cendrine graciously shared her thoughts on this project and her work, as well as some beautiful samples.

The Interview

Q. How did you get started in photography and what influences your work?

I have always taken photos. But for the longest time, I did not think I was good enough.

Things started in 2009, when a magazine contacted me to feature one of my photos in their upcoming edition. I could not believe that a picture taken with a basic point-and-shoot camera would interest anyone.

The image ended up not being used, so I moved on. A year later, I featured my favorite shot of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, in Vancouver, on the cover of my fifth poetry book. After being asked if I was a professional photographer and if I was willing to give up my rights on the photo, to which I said no, I realized that photography may become a career option for me.

The next four years were dedicated to learning the basics of photography. I also looked at photographers' portfolios in my fields of interest, and shared my images online. I have been selling prints since 2014, and released three photography books.

What influences my work? Life in general. I love focusing on the little details around me.

Q. When did you become interested in writing poetry, and how does it affect your photos?

I started my artistic career one evening of January 2005. I had written before, but the poetry bug hit me then. I do not really know why it happened that way.

With that said, I have only written four or five pieces since 2010. So, poetry has not really affected my photography. I just approach both art forms in the same way. Each shot must achieve two goals: simplicity and serenity.



The most beautiful stories often blossom from darkness.

Q. Do you have a formal plan for your work, or let your whimsy take you wherever it wants?

I don't like the word "formal". It's too, shall we say, serious. Lol

I have an outline with a title and the main ideas, but I rarely stick to the plan. I prefer going with the flow. My audience is always in the back of my mind, though.

Q. Do you follow a specific process when you take photos?

I give myself a goal for every photo shoot. For example, one session will be about the light or shadows. Another time, I will focus on long-exposure images. I also love landscapes with clouds.

I am not a big fan of over-processed photos, so I edit my shots minimally.

Q. What are the main themes in your photography?

I specialize in nature, black-and-white and close-up images. The recurring theme is the importance of the little things in life.

People often ask me how I manage to capture what I see the way I do. The answer is simple. Keep an open mind, raise your eyes, and take your time. Beauty is everywhere.



When the earth beckons you, embrace it with your mind and soul.

Q. How do you choose your locations?

I try to focus on nature as much as possible. However, if it's not possible, there must be some architectural elements involved.

Q. What makes your book different than other photography books?

While the concept is not new, what makes the book different is the fact that the readers of my blog selected the photos to feature. The challenge was to write the quotes based on those choices.

So, there is no reliance on the words of famous people. The quotes are mine; they stem from the lessons I have learnt in life; and I made sure that they matched the photos.

(I love that you asked your readers to choose the photos! ~Lynn)

Q. What is your favorite photo and what's the story behind it?

I have taken thousands of photos. It's hard to decide... Let me just tell you about one of my favorites right now. It appears at the end of **Life's Little Things: The Quotes**. [\(You can see it here.\)](#) I took it during one of my numerous visits at Leo Mol Sculpture Garden.

I had envisioned the scene in my mind before actually seeing it -- the mood, reflection in the water, etc. I knew exactly how I wanted it to look post-processing.

When my readers selected it to appear in the book, I was very happy. That may explain why it took me only a few minutes to write the quote with which it is paired -- "Only in solitude will you find your bliss."

Q. What advice would you give to someone starting out in photography and creating their own business for it?

- Photography is an art form. Treat it as such. Even if you don't plan on becoming a professional, you still have to learn basic rules. Which doesn't mean that you have to limit yourself. It is great to experiment too!
- Practice as much as you can. But you don't have to go far. Stay in your backyard, look at the play between light and shadows on your walls... Everything can be a good subject, as long as you let your creativity lead the way.
- Get out of your comfort zone as much as possible. Push yourself. That's the only way to improve.
- Interested in creating your own business? Have a great strategy in place, with small, but achievable goals. Understand what makes your potential clients tick, what they crave. Observe fellow photographers in your field.
- Most importantly, respect and value yourself. Don't work for exposure, unless the benefits outweigh the amount of dollars you may make. Working for free is likely to bring the wrong people to your doors.

Q. What projects are you currently working on or planning for the future?

Once I am done promoting Life's Little Things: The Quotes, I will work on another mixed media project. This time, I will pair some of my photos with haiku. I love this poetic form so much!

Q. Your photography is gorgeous! Where can we find you Cendrine?

Websites & Links:

Life's Little Things: The Quotes- <http://creativeramblings.com/book-3/>

Social Media Slant - <http://socialmediaslant.com>

Cendrine Marrouat Photography - <http://creativeramblings.com>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/cendrinemedia>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/cendrinemarrouat>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/cendrinemedia>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cendrinemarrouat>

I would like to thank Cendrine Marrouat for giving her time, sharing her creations and being a part of the Writer's Block Workshop Indie Author Spotlight. Please check into her work and support your fellow indie author by purchasing her book and sharing this Spotlight with your followers! ~Lynn



Want to be in the Spotlight?

To qualify, you must have a self-published book / e-book for sale with decent reviews and of an appropriate nature. The book can be fiction or non-fiction. Your book will appear on the site with links to your book or sales page for a period of four weeks.

This Spotlight for your book is FREE. I only ask that you share your Spotlight with a link to this blog page with your social communities, as I will do the same. In this way, we support each other as a writing family.

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~Lynn