Ripley Noir Cheat Sheet

In this detailed tutorial, Anthony Morganti demonstrates how to achieve a classic noir "Ripley" look on photographs (using Lightroom Classic.). The look is inspired by the black-and-white aesthetic of the Netflix series *Ripley,* known for its high-contrast, low-key lighting, with predominant dark areas punctuated by strategic splashes of light that highlight the subject.

💡 Key Principles

- **In-Camera vs. Post-Processing:** The authentic noir aesthetic is best achieved with proper lighting during photography. This tutorial provides a method to emulate the effect on photos taken with ambient or even lighting.

- **Start Early:** Convert the RAW photo to black and white early in the editing process to guide your subsequent editing decisions.

- **Low-Key Base:** Lower the overall exposure to create a dark foundation for the image.

🛠️ Step-by-Step Editing Workflow

1. **Black & White Conversion:** Convert your photo to black and white at the beginning of your editing process.

2. **Lower Overall Exposure:** Decrease the main exposure to make the image darker and establish a low-key base.

3. **Create "Splashes of Light" with Radial Gradients:**

   - Use radial gradients to selectively brighten specific areas.

   - Inside the gradients:

     - Increase exposure, whites, and clarity.

     - Decrease blacks to enhance contrast.

     - **Pro-Tip:** To duplicate gradients without linking adjustments, use the proper technique demonstrated in the tutorial.

4. **Refine with Masks:**

   - Use subject masks to add texture and clarity to the main subject.

   - Use sky masks to enhance the texture and clarity of the sky.

5. **Final Touches with a Vignette:**

   - Apply a dark vignette at the end. This darkens the edges and draws the viewer's focus toward the center of the image, enhancing the noir mood.

Watch the full video at https://youtu.be/YUoWbQ0oVyw.