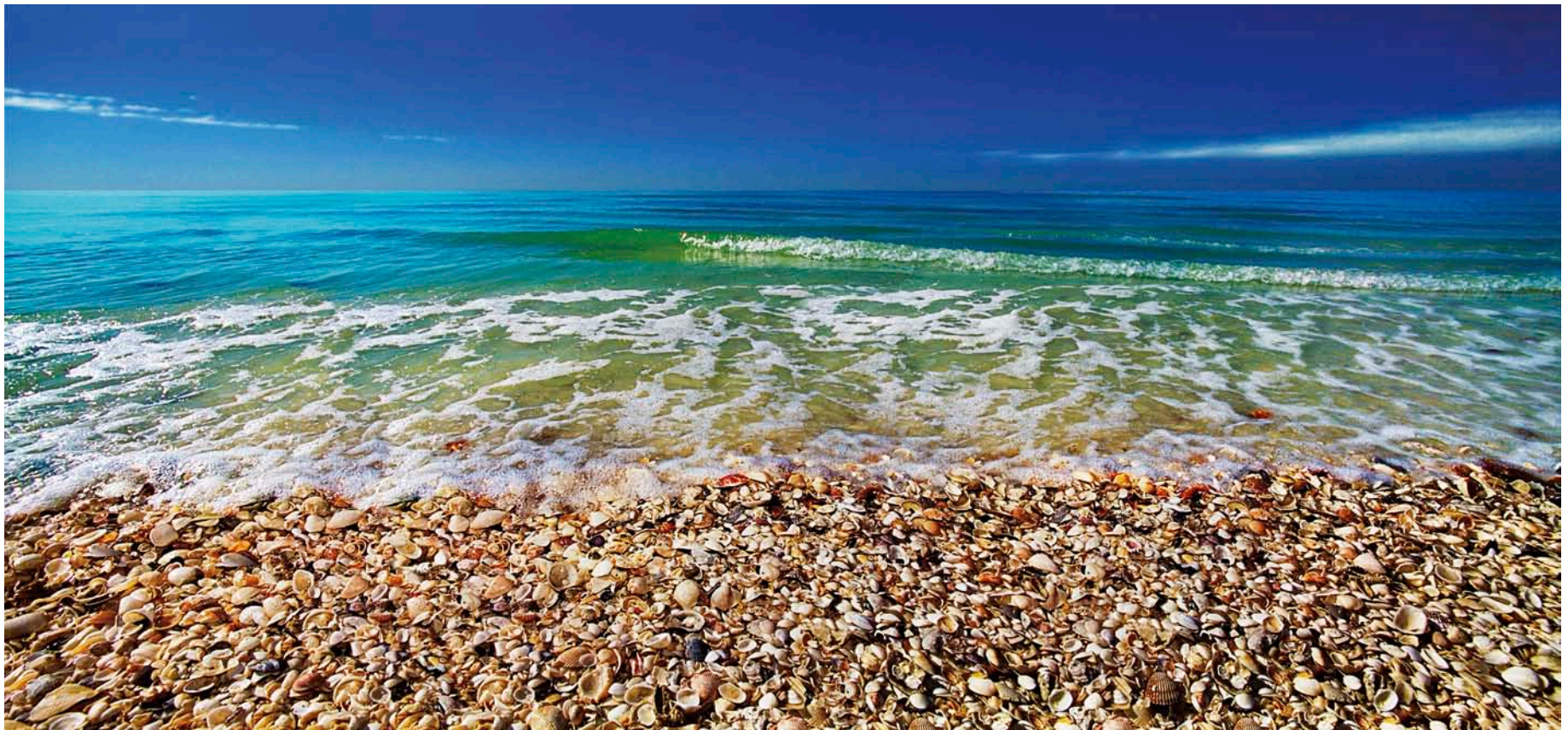


Journey Through Paradise

NAPLES, MARCO ISLAND & THE EVERGLADES



ALAN S. MALTZ

NARRATIVE BY KAREN T. BARTLETT

\$60.00 (US)

Journey Through Paradise

NAPLES, MARCO ISLAND & THE EVERGLADES

Starry nights and sun-dappled days in Old Naples... glamorous boutiques, cafes, world-class museums and galleries...rustic pioneer outposts, chic tin-roofed cottages and stately Mediterranean mansions... unspoiled miles of beach embraced by the aquamarine waters of the Gulf of Mexico...and finally, rarely-witnessed scenes in the untamed Everglades: Journey Through Paradise represents one man's two-year journey through a unique integration of sophistication and wilderness that exists in few other places on earth.

We are invited to paddle with Alan through a maze of dark and mysterious passages deep within the Ten Thousand Islands. We accompany him along a narrow, seagrape-fringed sandy path and emerge onto a pure white beach, deserted except for a hundred screeching gulls. We can almost feel the gentle movement in a tidal pool as the water ripples over a living starfish just beneath the surface.

Alan tempts us to share his love affair with the curvature of the earth through the surprising effects achieved with a fisheye lens. He leads us into the diverse ecosystems of a world-class botanical garden, pausing to experience in a new way the riotous hues of a passion flower or a newly opened water lily. We ride with him at sunset along the edge of the Everglades to witness the breathtaking play of pinks, lavenders and golds that precede nightfall over the River of Grass. His interpretation of nature, architecture, light and form hover at times between a sonnet and a hymn.

Alan's passion for this place, and for this body of work, is reflected in every element of the beautiful volume you now hold in your hands. From the thoughtful design and exquisite typography to the lyrical prose and fine art paper on which it is printed, every aspect of this book is respectful of the moments captured on film by a gifted photographer and showcased within.



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Printed in China



The fine art of Alan S. Maltz graces private, public and corporate collections throughout the world. These include The Carter Center and Presidential Library in Atlanta, Georgia; the Ritz Carlton in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; The American Airlines Arena and Carnival Cruise Lines in Miami, Florida; Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, Florida; and Canson-Infinity, Caen, France.

VISIT FLORIDA selected Alan as their Official Fine Art Photographer for the State of Florida. Additionally he was designated as The Official Wildlife Photographer of Florida by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida as he remains today.

Alan and his work have been featured in leading national and regional publications, including *ARTnews*; *The New Yorker*; *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; *The Miami Herald*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; and *Newsday*.

Established in January 1999, The Alan S. Maltz Gallery, in Key West, Florida, is home to Maltz's spacious studio and features his cutting-edge fine art, innovative framing designs and published works.

His books, *Key West Color* (1995) and *Miami City of Dreams* (1997) have received numerous awards and recognitions including "Best Coffee Table Book of the Year" from the National Association of Independent Publishers. *Florida... Beyond The Blue Horizon* (2006) was the official welcome gift for Superbowl XLI. His last book, *Visions of Beauty - Fort Myers, Sanibel & Beyond* (2010), received national and regional acclaim.

Alan, his wife Leslie, and family live happily in the lower Florida Keys.

Karen T. Bartlett is an award-winning travel journalist, photographer, author of nine destination coffee table books, and a location scout for the film industry. She writes often about her love affair with Naples, the Everglades and the Ten Thousand Islands.



© Randy Simmons

As Travel Editor of *Gulfshore Life* magazine, and author of hundreds of articles published throughout North America, Asia and the Caribbean, Karen has explored some of the most fascinating places on earth. She earned her reindeer driver license in Lapland, dined on live termites in Venezuela's Orinoco Delta, went fishing with a U.S. president, and once was interrogated in South Africa for traveling with a Zulu spear.

She is a member of SATW, the Society of American Travel Writers, and ASMP, the American Society of Media Photographers.

Karen was founder of the Atlanta-based Bartlett Group, a boutique PR firm recognized among the top seven agencies in the Southeast. While she still provides PR counsel to select clientele, she left the concrete jungles of city life to raise her children in Naples, and she has never looked back.



Fifth Avenue Overview Naples



Journey Through Paradise

**NAPLES, MARCO ISLAND
& THE EVERGLADES**



Journey Through Paradise

NAPLES, MARCO ISLAND & THE EVERGLADES

ALAN S. MALTZ

NARRATIVE BY KAREN T. BARTLETT



KEY WEST, FLORIDA

In Honor of Dr. James L. D'Adamo
a True Master in the Artistry of Natural Healing
Your Essence Will Live in Our Hearts Forever

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All inquiries regarding the published works of Alan S. Maltz including corporate sales may be directed to the publisher.

All inquiries regarding the fine art of Alan S. Maltz, please visit www.alanmaltz.com

PRINTED IN CHINA



Colors of Infinity Naples

Sophistication to Wilderness



Naples Pier 1

There is an elegant jewel of a city set into Florida's pristine southwestern-most coast. A velvet ribbon of sugary white sand separates this sea grape-and-palm fringed seaside town from the aquamarine waters of the Gulf of

Mexico. Gracious Mediterranean architecture, with sparkling fountains and courtyards spilling over in tropical vines, creates a charming balance with pastel, tin-roofed cottages with white picket fences.

Her name is Naples. At her heart are the famed Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South shopping, dining and gallery districts. Her lovely sidewalks are designed for strolling, with park benches and sidewalk cafes, accented with stone pots of flowers, colorful umbrellas and old-fashioned street lamps.

Naples is rich with world-class museums, performing arts centers and sophisticated five-star resorts. There are glamorous waterfront mansions, wide, banyan-lined boulevards, narrow shell alleys, and avenues shaded by stately rows of royal palm trees. Within her boundaries are nature and animal preserves, and one of North America's most significant new botanical gardens.

Fanning out to the north and east of Old Naples is one of Florida's most beautiful piers, as well as historic fishing docks, polished yacht harbors, glamorous resorts and lush golf courses. To the south are uninhabited barrier islands and sun-kissed beaches. Still farther south are 19th century pioneer outposts, stone crab docks, and native Seminole villages, all perched on the edge of the vast, untamed Everglades, the Big Cypress Swamp, and the labyrinth of the Ten Thousand Islands. This protected wilderness is a sanctuary for both rare and spectacular creatures of the air, land and sea.

*Seldom do we find such visual bounty created
by the hands of humans and the spirit of nature.*

When we find it, we want to gather it in our arms and hold it close. And when we must leave, we want to remember not just its shape and texture, but the way we felt at that magical moment in time.

With our cameras we try to capture that moment. Sometimes, when the light is just right and all the stars align, we do. For those other times, we rely on the words of poets, the paint brushes of artists, and the lenses of photographers to capture them for us.



Crescent Beach 1 Marco Island

Alan Maltz, with the heart of a poet, the vision of a painter and the eye of a gifted photographer, offers all three, defined and set apart by his unique artistic expression.

Consider, for example, the stark, leafless limbs of a dead mangrove. On first glance it may appear to be a mar on the tropical landscape, until we see Alan's lyrical image of a pair of velvety white egrets, captured at precisely the moment they land gracefully among its branches. Now, that gnarled mangrove trunk becomes an objet d'art; its very starkness providing balance and grace to the scene.

This book, representing Alan's two-year photographic journey through paradise, is not so much a collection of photographs as it is a treasury of emotions, captured somewhere in that realm between waking and dreaming. As uniquely as Georgia O'Keeffe interpreted the inner secrets of a flower, and Van Gogh interpreted his world through a yellow haze, Alan Maltz merges his discerning eye and technical photographic skills with his artful portrayal of shape and color.

Perhaps, as you gaze at an image—and this would please the photographer—you'll think to yourself, "Oh, I never thought of it that way."



Fludubon Moment 2 Big Cypress



Mystic Mood Big Cypress

Naples A Gracious Lady

In elegant contrast to the wild and untamed ecosystems embracing her on three sides, stands the beautiful seaside town of Naples. Beneath the bluest of blue skies, fringed by white, shell-strewn sands and semitropical vegetation, she has blossomed in less than a century from a winter escape for the privileged few sportsmen to a diverse community sharing a love of life, nature, and the arts in all their forms.



Gracious Lady Naples



Clam Pass Naples

“There’s a spiritual connection among artists,” Alan says, “whether it’s the architect who designs a colorful gingerbread cottage, the sculptor of a bronze fountain, the landscaper who envisions a trellis spilling over with bougainvillea and jasmine, or the artisan who crafts the rich stonework that graces a beautiful wall. My two-year journey through this gracious city celebrates both the artisans and those who love and protect their creations. The biggest challenge I faced was to narrow down the choices to fit within the pages of a single book.”



Classic Third Naples



Downtown Charm Naples



First Light Over Downtown Naples



Gallery Row Naples





Sunrise Over Third Street South Naples



Third Street Naples



Naples Museum of Art



Philharmonic "The Phil"



Lighthouse Cottage Naples



Morning Glory Cottage Naples



Ben's Rest 1 Naples



Jasmine Cottage Naples



Dockmaster Naples



True Character Naples



Visual Perspective Naples



Harbor View 1 Naples



Harbor View 2 Naples



Mission in the Moonlight Wood Storks - 10,000 Islands

Perspective

It all appears so effortless, doesn't it? A casual observer might notice a wood stork busily bringing twigs to build the nest. What Alan sees instinctively is the exquisite synchronicity of textures in the birds. He sees the afterglow of sunset at its peak of glory...a perfectly round moon, slightly obscured by clouds for a fleeting moment...the stork's mate patiently waiting...the formation of his wings a split second before landing. It happens in the blink of an eye.



Merchantile Building Naples

Most people see Naples' iconic Fifth Avenue South from the vantage point of the sidewalk. Alan wants to show us the twinkly lights from above, the graceful tree-lined ribbon of the avenue, and the vast blue Gulf of Mexico at the end of the road. He checks out the rooftops of various buildings until he finds one that might provide the right angle.

Once there, though, he finds an oak tree blocking the perfect view. He needs more elevation.

With the support and diligence of Fifth Avenue hotelier Phil McCabe; Cathy Christopher; and the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitor's Bureau, he manages to secure a

construction crane to place himself and his lens 127 feet above the earth, exactly where he wants to be. With the cooperation of the weather and a particularly flamboyant Naples sunset, he finally gets his shot.

Worth it? See his stunning *Fifth Avenue Overview* on page 1.



1509 Gordon Drive Naples



Plaza on Third Naples



Water Lily 1 Naples Botanical Garden



Water Lily 2 Naples Botanical Garden



Water Lily 3 Naples Botanical Garden



Water Lily 1 Naples Botanical Garden

Love Affair



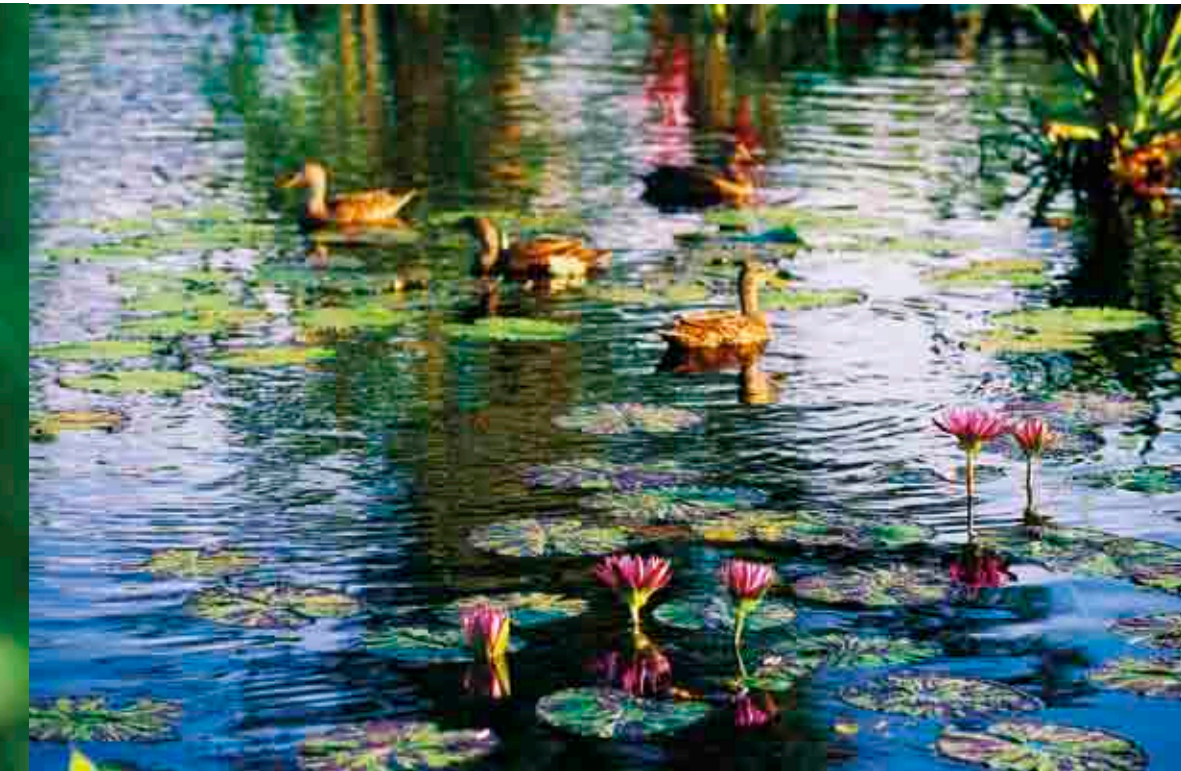
Asian Gardens 3 Naples Botanical Garden



Textures of Yellow Naples Botanical Garden



Gentle Force Naples Botanical Garden



Asian Gardens 4 Naples Botanical Garden

With A Garden

Naples Botanical Garden



Quaint Cottage Naples Botanical Garden



Isle of Beauty Naples Botanical Garden

Though young by worldwide standards, the Naples Botanical Garden is already considered one of the most artistically designed and stunning botanical gardens in North America today. Alan wandered its pathways from one themed garden to the next, explored The Preserve and strolled beneath the trellises, pausing to absorb the essence of each spot—and to fall in love.



Brazilian Gardens Naples Botanical Garden



Colors of the Orient Naples Botanical Garden



*“Everyone seems to find his
or her most meaningful spot.”*

“Mine was the Brazilian Garden,” Alan says, “and the spectacular lily pond that connects it with the Asian Gardens. I love the warm, romantic quality of the late afternoon/early evening light, and the surreal effects I was able to capture with the lily pads in the image I named Garden of Dreams.” The number of works he selected for this book reflects his enchantment with its architectural and water features, art, sculpture and blooms.

*“In this garden’s warm embrace
dancing leaves dapple sun to lace,
Yours to pick from branches above
the lessons of life...the blossoms of love”*

© RONALD D. BALSER



Pagoda Garden Naples Botanical Garden



Asian Gardens 2 Naples Botanical Garden



Asian Gardens 5 Naples Botanical Garden



Asian Gardens 1 Naples Botanical Garden



Garden of Dreams
Naples Botanical Garden



Shapes In The Pond Naples Botanical Garden



The Time Passing Big Cypress

Sharing The World

I have felt deeply privileged to work with Alan on *Journey Through Paradise*, interpreting in words what he saw and captured through his lens. As a fellow photographer living on the fringe of this wild and beautiful land for more than two decades, I also know the exhilaration of tramping through the Big Cypress Swamp and gliding through the sawgrass and mangrove tunnels of the Ten Thousand Islands. I've seen a flock of pure white pelicans dwarfing their common brown cousins on a sandbar that will soon disappear with the tide. I've floated beneath the twilight sky as it filled with the silhouettes of a hundred shore birds circling their rookery, screeching and jostling for a nocturnal place in the treetops.



Oshti American Bittern - Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary



Cautious Encounters Big Cypress

For most, the only close-up look at a heron guarding her nest is through the lens of a photographer like Alan S. Maltz.



Place of Grace Chokoloskee

To create this book, Alan spent two years sharing their world, respecting their natures and their spaces, observing, waiting, to capture on film the split-second moments that speak volumes without words. He has stared into the unblinking eyes of an owl, observed the showy mating dances of snowy egrets, and slipped—not without a twinge of nerves—into a shadowy, prehistoric water world where alligators watch, unseen, just beneath the surface. Sometimes, he admits, he forgets to come in from the rain.



Shades of Blue Little Blue Heron - 10,000 Islands



Peace, Beauty & Light Big Cypress



Life Along the Trail Big Cypress



Evening Reflections Big Cypress



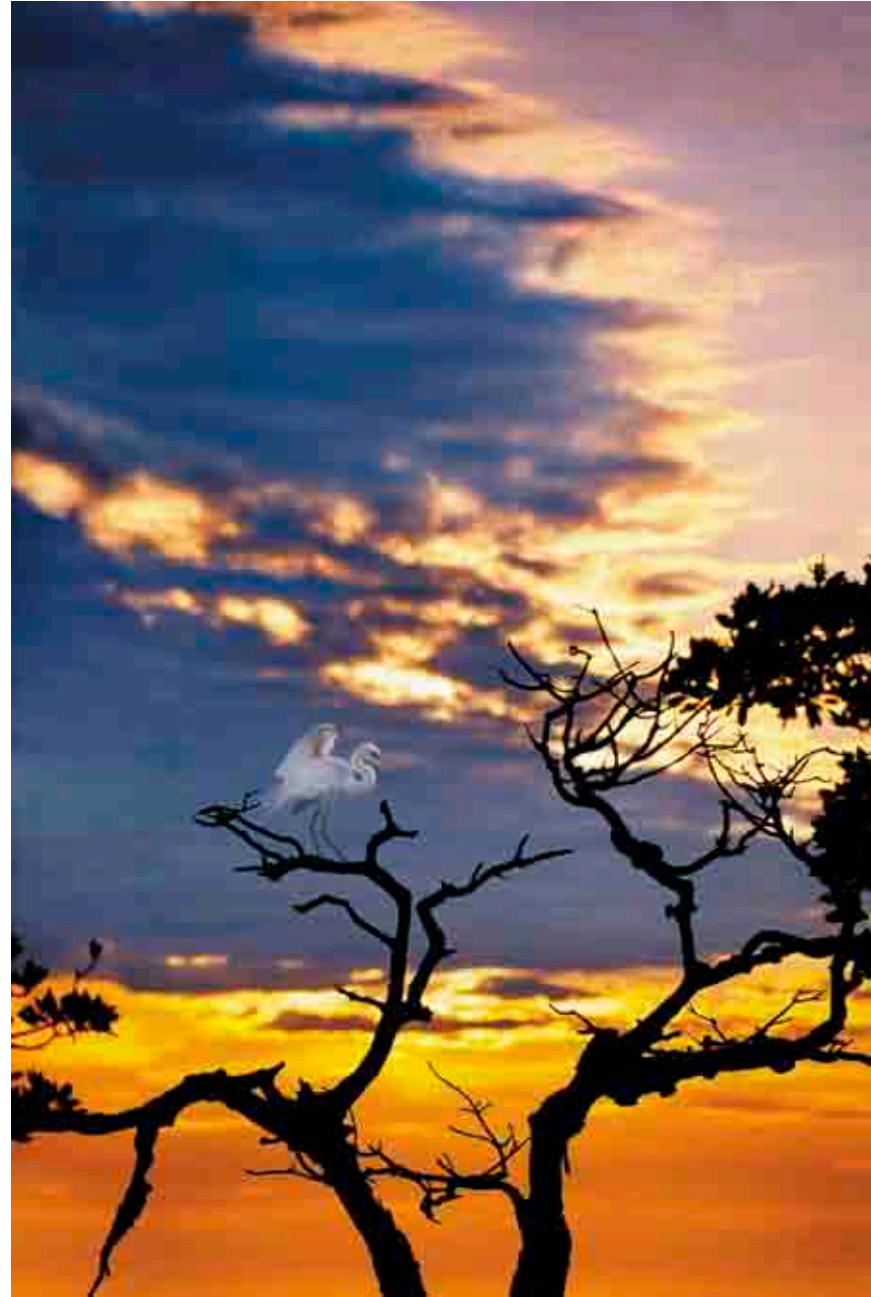
Turner River Big Cypress



Golden Rays of Truth Immokalee



Journey To Paradise Big Cypress



Oracl of Light Chokoloskee



Burning Palms Big Cypress



Dream Messenger Chokoloskee



Brush Fire Big Cypress

Wilderness



Winging It Black Vultures - Big Cypress

Drive Stop Shoot



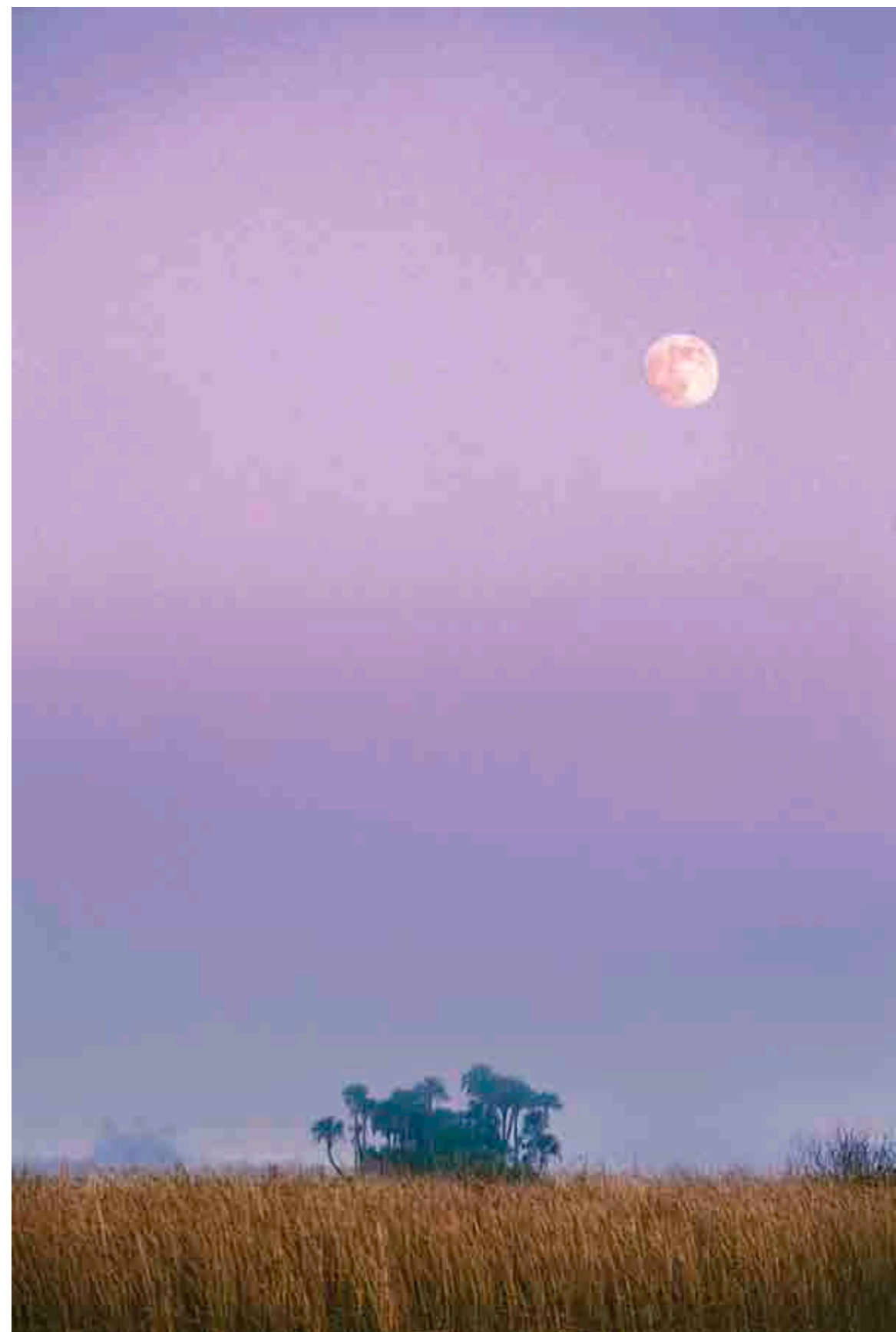
The Violet Light Big Cypress

Alan says that his preferred method of capturing images is DSS: *Drive, Stop, Shoot*. Sometimes he chances upon a flock of snowy egrets, fishing with the herons and ibis at low tide. Other times, he's enchanted by the sight of a palm hammock rising almost defiantly out of the vast flatness of the golden-hued River of Grass.

Some mornings, long before dawn breaks over the Big Cypress Preserve, he loves to cruise along the Tamiami Trail, while few other cars are yet on the road. While the rest of the world sleeps, nothing stands between him and the vast expanses of prairie and marsh on both sides of the two-lane highway. But his favorite time is early evening, as the mystical light of sunset begins to paint the landscape. It may last only an instant. But in that instant, he's ready.



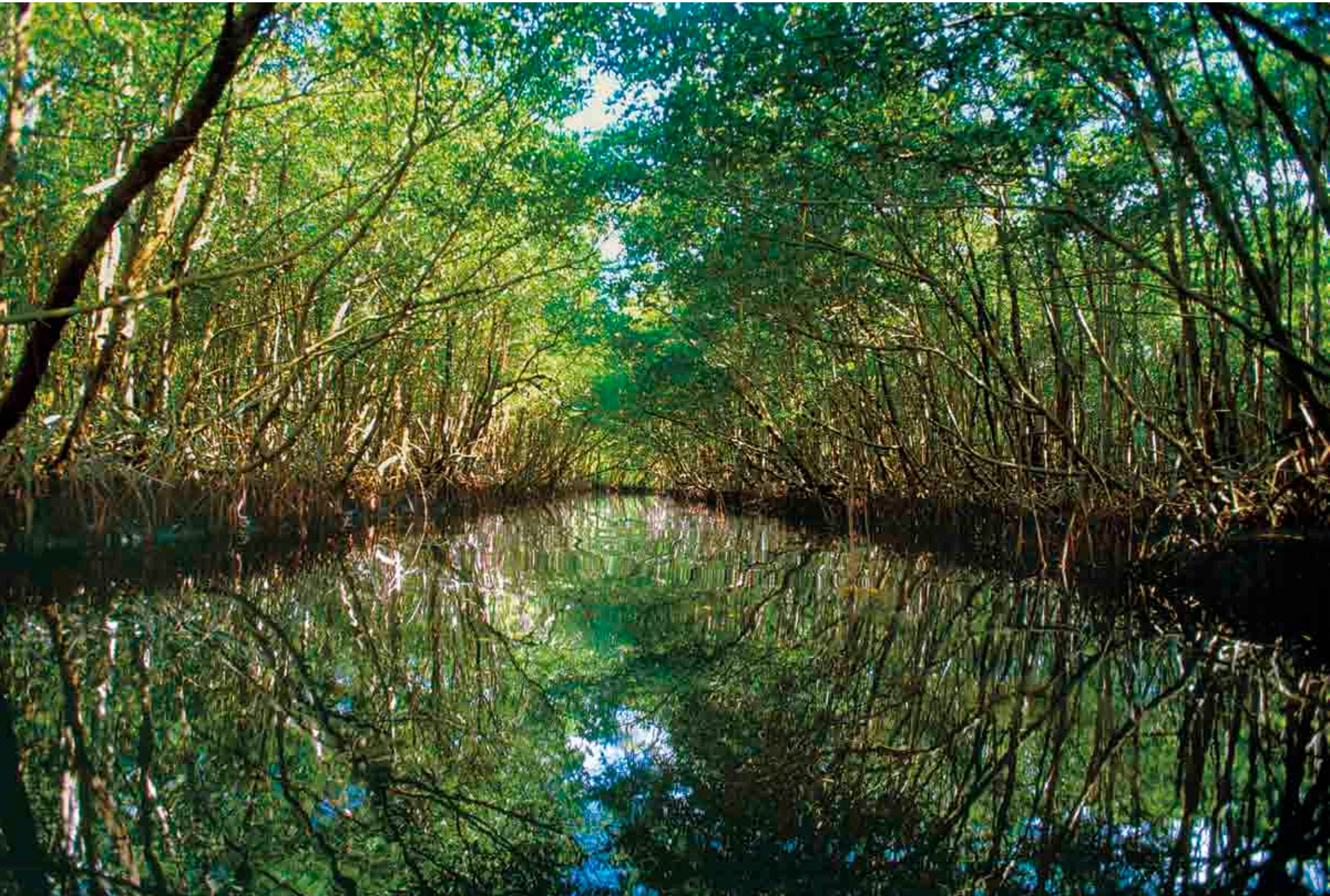
Dream Field Big Cypress



Realm of Twilight Big Cypress

Drive, Stop, Shoot isn't always possible, as many of Alan's subjects lurk, preen, hunt, and nest deep in the most secret and unexplored recesses of the Big Cypress Swamp.

Sometimes he must wade thigh-deep into black, swampy waters in search of that most rare and exquisite of swamp treasures: the fairy-like ghost orchid. Other times, as evening approaches, he'll follow a dusty and rutted back road that cuts through the Fakahatchee Strand, wondering if he will encounter the elusive Florida panther or a shy black bear. In the gathering dusk, he waits. Despite a cloud of mosquitoes, or the cramp in his knees as he crouches in silence, he waits. If not today, tomorrow perhaps, or next week. Nature doesn't adapt to the photographer, and Alan Maltz is respectful of this. It almost seems like Nature's reward, then, when her pink light of dawn casts a sweet gossamer veil over the entire scene, or she hands him a rainbow so luminous and close he can almost stride across the prairie to claim that pot of gold.



Natural Surroundings 3 10,000 Islands

When he reaches the end of the earth, Alan moves into the water. With a local naturalist guide, his kayak glides into the most secret places of the Ten Thousand Islands. They navigate the endless maze of narrow tunnels between dense mangrove islands to encounter cold-eyed alligators lurking among the gnarled roots less than a paddle-length away. Sometimes they emerge into a secret bay in time to witness a screaming raptor crash-landing into the water, to rise, dripping, with a fish in its razor-sharp talons. On other days, their kayak creates its own trail, bending tall saw grasses to reveal great herons standing like sculptures at eye level just yards from his lens. When they leave, the trail closes up again, as if they were never there. Even having a seasoned naturalist who knows the secret places is not always enough. This is, after all, nature—and nature exercises her prerogative to change the setting and the rules at any time.

Bruce Hitchcock, a naturalist guide, gives a perfect example. “The day before Alan arrived, I spent an entire day searching the swamp before I found a freshly bloomed, flawless



Free Parking 10,000 Islands

ghost orchid. The next morning, we trekked to that spot, only to discover that something had eaten it during the night. Despite setbacks like this, compliments of Mother Nature, or the distance or degree of difficulty in reaching a spot, no challenge stopped Alan for long. “He had a mission,” Hitchcock says, “and he did it.”



Logging On Big Cypress



Profile of a Limpkin Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary



Sunrise at Marker 15 Osprey - Gordon Pass





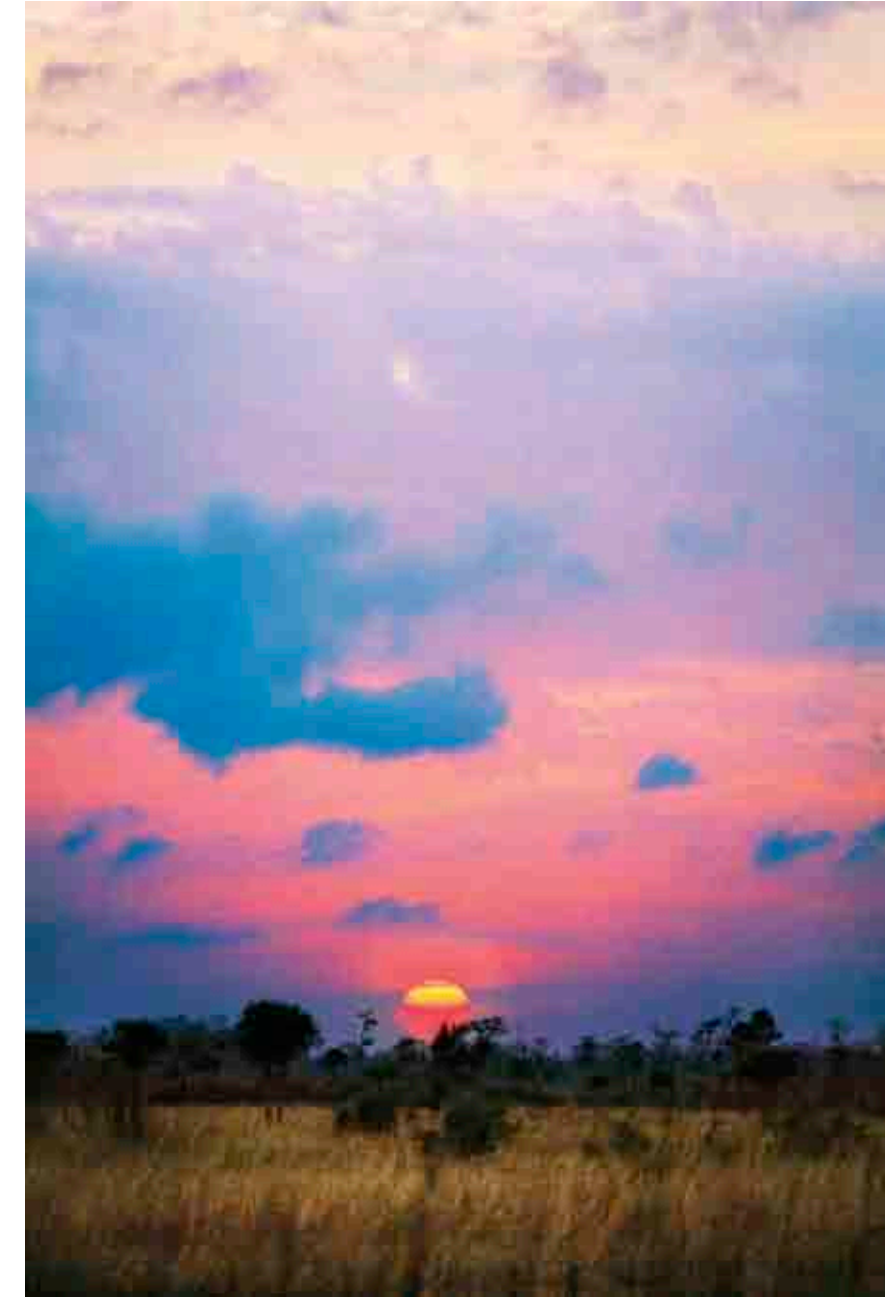
Sandhill Cranes North Naples



Palm Canal Big Cypress



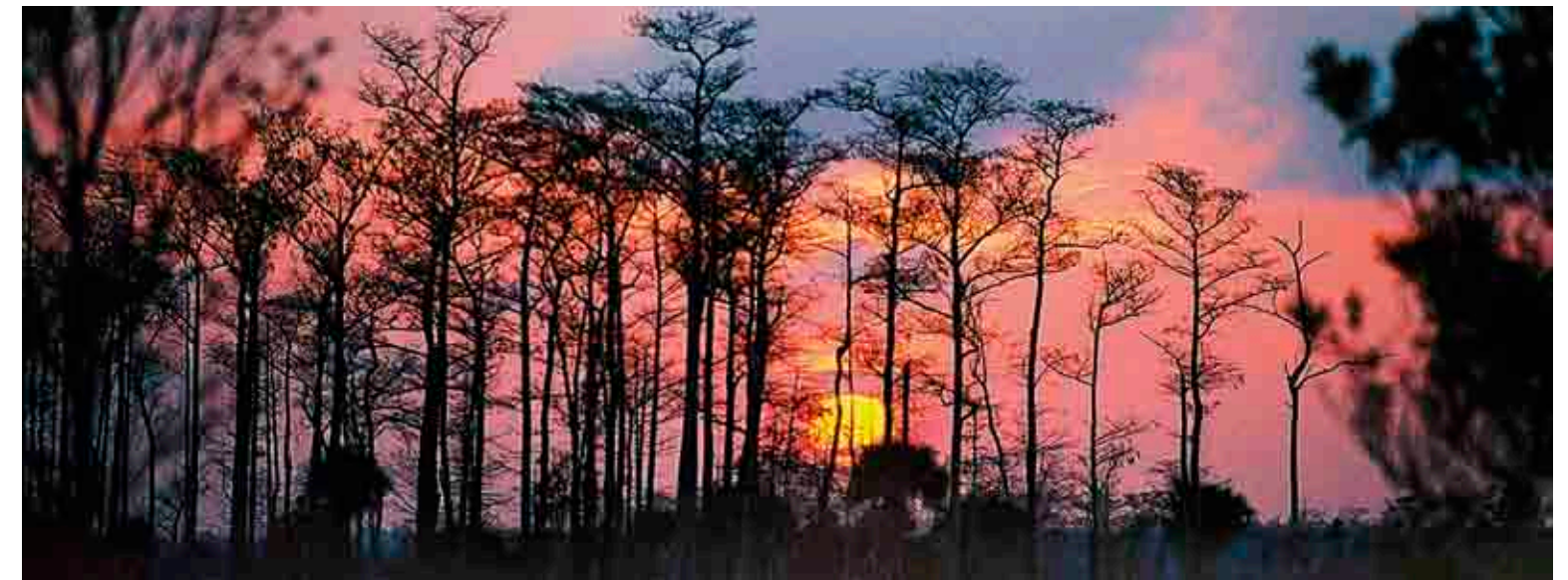
Light on the Prairie Big Cypress



Pastels on the Prairie Big Cypress



Open to Interpretation Everglades City

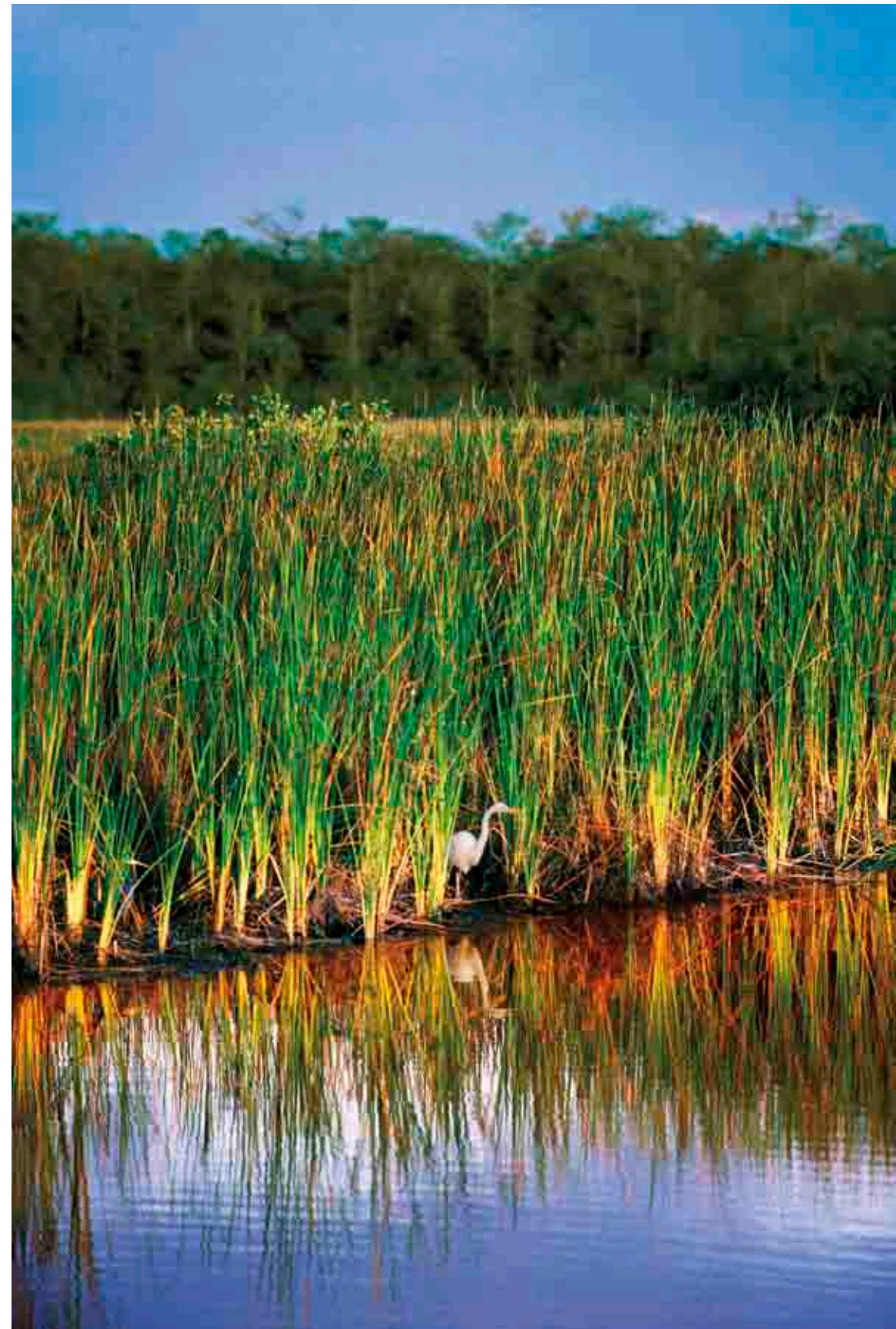


Transcending Moment Big Cypress



Exploring New Horizons Big Cypress

Subtle Beauty Big Cypress



The River's Edge 1 Big Cypress



Synchronized in Big Cypress Wood Storks - Big Cypress



Alligator Island Big Cypress



Reflections of Twilight Big Cypress



Angels of Light Chokoloskee



Twilight Refuge Big Cypress



Field of Dreams Big Cypress



I Stand Alone Big Cypress



Tamiami Trail Big Cypress



Layers of Tranquility Big Cypress





Nature's Mosaic Everglades City

Journey Among Friends

Only the sturdiest of pioneers, farmers, hunters, fisherman, crabbers and shrimpers (along with a few outlaws, pirates and hermits) have managed to accomplish what the tribal peoples instinctively have done, and that is to survive in one of the richest, yet most inhospitable ecosystems on the continent. A century ago, their grandparents built trading posts and cabins from the bounty of nature, made peace with sometimes catastrophic weather events, and learned to coexist with the wildlife that came first. They join native Seminole and Miccosukee peoples in continuing their valiant fight against encroachments on sensitive lands.



Small Packages Ochopee



Island Artistry Sandbar off Marco Island

“My goal,” Alan says, “was to tread lightly while a guest here, and I hope that this book will reflect not only a sense of place but the heart and character of the people who make it home.”

“The people of Everglades City, the tiny village of Ochopee and stingray-shaped Chokoloskee Island welcomed me,” Alan says. “They were generous with their help when I came to document the beauty to be found here, and many of them have become friends.

While Marco, the largest of the Ten Thousand Islands, sparkles with luxurious hotels and residential communities, it draws residents and visitors who share a passion for the wildlife-rich waters and surrounding mangrove islands.



Double Trouble Big Cypress



Open Season Naples



Guns Everglades City



Nesting Birds 2 Chokoloskee



Into The Blue 2 Chokoloskee



Open For Discussion Chokoloskee



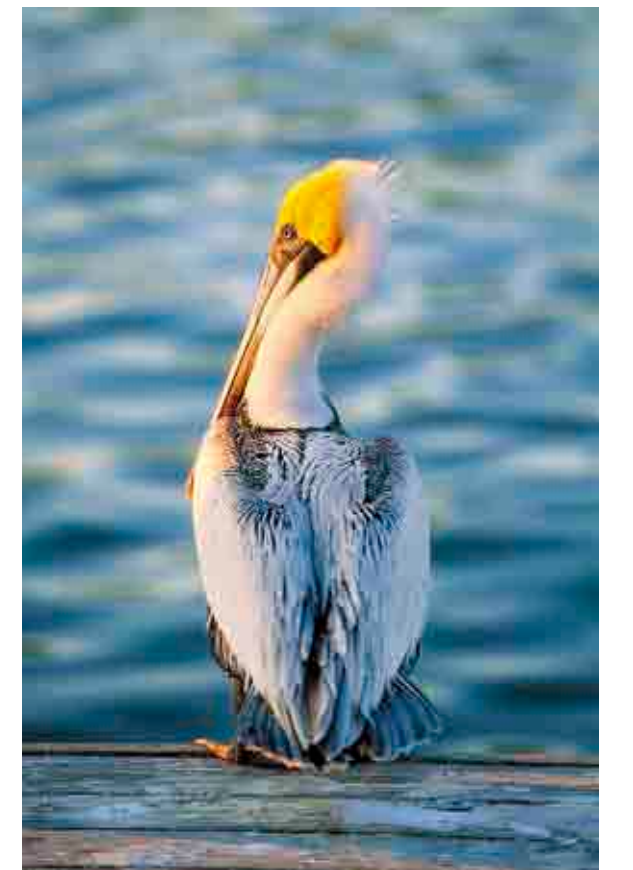


Beach Dreams Marco Island

Light and Form

Throughout *Journey Through Paradise*, you will find stunning and artistic images reflecting Alan's love affair with the curvature of the earth, and the surprising effects achieved through a fisheye lens.

"I like the surreal and abstract feeling of the curvature," he says. "It's a primal reaction for me. Discovering a new point of interest and perspective makes an ordinary scene appear otherworldly, and for me, that is part of the creative process."



Dockside Dreams Pelican - Marco Island



Back From The Wild Side
Snowy Egret - Big Cypress



Young Ambitions
Egret Chicks - 10,000 Islands



Wild At Heart
Snowy Egret - Everglades City



Gypsy Soul
Snowy Egret - Everglades City



Walk Like The Egyptian
Snowy Egret - Everglades City



Mood Swings
Snowy Egret - Big Cypress



Under a Setting Moon Gordon Pass



Moonlit Point Gordon Pass



Lovelymilk Sunset 2 Naples



The Formation Naples



Awakening Marco Island



Sunset Over City Docks Naples



Local Icon Naples



City Dock Naples





Balance

Alan is a dedicated runner. During the making of this book, his passion for getting that perfect shot effectively ended his running days forever. "It was December 22," he recalls, "and one of my best shooting days of the entire two-year project. It began with a pre-dawn boat ride through Gordon Pass and Naples Bay. At every bend was another great opportunity. My sense of awe and urgency helped take my mind off the low 40s temperatures. When I was dropped off on pristine Keewaydin Island, I was one with beautiful seashells, crystal-clear water, birds and sea life. In that same euphoric state, trying to achieve that perfect shot, I somehow injured my back which made it difficult to continue. Still, I did whatever it took to capture every glorious image while the day was new. My favorite, Convergence (pages 136-137), is a lasting gift from that morning on the island."

Convergence (segment) Keewaydin Island



Shellscape 1 Keewaydin Island



Into The Mist Gordon Pass

“By the time the boat returned for me several hours later,” Alan continues, “I had begun to feel some discomfort in my back, but once on land, I went for a run. I didn’t realize it but that was the last jog of my 33-year running career.”

“Just before dawn the next morning, I met Captain Ron Hagerman and his crew for a personal watercraft journey toward the uninhabited barrier island, Cape Romano. The temperatures had



Wake No More Gordon Pass

dropped into the frigid 30s. By now I was finding it difficult even to straighten up. Still, it is against my nature to miss an exceptional shooting opportunity. Pushing past the pain as best I could, I captured many exceptional moments in Ten Thousand Islands. It took a long eight months to recover from this episode,” he says, “And yet, I wouldn’t trade the experience for anything.”



Seaside Serenity Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park

Starfish 101 Sandbar Off Marco Island



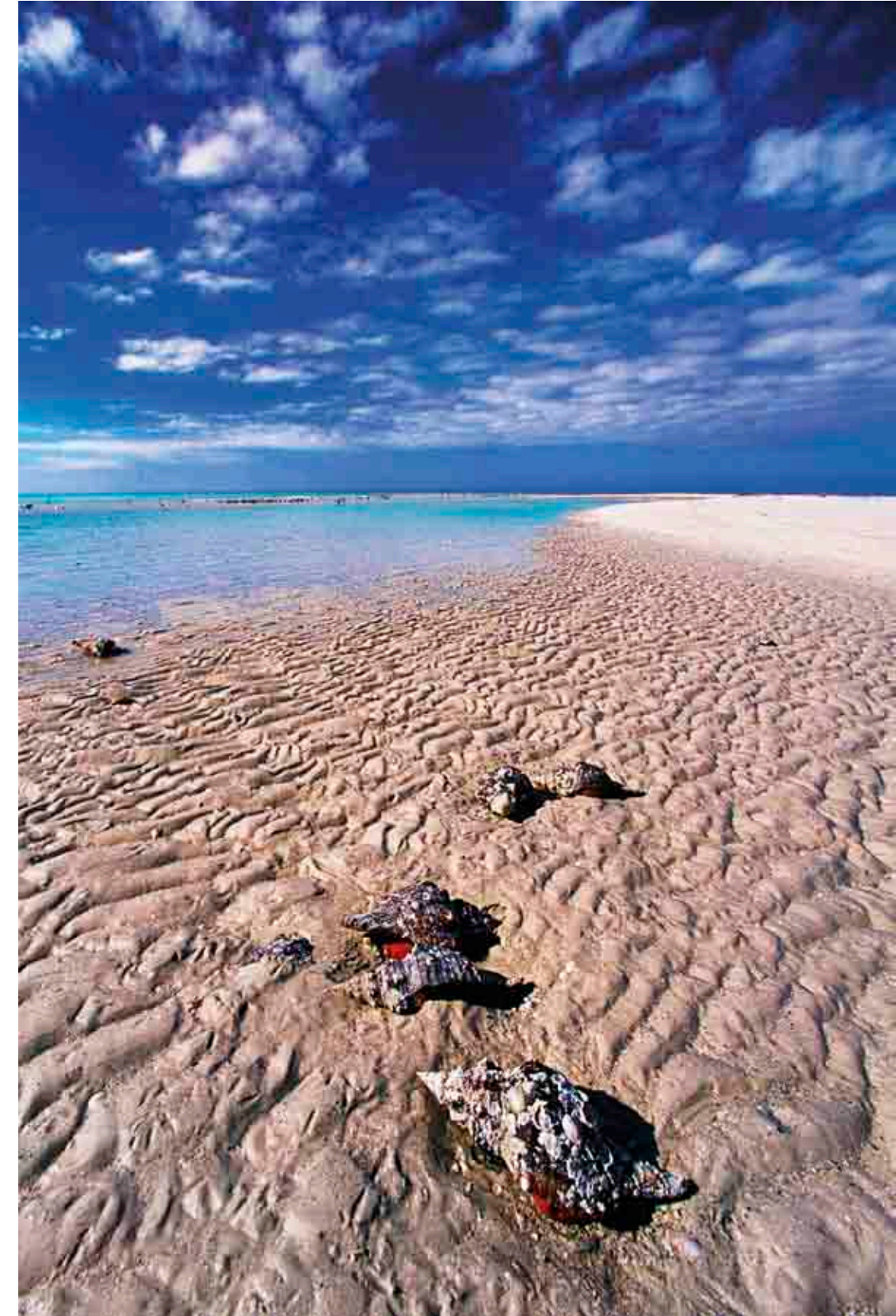
Ripples in the Water Island off Marco Island



Escape Sandbar off Marco Island



Circle in the Sand Sandbar Island Near Cape Romano



Isle Dwellers Keewaydin Island



Shell Island
Sandbar Island
Near Cape Romano



Barnacle Beauty Sandbar off Marco Island



Beached Keewaydin Island



Shellacious? Keewaydin Island



Whispers Along The Shore Delnor Wiggins State Park



Beach House Clam Pass



Pathway To The Sea Clam Pass



Terny Gullible Clam Pass





Boardwalk Dreams Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park



Crescent Beach Marco Island

Share The Journey

As a photographer, it has never been my intention to preserve history for some future generation. But what a sense of wonder I feel when I come across an image I shot years ago, of a 19th century cabin, a majestic tree or landmark that succumbed to time, weather, or "progress." In this stunning volume, Alan Maltz has captured, in perfect light and composition, some of those kinds of places in his finest work to date.



Subtleties of Dawn Gordon Pass



Indigo Skies Big Cypress

I hope you also felt that sense of wonder as you turned these pages. Perhaps you, too, could almost feel the texture of the paint peeling from a pioneer outpost, or the cool, gray shroud of mist protecting the secrets of virgin swampland.

Between the covers of this book are insights not only into the soul of a gifted artist, but also the soul of the place as it is, and as it was when one man passed through on his unique journey through paradise.

KAREN T. BARTLETT

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TECHNICAL NOTES

The majority of the images included in *Journey Through Paradise...Naples, Marco Island & the Everglades* were captured on film. The most recent were captured digitally. Until a short while ago, I used film exclusively, but with new technology (such as Nikon's 36mp D800 camera), I feel that the quality has now equaled or surpassed film.

I use Nikon equipment exclusively, and always have. The gear used to create all of the work in this book includes:

Nikon Cameras and Lenses
Four F5 bodies & one D800 body
Nikkor 14mm f/2.8, 16mm Fisheye f/2.8, 17-35mm f/2.8, 35-70mm f/2.8, 70-200mm VR f/2.8, & 300mm f/4 lenses

For all questions pertaining to style and technique, please contact the Alan S. Maltz Gallery — www.AlanMaltz.com — Visions@AlanMaltz.com

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DAVID W. GANGWISCH/Alan S. Maltz Gallery — Your technical ability and attention to detail is second to none. You have played a major role in the pre-press process for this book as well as taking the lead with many other gallery projects. Your diverse talents and dedication are greatly appreciated.

DARREN MORGENTHALER/Alan S. Maltz Gallery — It is a pleasure and an honor to work with a talented graphic artist such as yourself. Your design elements in this publication speak volumes.

LESLIE ARTIGUE/Alan S. Maltz Gallery — This is our fifth major book project, each one better than the last. I am always amazed by how you know just what to do with my work with regard to layout and design...everything flows so free and natural, just like our relationship. We are truly blessed!

DAWN VINCENT/Alan S. Maltz Gallery — You're a woman who wears many hats, and you wear them so well. You're the one on whom everyone depends, from financials, to ordering materials, to fill-in sales, and so much more. You are a joy to work with, and you make my life easier in so many ways. Thank you so much!

TO THE BALANCE OF MY STAFF AT THE ALAN S. MALTZ GALLERY — Gail Lima, Ellen Varela, Lauren Pickard, Alisca Bugereit, George Caffery and our newest member, Kreg Kelley. Your loyalty and support keeps our flow going in a very positive direction, allowing the gallery to prosper and grow with each passing year. I am extremely grateful for that and very proud to have all of you as part of our team.

KAREN T. BARTLETT — Your talents are many and far reaching. You have captured the essence of my experiences with your beautiful words. I am grateful that you also can see with the eyes of a photographer, and as a long-time public relations professional, you will represent us well in the media and the community. I could not have asked for a more qualified person to handle both responsibilities. I look forward to the next phase of our association.

NAPLES, MARCO ISLAND, EVERGLADES CVB — A special note of appreciation and gratitude is due to Jack Wert and his staff; Debi DeBenedetto, JoNell Modys, Angela Aline, and Maggie McCarty for their input and support throughout this project. My commissioned series of photo shoots capturing the enchantment of this region has become the foundation of *Journey Through Paradise*.

PHIL McCABE AND CATHY CHRISTOPHER/The Inn on Fifth — You both went above and beyond all expectations in arranging access for my 127-foot, 180-degree climb on the construction crane over Fifth Avenue South. This made possible the unique perspective that was achieved in my *Fifth Avenue Overview* image, featured on page one of this book.

TO THE EXECUTIVES AND STAFF AT OPEN SKY MEDIA/GULFSHORE LIFE MAGAZINE — Ray Paprocki (publisher), Tessa Tilden-Smith, David Sandler, Meredith Parsons, Diane Loveless, and Dan Denton (former publisher). I offer my sincere thank you and appreciation for your interest and for the support you have given to this new project, including past exposure over the years, in *Gulfshore Life* magazine.

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RONALD D. BALSER — Thank you for the privilege of using your inspiring poem on page 42. I found these words inscribed on a unique granite bench while on location at the Naples Botanical Garden, and later learned that you created this beautiful piece and gifted it to the Garden. Your talents and generosity pay tribute to who you are!

BARB GARFOLD — Words can't express what your friendship and support mean to me—I am truly grateful for that!

URSULA BOLL — We met in 1989 and it was friendship at first sight! You have always played a lead role, not only in my career, but with our friendship. All my love to you...

STACEY MIRONOV — Our connection means a great deal to me...looking forward to the future.

MELLON TYTELL — I recall the day we met back in Mr. Mundree's class in 1971 ... we both never looked back. Since then we've had many adventures. It has been an honor and an inspiration to know a fellow photographer as special and talented as you.

CHRISTL D'ADAMO AND MICHELE D'ADAMO Ph.D. — It has been a rough transition since the passing of Jim, to whom this book is dedicated. We find comfort in knowing his presence is with us at all times. I look forward to our new connection.

TO THE REST OF MY FAMILY, PAST AND PRESENT — I love you all very much.



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