



COWBOY UP!

THE ANNUAL COWBOYS & INDIANS PHOTO CONTEST GETS
DOWN, GETS DIRTY, AND GETS BACK UP.

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST
COWBOYS & INDIANS

LIVE EACH DAY WITH COURAGE

THIS COLLECTION OF COWBOY AND COWGIRL IMAGES FROM YEARS PAST IS A TESTAMENT TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIVE THEIR LIVES ON THE RANGE EVERY DAY, AND THEIR WESTERN SPIRIT OF SURVIVAL.

“I read that cancer survivors live longer when they have a passion,” says Virginia Paul, the winner of the 2013 Photo Contest and a 12-year breast cancer survivor. “So I dove right in to photography.”

The 67-year-old Washington state resident may be relatively new to the art of photography, but she’s an old hand at the art of chapsmaking. She came by the trade honestly: Her mother was a leather carver and her father worked as a calf roper and saddlemaker. Paul’s father was the one who encouraged her to go into the business.

“He said, ‘I know you have it in you. I know you can do it.’ But it was three days before I mustered enough courage to cut into my first hide.” Thirty-nine years later, she outfits riders for horse shows through her company, Chaps by Virginia. They’re nothing elaborate, Paul says, “but they fit like a glove.”

Following her passion is also what led to the submission of

her winning photo, *Ducking for Cover*. The kinetic shot of a cowboy protecting himself from a bucking horse was captured at the 2012 Jordan Valley Big Loop Rodeo in Oregon. The image wasn’t her favorite contender of the two she submitted—but it did win the people’s choice award at a local fair. It simply felt right to her, and it captured a stunningly suspenseful moment for us.

Paul says she couldn’t have snapped that moment without the support of the Monticello Camera Club, which she joined shortly after purchasing her first DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) camera in 2007. She attributes her development as a photographer to the twice-monthly competitions hosted by the organization. They helped her acquire the natural sense and timing to take the sequence that bore the winning image.

And just in case you’re wondering, the bronc-riding cowboy walked away unscathed.

—José R. Ralat



ONE SHOT AT GREATNESS

Billie-Jean Duff familiarized herself with the workings of a professional camera only eight years ago, but it's safe to say at this point that she's no mere hobbyist: She takes the top prize in the 2014 *Cowboys & Indians* Photo Contest for her quietly intense rodeo shot, *Muse*.

Duff, a Canadian who grew up in the foothills of southern Alberta and now resides an hour and a half south of Calgary in Claresholm, had an affinity for rodeo and indoor roping long before she got serious about photography. Her inclination toward action shots inspired her to bring the two worlds together.

"I love shooting rodeos because I love the spirit and camaraderie, and the sportsmanship every competitor brings," the photographer tells *C&I*. "When it comes to subjects, it's awesome to capture a competitor as he bests his own personal high, or when he blows everyone away with a 90-point ride."

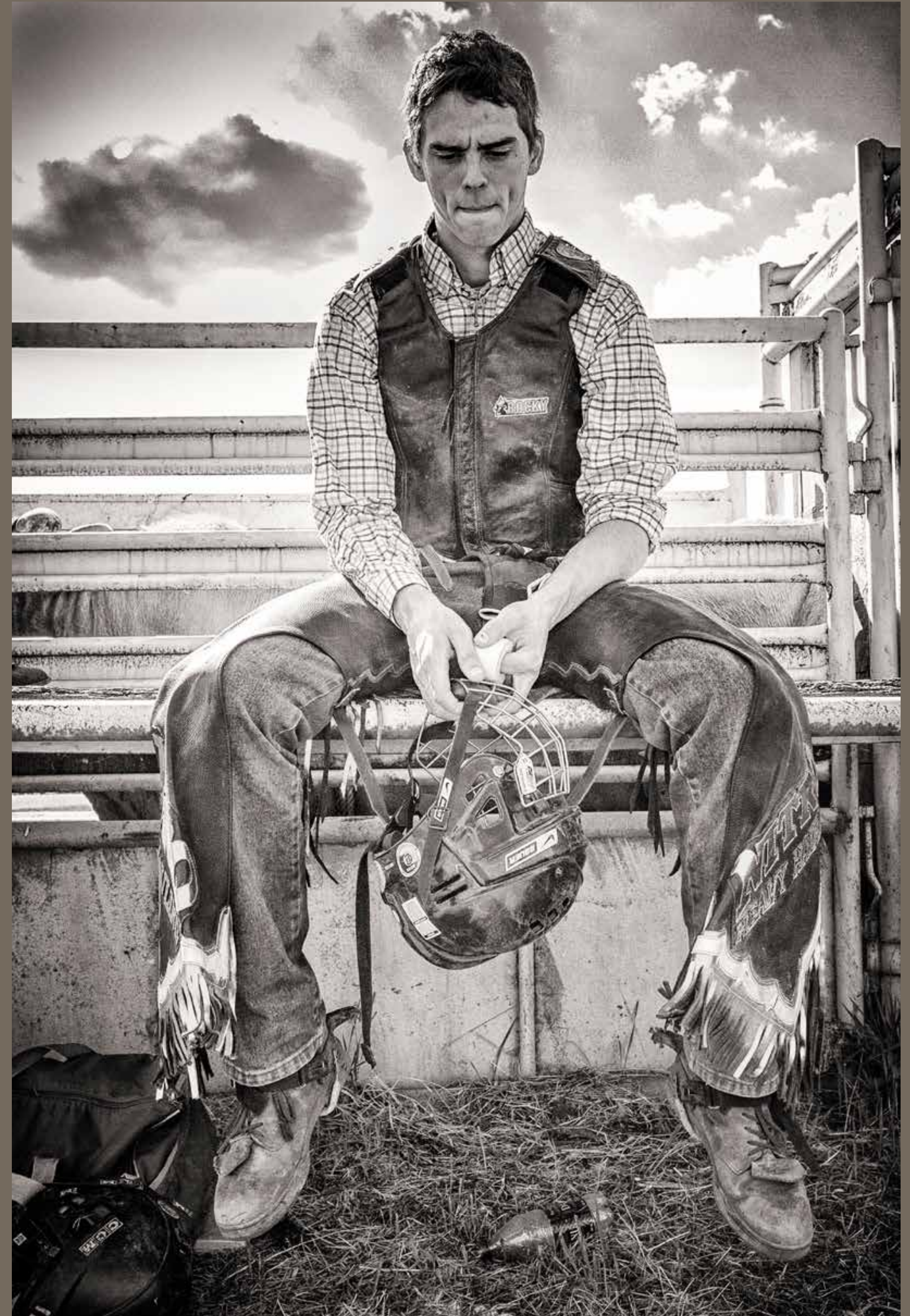
Despite the adrenaline rush Duff gets from pointing her lens at arena action, the shot that earns her the contest victory is of a still, contemplative bull rider moments before he takes his position.

Spending some time behind the chutes at St. Albert's early summer semi-professional rodeo, the Rainmaker, Duff came upon Clayton Hines and knew she wanted to capture his pre-ride prep.

"Without disturbing his preparation, I looked to him, motioned to my camera, looking for his permission," Duff recalls. "With a quick nod, he gave me the go-ahead. I only snapped one frame."

"He doesn't even recall me taking the photo, but he and his mom are very happy that he's in the winning shot."

—Hunter Hawk





RISE AND SHINE — IT'S COWBOY TIME! BY SHANNON CANTER



ANDY ROSEMOUNT RANCH BY SCOTT BAXTER





AT THE TANK BY BARRY GLAZIER



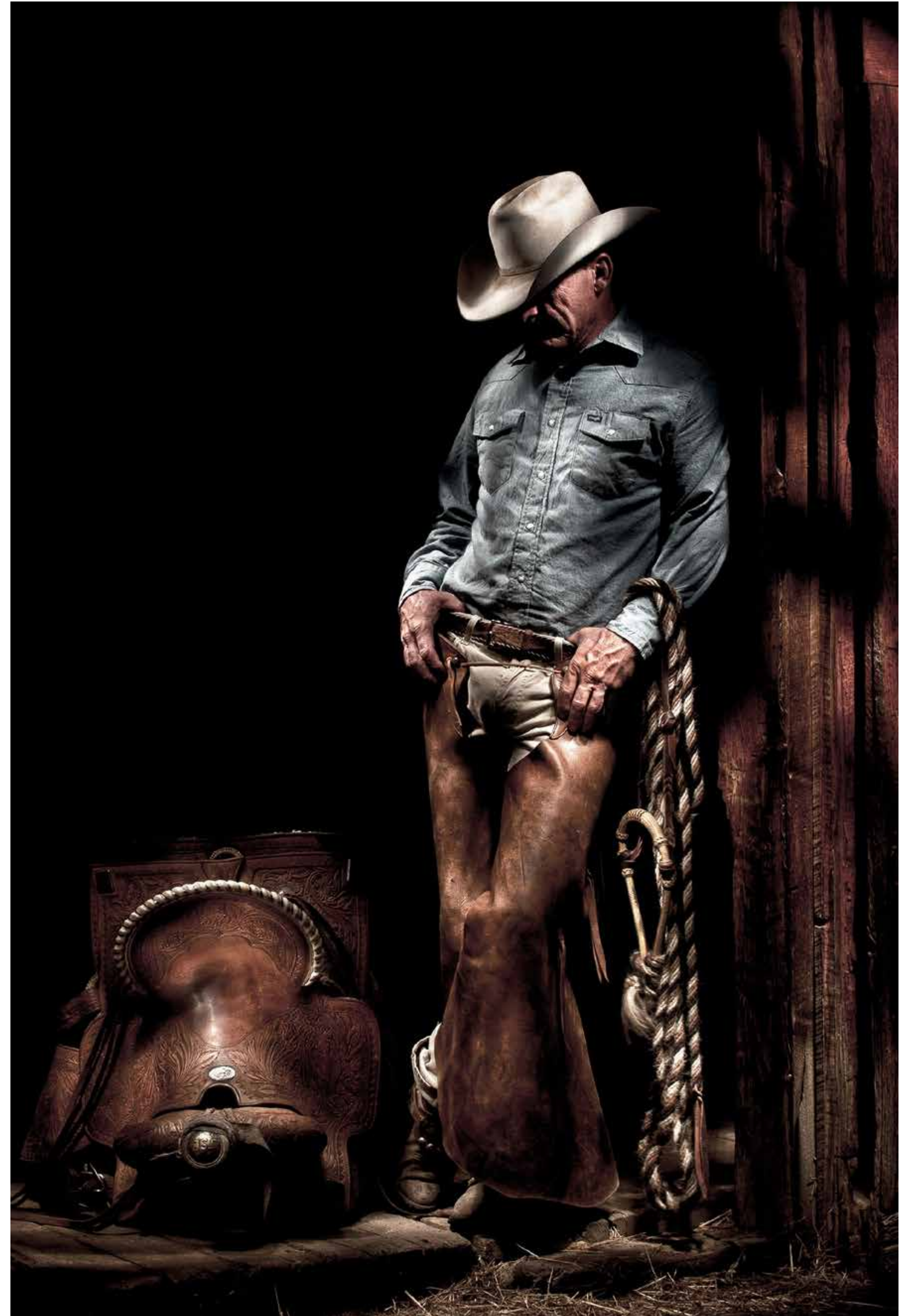
THE COWGIRL BY DIANA VOLK







JACK HATCH BY MALLORY BEINBORN



AMERICAN COWBOY BY ROBERT DAWSON



LOADER BREAK BY JOHN STEPHENSON



STARTIN' THE DAY BY PAULA LOFTIN





WAITING ON DAWN BY LENNIE PHILLIPS



PRETTY WRANGLER BY PHYLLIS BURCHETT



Every country in the world loved the folklore of the West—the music, the dress, the excitement, everything that was associated with the opening of a new territory. It took everybody out of their own little world. The cowboy lasted a hundred years, created more songs and prose and poetry than any other folk figure. The closest thing was the Japanese samurai. Now, I wonder who'll continue it.



John Wayne

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