



# Painting With Light

*John Alton , Todd McCarthy (Introduction)*

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## **Painting With Light** John Alton , Todd McCarthy (Introduction)

Few cinematographers have had as decisive an impact on the cinematic medium as John Alton. Best known for his highly stylized film noir classics *T-Men*, *He Walked by Night*, and *The Big Combo*, Alton earned a reputation during the 1940s and 1950s as one of Hollywood's consummate craftsmen through his visual signature of crisp shadows and sculpted beams of light. No less renowned for his virtuoso color cinematography and deft appropriation of widescreen and Technicolor, he earned an Academy Award in 1951 for his work on the musical *An American in Paris*. First published in 1949, and long out of print since then, *Painting With Light* remains one of the few truly canonical statements on the art of motion picture photography, an unrivalled historical document on the workings of the postwar, American cinema. In simple, non-technical language, Alton explains the job of the cinematographer and explores how lighting, camera techniques, and choice of locations determine the visual mood of film. Todd McCarthy's introduction, written especially for this edition, provides an overview of Alton's biography and career and explores the influence of his work on contemporary cinematography.

## **Painting With Light Details**

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# From Reader Review Painting With Light for online ebook

## Travis Hamilton says

A film classic. Written in the 40's, some technological items are out of date, but much more is still applicable today! Enjoyed the read.

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## RB says

"Painting With Light" still stands up and while some of the information you may not use today it is still good to know. This book covers everything related to shooting movies up until the year it was written. John Alton is an enjoyable teacher to have, so why not take this course on how to paint with light?

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## Kimberly says

so far, Todd McCarthy's intro is the best part of the book. it glorifies Alton's rebel personality and how his forthright ambition and superiority carved his place in cinematog. history. the book itself is outdated, but more importantly dissapointingly scarce of valuable insight. maybe it was revolutionary in its day, but now with the onslaught of well-written and insightful books about cinematography it is leaving me pretty cold. oh well...

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## Andrew says

I can see why people call this the bible of lighting, even a novice like me can tell it's a classic. Extremely dated, I imagine much of the information in this book is timeless. Still, it was hard for me to connect with it, and nearly impossible to read straight through, very much a reference guide. Technical too. But I took away the highlights. If / when I ever require serious lighting for film, this is the book I would reference.

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## Belal Khan says

A dense book covering the lighting process of a master. Not something you read from front to back, but an excellent reference to have.

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## Huishu Jia says

how to use light in film, recommended by Noam Toran

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