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*Winter Whitescapes  
from the West*

*A view east of Marathon, looking at Beakeley Hill and the Marathon Grasslands*



## *Snow in West Texas,*

while usually as fleeting as a sandcastle in the surf, tends to imbue the landscape with a diffused, quiet melancholy. Light appears gentle, boughs sparkle like diamonds with melting droplets, and boulders and mountains soften beneath majestic white mantles. On the following pages, we present snow-dusted images by landscape photographers whose luck (and attention to weather patterns) rewarded them—and us—with these ethereal West Texas portraits. In photographing snow, timing is everything.

“This was an early snowstorm,” says Marathon-based photographer and writer E. Dan Klepper of the image on our opening spread. “You can tell that because of the berries, which are actually seeds of a sumac tree. Later in the season, they would have wrinkled up and dropped off. I was captivated by the sunlight coming through them.”

Beakeley Hill, which appears in the foreground, is one of Klepper’s favorite subjects. “I’m drawn to the geometric shape of it,” he says, “and the way the shadows and light change its shape. I use that hill to study how light brings things into dimension.”

Wimberley-based photographer Laurence Parent takes a more goal-oriented approach, often chasing weather by plane and hiking miles before dawn to capture a scene. “You’re always moving fast,” he says of shooting winter weather. “Snow doesn’t last long in Texas. It’s a fleeting phenomenon.”

Case in point: Photographer Kathy Adams Clark was leading a workshop in Big Bend National Park in January 2015 when temperatures began to drop precipitously. “Around midnight, it started snowing really hard. I got up before dawn and started photographing. It lasted about six hours, and then the opportunity was over.”

Enjoy these images, and whether it’s sunny or snowy, seize the moment. —Lori Moffatt





*A Light Dusting*

*A light snow flocks elegant winter grasses in Big Bend National Park.*



*Snowed In ~ An early-morning snowstorm in January 2015 dusted Big Bend National Park's famous Window view.*



### *Best Seats in the House*

*"I was lucky," says photographer Kathy Adams Clark, who captured this image in the Chisos Basin at Big Bend National Park. "Someone had left these chairs outside, and they were covered in snow."*



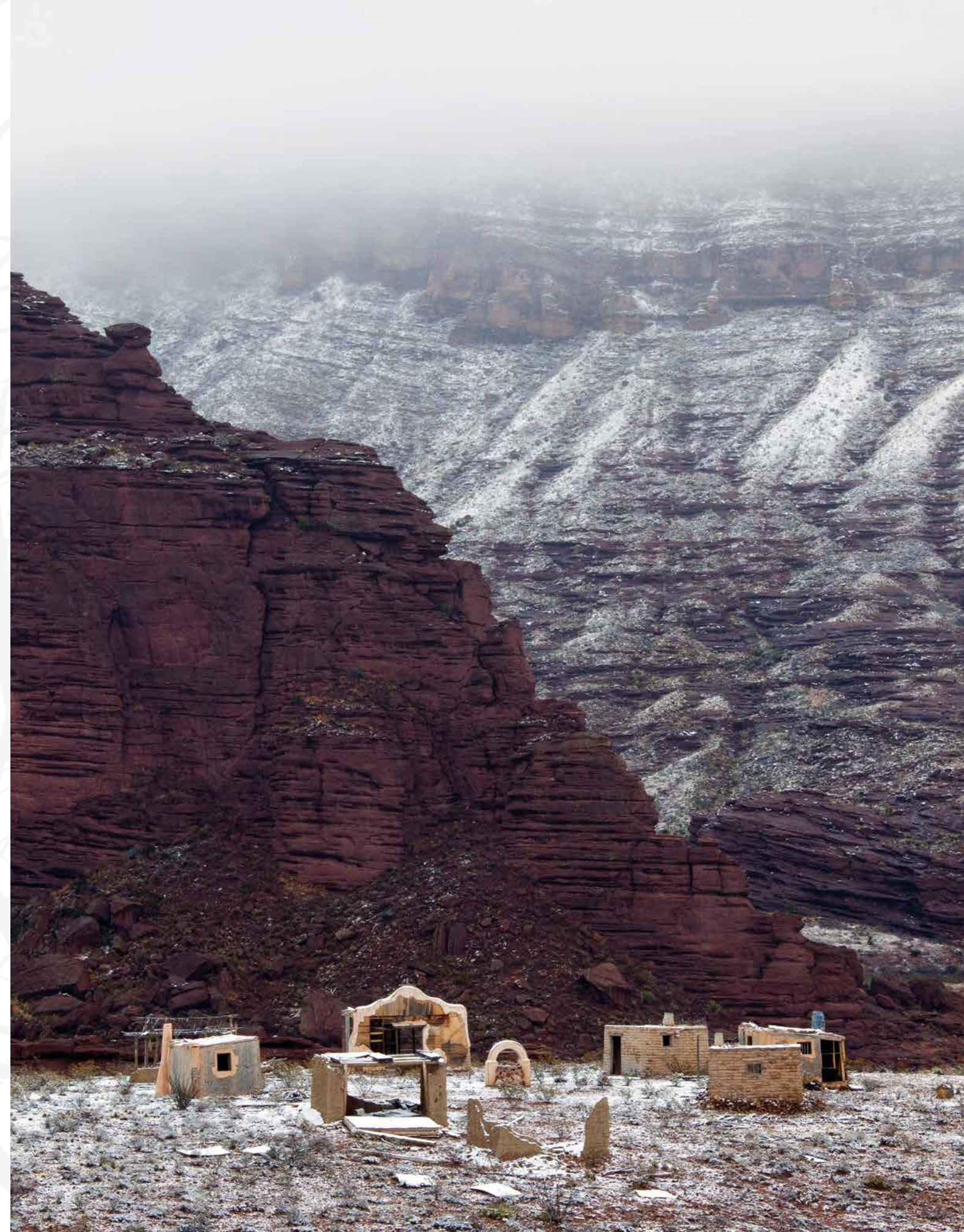
### *Quiet Storm*

*"I shot this near the McDonald Observatory," says photographer Laurence Parent. "When there is this much snow and cloud cover, it's remarkably quiet."*



### *Cinematic Scene*

*"I was staying on the Red Rock Ranch northwest of Van Horn when the storm came in," says Laurence Parent. "I got up before dawn and shot these images of the old movie set."*





### *April Surprise*

*“One April morning, the superintendent at Guadalupe Mountains National Park called me to tell me it was snowing,” says Laurence Parent. “I called Southwest Airlines and raced to El Paso. I got to the park by dawn the next day and captured this image in McKittrick Canyon.”*



*Horse Sense ~ “This was taken in October in the Davis Mountains,” says Laurence Parent. “It was 24 degrees outside. I was driving up in the hills and wound up in the storm. I saw this horse and thought, ‘It looks as cold as I am.’” ★*