



This boy is from the Steppe

by *Lü Tao*

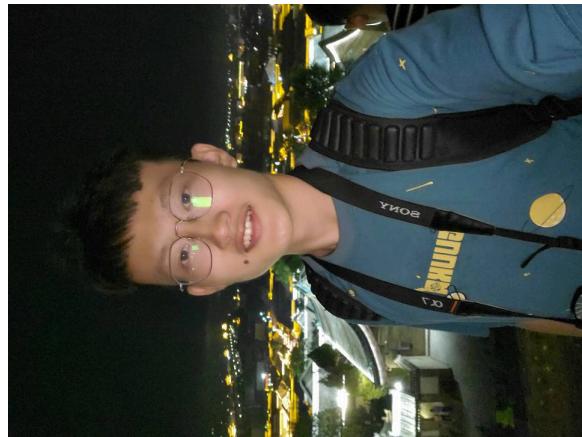
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1417274896@qq.com

For You

For auld lang syne



About this book

I'm writing this book to practise LaTeX skills.

This boy is from the steppe.

This boy is from the steppe. I've spent most of my childhood in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. The scene of the steppe in my hometown keeps flashing back in my mind these days. And it inspires me to make this album in memory of my past days. These photographs represent some part of me. To some extent, to read this book is to read about this boy.

Although we have owned other kinds of critters through the years we had never had chickens before, so this project was definitely one of discovery. Thankfully, with sites like mypetchicken.com and backyardchickens.com to guide us, as well as plenty of advice from friends and co-workers with chickens, we're well on our way. This then, is the practical story of how we went about it for the first month. Because you see, Solo Photo Book Month doesn't wait for the full story of the chickens; there is only time for the beginning of the story—all the photos have to be taken in a 30 day period of time, and a book must be produced at the end.

And so, without further ado,

BacGawwwwk!!

There's a hint of summer in the air.



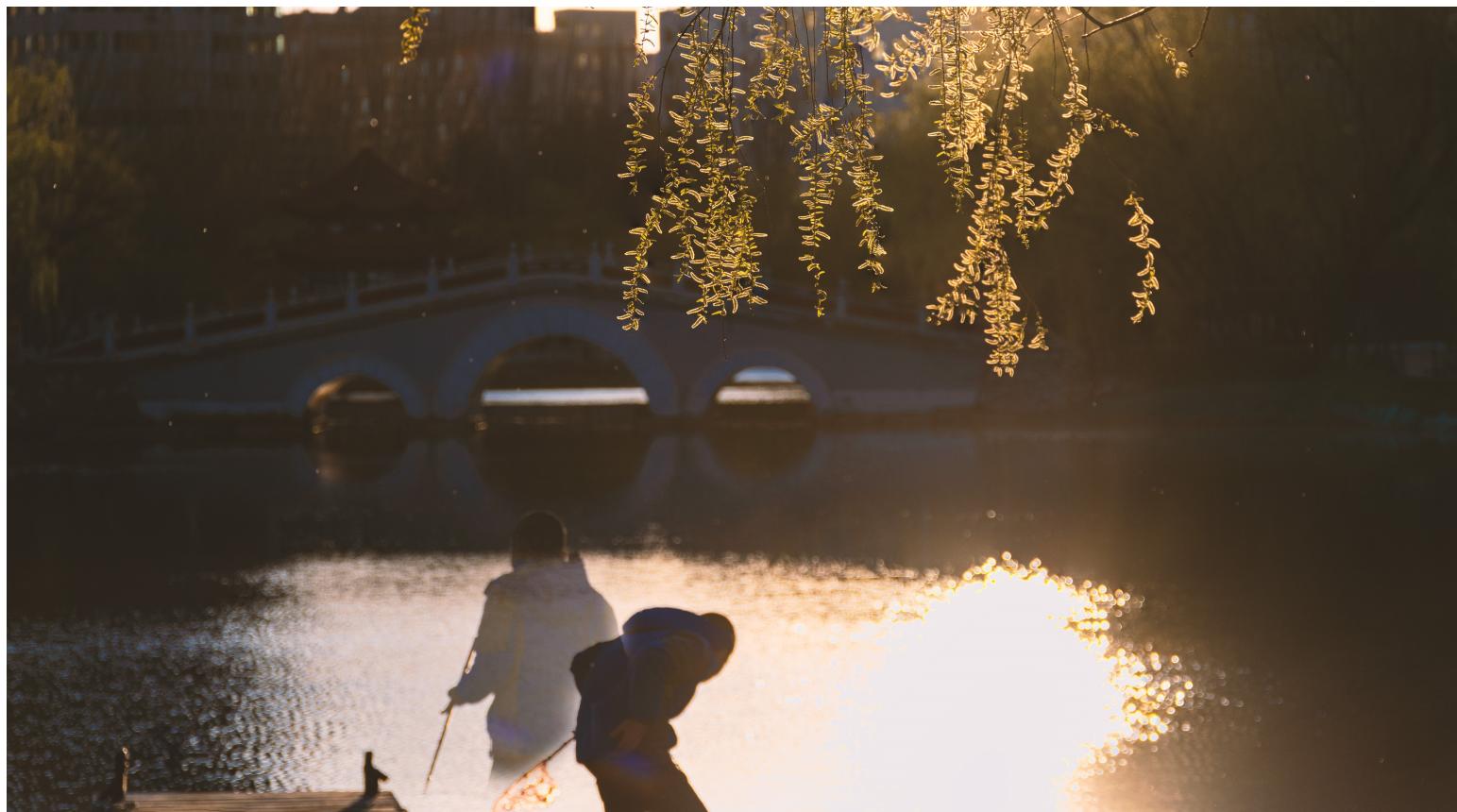
Next up, the chicks. They had plenty of Rhode Island Reds on hand, but



Before we brought anything home, I thought it might be a good idea to figure out the where and how of a coop. It rains a fair bit here so I



First stop, supplies. There was a large selection to choose from. I



We went back to Del's a few days later, but the clerk informed me that she'd sold the remainder of the chicks that morning to a single buyer, and that they wouldn't be getting any more until next spring! Yikes! How



On a late day in May we headed into town to Del's to pick up the chicks,



Next stop was Home Despot, er, Depot. I had the beginnings of a plan in mind for a chicken coop. My idea was to use a dog kennel as a starter coop. HD had some inexpensive dog kennel kits, and I knew that with the galvanized steel I'd have something that could stand up to the rain, sun and termites. I needed something to keep the chickens in, and predators out.



The 6x6x4 kennel seemed about the right size for 6 chickens, which is what I was targeting. My calculations were that six would yield us a decent number of eggs per week. After some reconsideration, we put the

Book Considerations

Solo Photo Book Month (sofobomo.org) is a DIY project to make a photo book in one month. All of the photos must be taken and the book laid out and processed into a PDF in 31 days. This is my second year participating in the event, along with many other photographers all over the world. Last year I did square format B&W, so I was determined to do color and some sort of rectangular format this year. I chose to go all landscape, even though it meant passing on some good verticals I had taken. Also, last year was more of a series of portraits, and this year I was determined to have the book tell more of a story. I struggled to find something that would fit my tight schedule this year when the “chicken project”, which I’d had on the back burner, hit me as a good fit to dovetail with SoFoBoMo.

If you have a comment to share, thoughts on the book, life with chickens, technical info, questions, whatever...drop by

<http://redskiesatnight.com/books/chickens-anyone>

and leave a comment. We’d love to hear from you! There you can also download a PDF version.

For more information about Solo Photo Book Month, visit

<http://sofobomo.org/>

Technical Details

I was really pressed for time to get the book done in the requisite 30 days this year. I threw it together with snapshots taken with a Ricoh GX100 camera. No post processing was done except for some quick levels adjustments in the image editor GIMP. *ImageMagick* was used to batch downsample the images for the web version (144 dpi) or the book version (300 dpi). I designed the book using L^AT_EX (with the wonderful *xetex* and *xdvipdfmx*) for easier adjustments for dead tree publishing. The font used is Garamond. This book was made on Linux.



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