

A coastal landscape at sunset. The foreground is dominated by tall, golden-brown grasses. In the middle ground, dark, jagged rocks line the shore, with white foam from waves crashing against them. The ocean extends to the horizon, where a large, dark mountain range is visible under a sky of vibrant orange and red clouds. The overall mood is serene and dramatic.

Three Years on the Edge



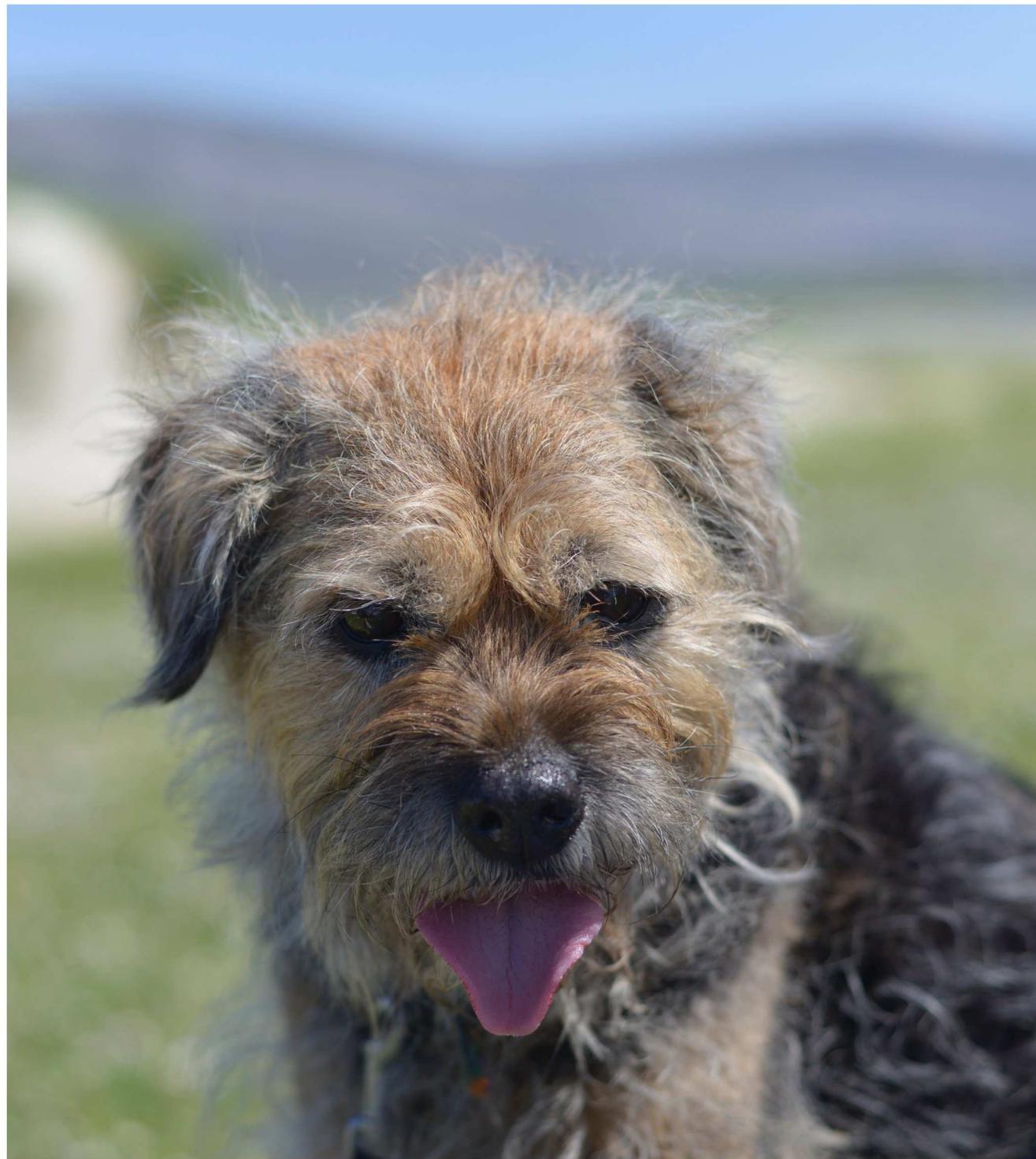
*Three Years on the
Edge*

By
David Fleet

This book is dedicated to my dog Badger, a better friend and companion I could not have wished for over the years.

My mum for her unswerving support throughout my life and my Dad and Sue as our friendship continues to grow.

Finally thank you to all those that have helped me along the way. You know who you are.





About the Author: David is a professional photographer, originally from Kent. His work has been widely published and exhibited throughout the UK. You can learn more about him on his website www.thecotswoldphotographer.com



Golden Bays, Rodel, Isle of Harris

I drank recklessly in my youth , worked my way through a variety of jobs and frittered money away because I never found what I wanted to do with my life.



Islands on the Edge, Isle of Harris

After returning home from travelling a few years ago, my outlook on life changed dramatically. No longer were material possessions important to me, instead I was seeking meaning to my life.



Surreal Sunset, Hushinish, Isle of Harris

In 2008 I decided to buy my first DSLR camera and use photography as the creative outlet that I felt I needed to express myself.



Tarbert, Isle of Harris

The following year after suffering a seizure, I made the decision to move to the Isle of Harris to pursue my now growing dream of becoming a professional photographer.



Storm Cell over Ceapabhal, Borve, Isle of Harris

I set about getting out and trying to capture images of the beautiful landscapes of Harris.



Red Mist, West Loch Tarbert, Isle of Harris

I have struggled for most of my adult life with anxiety and to some extent depression. It's not something that I ever discussed with anyone else though. It was my own personal battle.



Stormy Seilebost, Isle of Harris

My early images were often dark and brooding, reflecting my mind as I battled with the depression and anxiety that were worsening as I became more isolated from society.



Incoming Storm, Sound of Taransay, Isle of Harris

I was particularly drawn to the dramatic, stormy light that is abundant here due to the weather systems rolling straight in from the wild Atlantic.



Frozen Planet, Urgan, Isle of Harris

I found solace in photography, which allowed me to focus my mind purely on the moment when light and land come together in all their brilliance.



Icy Sunset, Traigh Lar, Isle of Harris

The remoteness and solitude allowed me to immerse myself completely in creating compositions that brought the elements of a scene together.



Cloudburst, Traigh Mhor, Isle of Harris

However, as my time on Harris progressed I felt my photographic ability was being hindered by my own perceived flaws.



Ripples in the Sand, Seilebost, Isle of Harris

I was living on this beautiful island but didn't feel like I was fully able to explore all the opportunities that my photography may allow.



*Cracks in the Earth,
Traigh Uig, Isle of Lewis*

My anxiety was stopping me from doing everyday things, let alone represent my business effectively.

*Spring Storms,
Borve, Isle of Harris*

I did manage to get my images into a new gallery on the Isle of Harris in my first year on the island. It was an incredible struggle just to make myself go to the meeting with the gallery owners.





Scarista, Shells, Isle of Harris

Self-doubt was a major issue and I was lacking in the confidence to pursue opportunities to the full. That first major breakthrough gave me the confidence to feel that I must be doing something right.



Breakthrough, East Loch Tarbert, Isle of Harris

It spurred me on to get out and create more images. More importantly I also decided to seek help for my anxiety. A glimmer of light was breaking through the clouds of depression.



Stormy Luskentrye, Isle of Harris



Taransay from The Isle of Harris



Rocky Sunset, Horgabost, Isle of Harris

I met my girlfriend around this time through a coincidence and that encouraged me to find the help that I needed and the motivation to push my photography forward.

Luskentyre Sunset, Isle of Harris





Lonely Croft, Urgan, Isle of Harris

My photography took on a lighter feel and although I will always be drawn to the moody skies of the Hebrides, it is no longer exclusively the case.

The Locals, Rodel, Isle of Harris



Seilebost Skies, Isle of Harris



Hazy Sunset, Seilebost, Isle of Harris





Atlantic Surf, Mangersta, Isle of Lewis

As I gained in confidence and visited more of the island, I managed to put images into more galleries on both Harris and Lewis.



Laxay Bothy, Isle of Lewis

I have also been lucky enough to find opportunities to put my work into magazines and summoned up the confidence to teach others. Something that I would have never thought possible a few years ago.

Golden Grass, Luskentyre, Isle of Harris



Sweeping Surf, Dal Mhor, Isle of Lewis



Dalbeag Rocks, Isle of Lewis

The weather in the Hebrides can make photography particularly difficult. This image of Dalbeag on the West coast of Lewis was taken during fierce October gales.



Traigh Bostadh, Great Bernera

The winds were much calmer while waiting for the light on Bostadh beach, Great Bernera.

I sat for around 6 hours to get this shot, watching many other people come and go.

Mind you, it was still freezing but totally worth it to witness this fantastic scene!





Callanish Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis

Bostadh, Great Bernera





Purple Haze, Sound of Taransay, Isle of Harris

The light here is so dramatic and unpredictable, unlike anywhere else that I have ever visited. It can change from dark inky skies to soft pastel pinks in a matter of minutes.

*Footsteps in the Sand, Traigh
Luskentyre, Isle of Harris*

It is the perfect place to come and get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, a photographers paradise.

From the rocky east coast, over the rugged North Harris hills and down on to the white shell sands of the West coast. All this can easily be seen in a day.

The saying 'you can see all the seasons in one day' has never been more true.





Pastel Skies, Traigh Rosamol, Isle of Harris

I will always be grateful for the time that I spent on Harris. It allowed me to find myself and my photography in one of the most beautiful environments on the planet.

Sweeping Seilebost, Isle of Harris

So why have I just left this island
paradise? I hear you ask.....





Vista, Traigh Rosamol, Isle of Harris

Well, Harris has given me many things over the last three years. The peace and time to think, the comfort of a crime-free environment and a postman who knows your name.



Soft Light, Luskentyre, Isle of Harris

Most of all, it has helped me to find my place in the World and to become comfortable with who I am.



Pink Delight, Traigh Lar, Isle of Harris

So much so, that I have for now left my life on the edge and have set up home in another wonderful part of the UK: The Cotswolds.



Loch Seaforth, Isle of Lewis and Harris

I will continue to regularly visit the Outer Hebrides, I suspect for the rest of my life. Once these islands get in to your blood I am told it is very difficult to let them go.

Stormy Scarista, Isle of Harris



Luskentyre from Seilebost, Isle of Harris



Perfect End, Traigh Mhor, Isle of Harris





Golden Light, Traigh Rosamol, Isle of Harris
But for now at least my Hebridean journey is on hold.....



Driftwood, Traigh Scarista, Isle of Harris

Like a good friend, I know that when we meet again we shall pick up from where we left off.



Big Swell, The Sound of Taransay, Isle of Harris



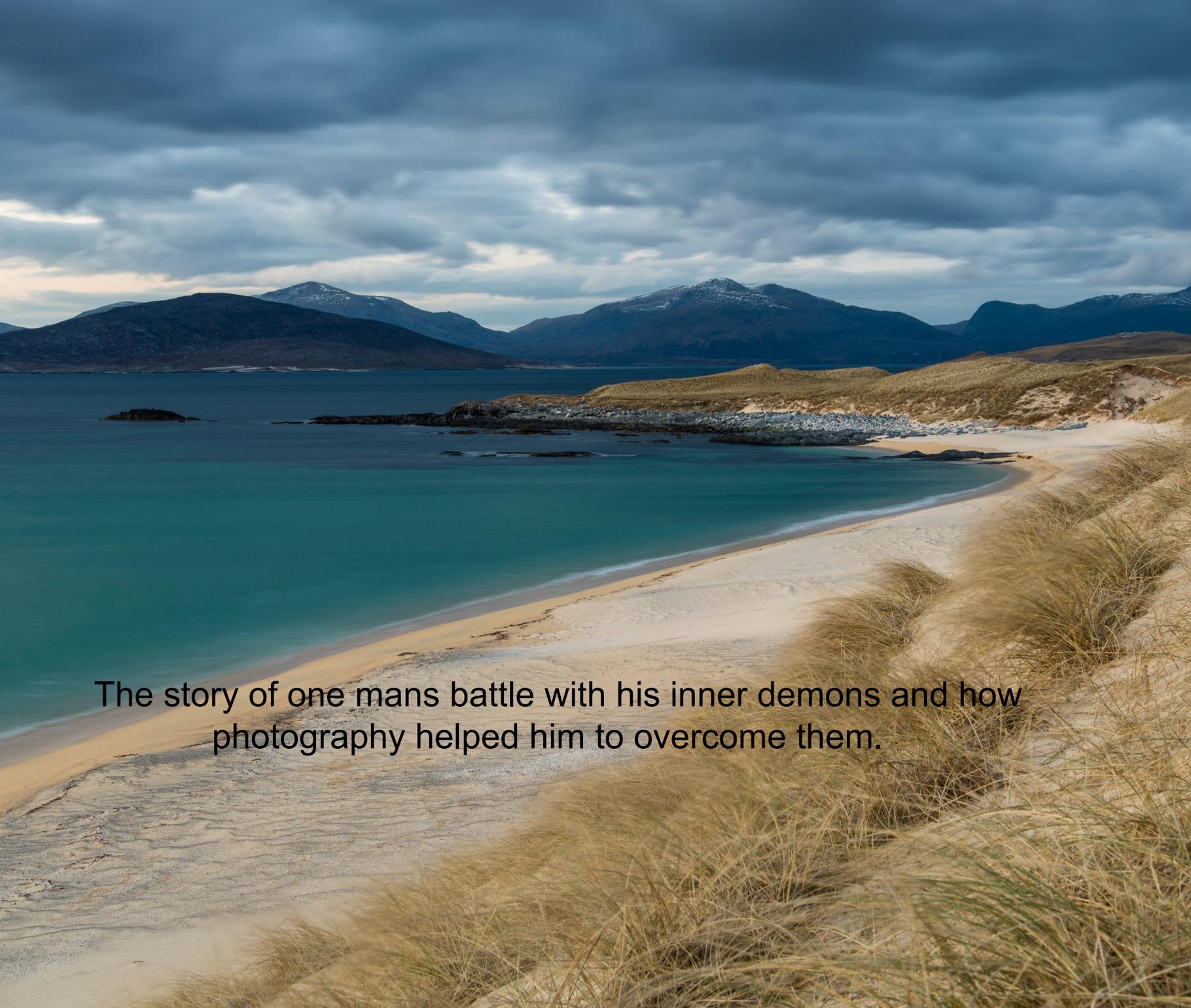
In the Spotlight, Cleeve Hill, The Cotswolds

For now I'll just leave you with a taste of what's to come in my Cotswolds adventure.



Tranquil Slaughter, Lower Slaughter, The Cotswolds





The story of one mans battle with his inner demons and how photography helped him to overcome them.