



Every Picture Tells a Story

Gentle Touch

by Peter A. Dettling

Over the years, my father and I have travelled together many times to explore some of the most beautiful, remote places in North America – especially Alaska and the Rocky Mountains. In large part, it was because of these journeys that I chose to move to Canada from my native Switzerland.

During my father's recent summer visit here, we again decided to spend some time in Kananaskis – not far from my new home in Canmore. We explored various locations, such as Highwood Pass and Chester Lake, but my father was keen to see some moose. So early one morning, I decided to take him to a favourite viewing hangout in hopes of getting a glimpse of the largest member of the deer family.

Arriving at our destination at dawn, we didn't have to wait long before several moose emerged from the forest and approached the muddy flats. As the sun's early morning rays found their way over the high peaks and onto the flats, we were particularly delighted to see a good-sized bull moose. From our viewpoint in the bush, where we were photographing and enjoying the scenery, we suddenly noticed some movement to our left, where a cow moose slowly emerged out of the forest. She casually looked up at us, and we returned the glance. She then continued down the trail and, to our surprise, passed by only a few metres in front of us.

We remained motionless, curious as to what she was up to, but we weren't the only ones. Upon reaching the edges of the busy moose lick, the cow moose caught the attention of the bull, and they slowly ambled toward each other until they were only metres apart.

The cow lifted her head, and for a split second their noses touched gently. Then as calmly as the moment began, she walked off and the magical, brief encounter was over.

This picture represents everything that I love about the Canadian Rockies. And for me, the fact that I shared the wonder of this moment with my father makes it all the more special.

Peter A. Dettling is an award-winning conservation photographer, painter and author based in Canmore. His images are regularly published across various media, as well as being featured in leading galleries and museums. Peter and his work has also been showcased on television in both Europe and North America.

To obtain more information about his work and current projects, visit www.TerraMagica.ca

