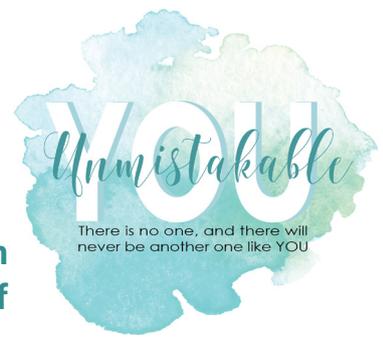


1. Welcome and Introduction

First of all I just want to say thank you for deciding you would like to join this group and together go back to the beginning, maybe even some of the basics and create a very special album about someone super special.



Many times we look back on our photographs and realise that when capturing all those special and memorable occasions there has been a very important person missing from many of them - YOU. Most likely because you have been the one behind the camera.

You know how it is, there are just some people that are way more photogenic than others. I often thought - that's just not fair - but a friend once told me - if you don't like your normal pose then be silly? - strange thing to say but it's so true. Let your personality come through - just be yourself! When I look back now, some of my favourite photos are just that - my mouth wide open, laughing, doing something silly - but being myself. Over the years, and more so as we have gotten older (more mature I would like to call it), I've realised the importance of being in some of these photos and don't object as much as I used to.

As we get older, and without being morbid, we start to value and are grateful for many things that have happened in our lives and think about how we would like others to remember us. We may ask ourselves what have we done that is worth remembering. But as we start and go back to the beginning I'm hoping you will discover all the parts that make you the person that you are today and why you are so special. Hopefully you will have a new appreciation of the person you are, what you have accomplished, who and what you value in life, what you have learned, and what your dreams are for the future.

I've been wanting to start this project for a while as I had a dream of creating a book with friends, like yourselves all participating but including your layouts as samples. That was put on the backburner with my own little business growing. But after recently discovering many of you have never begun one of these books, and suddenly finding I have a little spare time (I say that loosely) - now with us being in "lockdown" this has suddenly sped up my thought process. So even though the idea is definitely not my own, I'm hoping over the coming weeks you will join me as we begin this project. For some it may be picking up from where you left off years ago.

So all I can say is please be gentle on yourselves, let's have some fun with this. This can be done in varying forms - whether you are a minimalist or love to fill a page with everything you can - it's entirely up to you. As we move along I'm hoping we will share with each other our pages, by putting them into the albums in the group and as we get into the swing of things I'm hoping to have samples in advance. Even though I've been thinking of this for a while - all of a sudden it's out there and happening - so please bare with me whilst we begin.

As I have said many times over the years in my classes, there are no rights and wrongs as it's your work. Now there is really only one person who can tell your story - and that is YOU.