

LIFE ITSELF

PART II



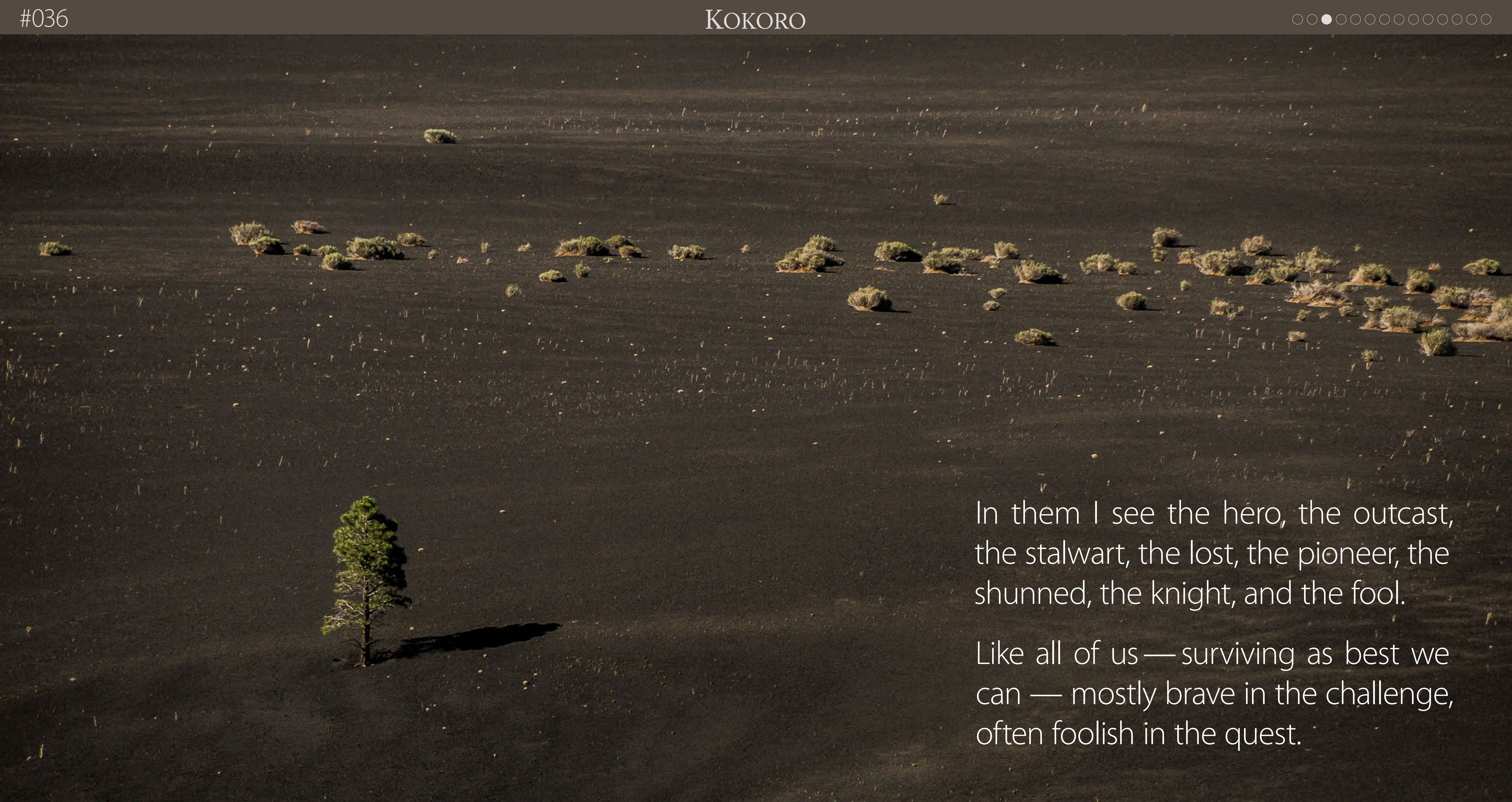
Brooks Jensen

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Life is a social existence. Plants, animals, people all live in clusters. Isolation is unnatural, even if it is occasionally welcome. But here, in the dry, glass-black pumice, isolation means *life* — means enough water to survive, enough nutrients to grow — enough, but *just* enough.

Why do I find these trees on the slopes of the Sunset Crater simultaneously an inspiration, a metaphor, a warning, an example, and a mirror? They are just trees, but I cannot help but think of them as more.



In them I see the hero, the outcast,
the stalwart, the lost, the pioneer, the
shunned, the knight, and the fool.

Like all of us — surviving as best we
can — mostly brave in the challenge,
often foolish in the quest.















Life ...



itself ...



the knight ...



... and the fool.





Brooks Jensen is a fine-art photographer, publisher, workshop teacher, and writer. In his personal work he specializes in small prints, hand-made artist's books, and digital media publications.

He and his wife (Maureen Gallagher) are the owners, co-founders, editors, and publishers of the award winning *LensWork*, one of today's most respected and important periodicals in fine art photography. With subscribers in 73 countries, Brooks' impact on fine art photography is truly world-wide. His long-running podcasts on art and photography are heard over the Internet by thousands every day. All 900+ podcasts are available at [LensWork Online](#), the LensWork membership website. LensWork Publishing is also at the leading edge in multimedia and digital media publishing with *LensWork Extended* — a PDF based, media-rich expanded version of the magazine.

Brooks is the author of seven best-selling books about photography and creativity: *Letting Go of the Camera* (2004); *The Creative Life in Photography* (2013); *Single Exposures* (4 books in a series, random observations on art, photography and creativity); and *Looking at Images* (2014); as well as a photography monograph, *Made of Steel* (2012). His next book will be *Those Who Inspire Me (And Why)*. A free monthly compilation of of this image journal, [Kokoro](#), is available for download.

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