Parting Shot(s)







I had been at the Atlantis Resort in Dumaguete, Philippines for several days and had shot harlequin ghost pipefish, Solenostomus paradoxus, on nearly half the dives so I almost passed on this tiny one.

The guide who had pointed it out was hovering above so I wanted to pull the trigger a few times to let him know I appreciated his tireless efforts in locating subjects for me.

It was not until I got back home to Hawaii and was going through images that I saw not one, but two brittlestar hitchhikers wrapped around the pipefish!

Brittlestars are tasty morsels for many predators on the reef and for this reason they only venture out on the reef at night and stay completely hidden during the day. I have never seen this behavior or even another photo of this partnership. I assume the brittlestars get free transportation, although, like a dog chasing a car, what do you do when you catch your ride? To drop off the pipefish would make them an easy snack for the many nearby fish.

Regardless, I was pleased my guide had pointed out this individual.

David Fleetham
www.davidfleetham.com

Shot with a Canon 5D mark IV and a Canon EF100mm macro lens, 1/125 sec, F22, ISO 320,in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with twin Ikelite 161 strobes set to underexpose by 2/3 stop on TTL in the Philippines.

**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**
peter@uwpmag.com