

CHAPTER
3

A PUZZLE BOX, A MAGNIFYING GLASS, & THE MYSTERIOUS EGG

Joy Is in the Details

*In photography, the smallest thing
can be a great subject. The little,
human detail can become a Leitmotiv.*

—HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON

With a keen eye for details, one truth prevails!

—GOSHO AOYAMA

Japan is a culture alive with details. The Japanese take an immense pride in being exacting in their art, engineering, and service. These qualities are so much of what makes Japan special and why once I finally visited, I almost never returned home.

It was late 2015, and a few months prior, I'd hit a creative wall. After working for several years in the music industry, the grind had worn me down. My joy was gone. I still loved music, but I was exhausted, and I needed a vacation badly. A friend of mine, who happened to be visiting from out of town, suggested I go to Japan. When he said this, I stared blankly at him for a moment. I knew nothing about Japan. I had never considered traveling there. Yet he

(Opposite Page)
A traditional Japanese puzzle
box (not in our treasure)