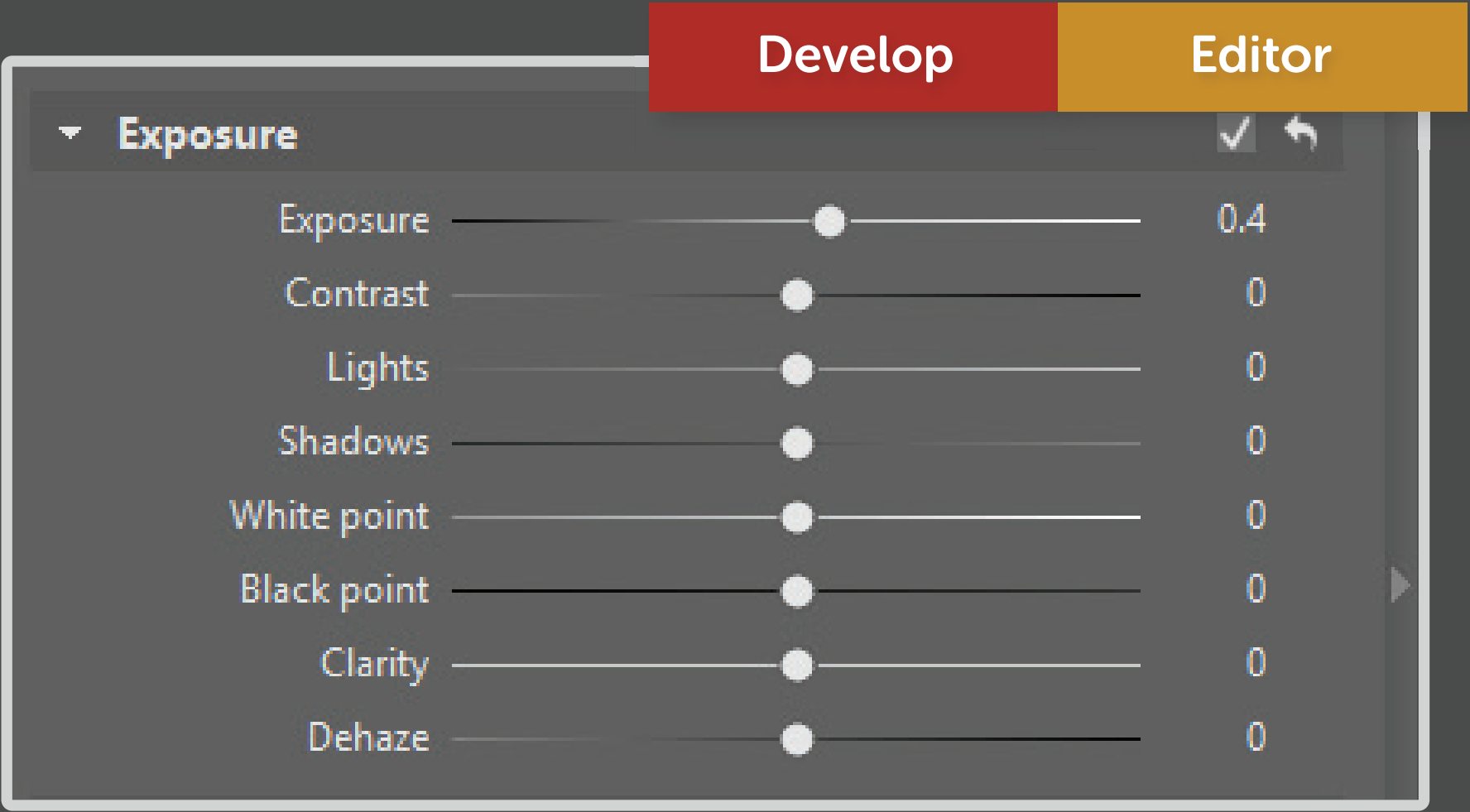


5 Ways to Fix Dark Photos

1

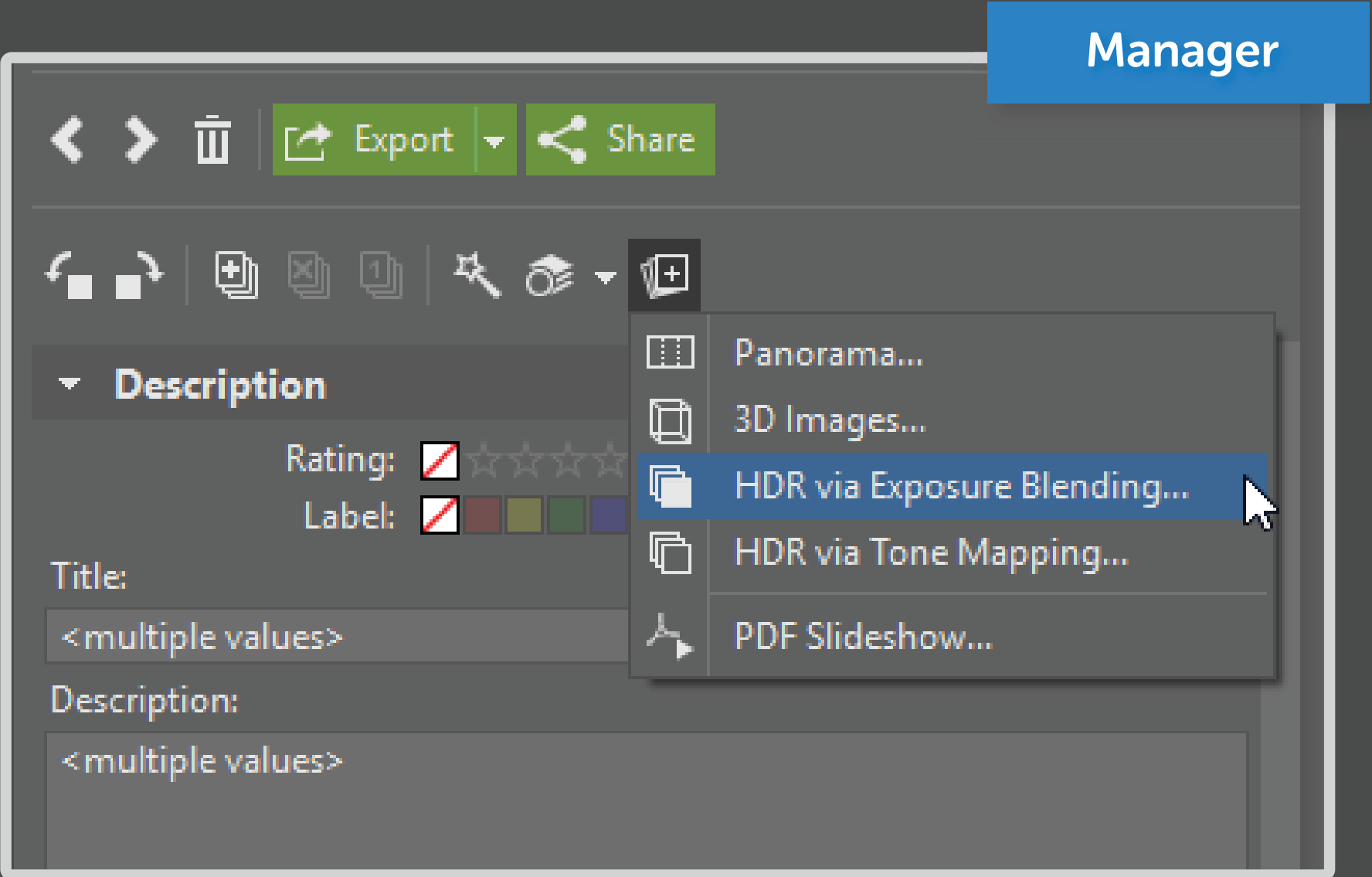
Adjust exposure and brighten shadows.

One of the most basic ways to fix such a picture is to adjust exposure in the Editor or Develop module. Play with the exposure and the shadows and brighten the dark photo overall.



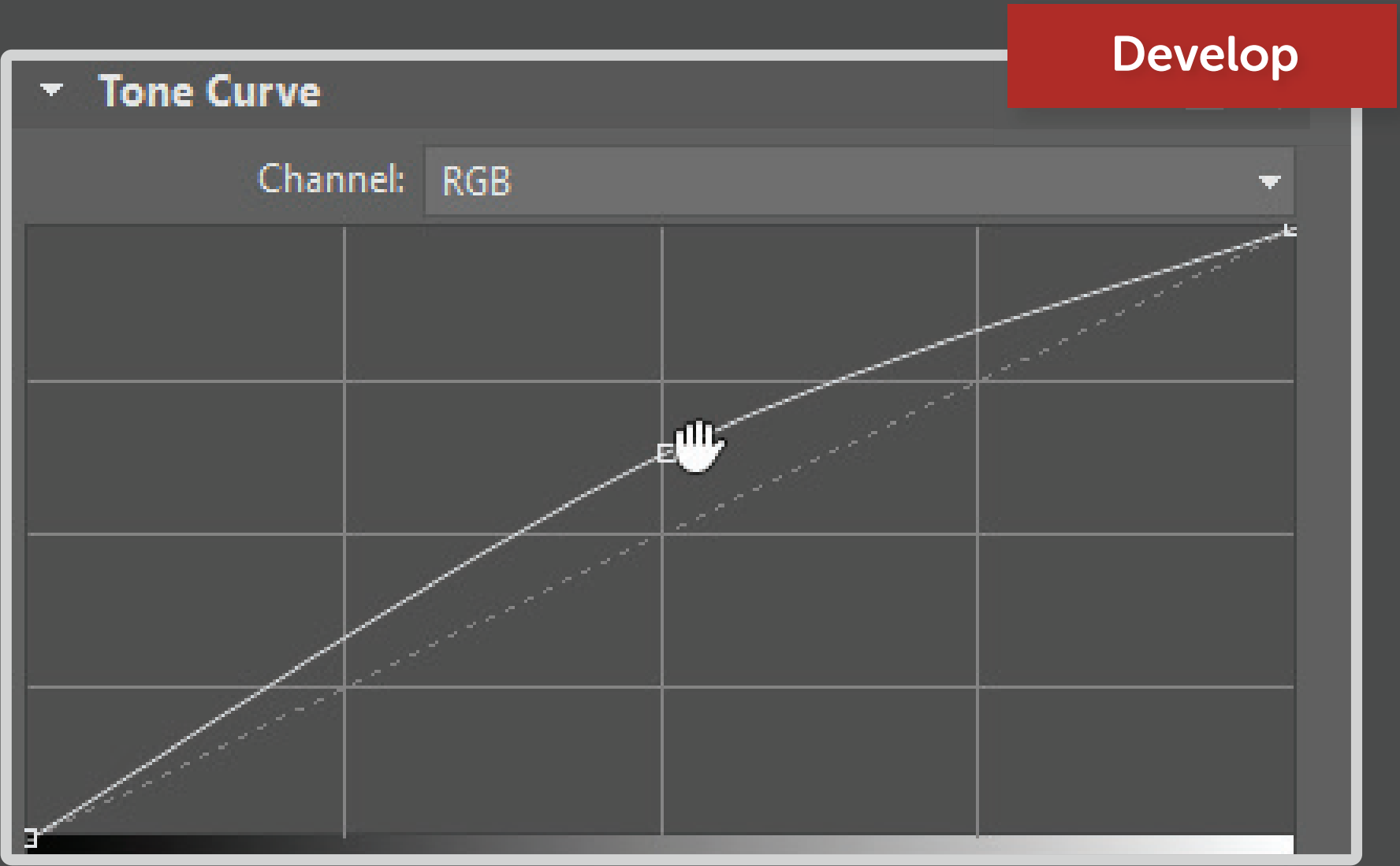
2

Try exposure blending. This edit is based on joining multiple pictures (typically one dark and one light) into a single one, brightening the dark areas. In ZPS X, you can use HDR for this—either the Exposure Blending type or the Tone Mapping type.



3

Brighten the photo using Curves. You can also brighten a photo by adjusting its histogram curve. Use the Curves function in the right panel of the Develop module for this. Curves gives you far more options for picture brightening than ordinary exposure adjustments do.



4

Edit the photo using the Gradient Filter.

Click the Gradient Filter icon in the Develop module, and then click and drag inside the photo to create your first gradient: Click and hold the left mouse button to set the spot where the gradient's guideline begins, and pull it on out to the spot where it should end—release the button here. These filters aren't just for adjusting exposure, either. You can also use them for other parameters such as light, shadows, or contrast.



5

Create a Low Key photo. If you only want to emphasize certain contours in the picture, try darkening it even more and brightening only the brightest tones. You'll end up with nothing but a few contours, and your photo will be all about how less is sometimes more.

