



Linda Bryant

Book Report: The Noticer Returns by Andy Andrews

Have you driven over to Fairhope lately? It was Andy Andrews' latest book, THE NOTICER RETURNS, that nudged me there recently for a first-hand look inside the cited Page and Palette, where Andy is headed according to the storyline of this newly released book, when he unexpectedly

encounters the "Noticer." For me it was easy to spend an hour inside exploring each roomful of books and novelties, catching bits of conversation that lent the feel of camaraderie with other patrons.

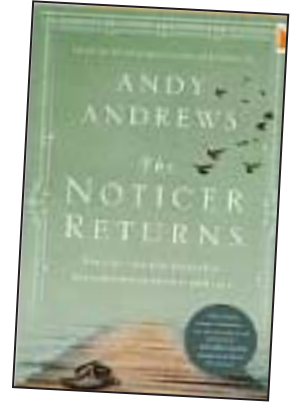
With an eye on my watch, however, I left after that fleeting hour or so for the next destination: the cited Grand Hotel at Point Clear and its pier with the gazebo. I was given a visitor's pass for the remainder of the day, found a parking spot as directed, and headed directly between the buildings for the pier with the gazebo where significant conversations, according to the storyline, occur. Just over half an hour remained before sundown, time to watch

from that pier the pelicans plunge for fresh seafood, trying in vain to capture just one in the act with my Sony cybershot. They are fast. Moreover, their dark bodies provide little contrast with the color of the water just prior to sundown.

Eventually, a few couples emerged from the hotel positioning themselves along the walkway at the perimeter of the lawn overlooking the water. I'd left the pier by then and proceeded towards a larger gazebo-like structure at the Point from which the relatively new buildings that distinguish Mobile's skyline are visible to the north. The pelicans came closer to the shoreline here and in small formations rather than as the soloists in the air as seen from the pier. Finally, the anticipated phenomenon occurred. How worth the wait, the two (she, a stranger-become-friend-for-the-moment) of us agreed, as we conversed casually from our vantage at the Point.

What does this have to do with THE NOTICER RETURNS? Try reading it for yourself, thinking Andy's thoughts with him. It won't be tedious nor frivolous, but quite early on you may realize the importance of details that build upon one another. There are maxims to be considered for personal relevancy, word pictures to engage you with intriguing characters, and short chapters to permit reading breaks as you attend to the realities of your daily living. Through the fun of it all, you may just face that real life of yours with a refreshed perspective. (P.S. And...the pastor plugged this book at the 11:00 a.m. service October 27th).

Ed Note: Linda was given an autographed copy by Andy as he traveled through the Pensacola airport shop.



Page and Palette, bookstore where Andy unexpectedly encounters Jones, the Noticer.



Sign in the window of Page and Palette referred to in the book.



Gazebo-like structure where "the phenomenon" takes place -- one can learn much