

Hunting Island Love Story

Written by Margaret Evans
Tuesday, 21 May 2013 15:27



Book Review by Margaret Evans

"We started coming to Hunting Island in the early



1980s. Our first year, we arrived after dark and had to unlock the front gate with headlights as our only illumination. It was eerie driving through the Palmetto forest in the pitch dark that first night. It felt as if we had entered a pre-historic time. We quickly learned to keep the cabin light on if we went out, but mostly we settled in after dark.

"I generally rise with the sun. That very first morning Hunting Island filled my soul and marked it forever; and the Island continues to renew me even today. If we allow it, every life story is one of beauty, tranquility, and loss, and the ever-renewing cycle of life..."

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Thus begins "Hunting Island: A Love Story in the Midst of Change," a little book of pictures and prose that chronicles, from a very personal perspective, the "life story" of Hunting Island over the past 30-ish years. The author/photographer Jerry Vreeland – described on his business card as "a maker of small photographic books" – left a copy of "Hunting Island" at our office last week, and I promptly fell in love with it. The book is, indeed, small and full of beautiful photographs. But it was the story, itself – and the way it is told – that kept me turning the pages of "Hunting Island," almost against my will. Jeff stuck the book in my hand when I was rushing around doing... something? (I forget.) I meant only to flip through it briefly, as a courtesy, then add it to my "stack" – the place where things go to languish indefinitely.

Instead, I made the mistake of reading the first page. And the second. And the third... Whatever it was I'd been rushing around doing? Forgotten.

The book is a quiet but powerful enchantment. It feels very personal, like a diary – or a private tour

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www.amazon.com
The Indomitable Lady is a small boat that has been used for many years. It is now being used as a museum for the opening reception.