

The Raven on Craven

Written by Mindy Lucas

Tuesday, 19 September 2017 13:17



A conversation with Lorrie and David Anderson of NeverMore Books

By Mindy Lucas

Longtime Beaufort, South Carolina, residents, David and Lorrie Anderson didn't start their work lives in the bookselling business, but that's exactly where they ended up after David's habit of collecting books "got out of hand."

The couple first opened NeverMore Books, a local bookstore specializing in unique, hard-to-find books and signed first editions, in September of 2015 on Carteret Street. But a little over a year later, they were forced to move their fledgling store from its basement location under the law offices of Tupper, Grimsley and Dean after Hurricane Matthew swept through the Lowcountry causing flooding issues everywhere. Now the shop has found a new home at 702 Craven Street, Beaufort, and as locals like to say, "the Raven is now on Craven."

Mindy Lucas recently interviewed the Andersons for the Porch Talk blog of the Pat Conroy Literary Center . . .

Mindy Lucas: Welcome to Porch Talk, which we're having here at NeverMore Books today,

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just



three-and-a-half blocks from the Pat Conroy Literary Center.

Lorrie Anderson: Thank you. We're happy to talk.

ML: So how has business been this summer?

David Anderson: Well, brick and mortar places are having a little renaissance, so that's a good thing. We were very lucky to have gotten this location and very happy that accommodations came about when they did. The summer has been really good and bright and everybody seems very enthusiastic.

ML: What made you decide to open a bookstore?

DA: We had way, way, way too many books.

LA: (Laughing) Dave has always been an avid book collector, and things just kind of got out of hand.

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DA: Yeah, they did. But we had always talked about having a store anyway, and we'd always thought about doing it in Beaufort. But there was no place where we had an opportunity to do that. Then that section of the law office building came open, and so we were able to utilize that. They were very gracious and our fledgling attempt was pretty successful. So it went really well for the first year.

ML: Since you had that many books, it probably goes without saying that you are both big readers. Do you read the same things, or are you like my husband and I where, we tend to read different things but with some overlap.

LA: We do read different things, but we also read a lot of the same books.

DA: If we like a book, we'll pass it to each other.

LA: We read all the time. I have always liked books and spent a lot of my childhood in libraries, which was my favorite place to go, but never really, until I met Dave and started learning about the whole collecting process, did I care if it was a first edition or just what. I just wanted to read the book.

ML: How does that work when you have customers come in? Do you find that they look to you, Lorrie, for some things to read and you, Dave, for other things?

LA: Normally I'm here. But Dave, I would say, knows many of the books that I don't know. There are a lot of books in here that definitely are what he loves and collects and that I maybe haven't read. But I can steer people in that direction and I may tell them if I know he really likes something.

DA: You can't pick out anybody's taste for them. You can only suggest things. You can only be as specific as they are. There are a lot of things I can go around and point out, and so could Lorrie. But maybe not a single one of them will be what they're actually wanting.

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DA: Or, we get a lot of return customers that come back after we've suggested something.

LA: And books that we love we will definitely recommend.

DA: We have a little section that is our favorites.

LA: Some people take your advice and some people don't. And that's fine because everybody has their own taste in reading. It's funny but people who come in here with a specific book in mind, we may not have because we are a used bookstore, and while we carry a few new things we're not a new bookstore. So we don't have every latest thing.

DA: We don't really ascribe ourselves to that either, because bestseller lists aren't what we're going to try to portray, and we don't want to be a distributor bookshop - that everything that comes out automatically ends up here. It has to have a little time test to it to make it worthwhile.

We also don't sell normal top 10 bestseller type things. I mean, we do occasionally. It depends on the writer. Kind of a rule of thumb is if the author has a big flashy picture of himself on the back cover, and their name is bigger on the front cover than the title of the book. We don't usually do those.

ML: (Laughing) Tell me about your background then. Did either of you have a bookselling background or work in bookstores previously?

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