



Jan Notzon

INTVW BY SARAH ANNE

Jan Notzon, playwright and novelist, was born and raised on the Mexican border in Texas. After a stint in The Big Apple, he now makes his home in Charlotte, NC. His second novel, *And Ye Shall Be As Gods*, traces the story of Jake Kazmareck, his quest to discover the evil that plunged his beloved baby-sister into despair, and his lost love into madness.

New Reader Media had the chance to talk to Jan Notzon. In this interview he shares to us why writers are exceptionally precious people.

NRM: When did you fall in love with writing? Did you always want to be a writer? Which writer influenced your style in writing?

Jan Notzon: Honestly, my first dream was to be an actor. But while studying, stories just came to me out of experiences, people I'd meet, philosophical questions I had about this life. I just found myself compelled to put them in dramatic and literary form.

Strange to say, I am probably most influenced by William Shakespeare, having loved his work basically all my life. Where the novel in particular is concerned, I look to John Steinbeck, Cormac McCarthy and others.

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different roles.

NRM: What was your creative process in writing *And Ye Shall Be as Gods*? How long did it take you to write it?

JN: Interestingly, I did a lot of free associating out on my deck. I'd write an idea here, a bit of dialog there, a plotline anywhere. Some days I'd free associate and write almost nothing, then other days, pages and pages. Somehow, it all came together.

Hard to remember how long it took, but it was a matter of years.

NRM: In writing your books, are your themes or styles consistent?

JN: I'd say the themes are consistent in this sense that they all reflect my questions about this life that we share. My style is probably consistent, although I've written in first person, third person omniscient. And the one I'm working on now is written in first person from multiple points of view.

NRM: What do you think is the role of a writer in society?

JN: Well, I'd say a writer can have many different roles: he or she can just write to entertain, i.e. produce something that a reader can have fun with, which is a worthy goal in itself. Writers can examine history or social issues. They can explore what makes us what we are and they can even, if brave or foolish enough, explore the most fundamental philosophical issues that we as a reasoning species have wrestled with since the first time we stood erect and looked up at the sky and wondered where all this came from.

NRM: Are you working on something else right now?

JN: I am. I know only the absolute rudiments of my father's family's emigration from Poland. So, I'm just

letting my imagination go wild with how that decision and that incredible journey might have unfolded. ■

