

Author Interview | Meet Don Meyer and his historical fiction novel



Here at Book Heaven, we love meeting indie authors. It's our pleasure to introduce you to Don. He writes historical fiction and nonfiction and is an author to have on your e-reader. I asked for an interview with him, and he agreed. So, grab your favorite beverage and join us. Don, take it away!

What is your writing process?

I sit at the computer – an old tower model – and type away. Usually, I have the story in my head waiting to get out. After I have typed several pages, or chapter or several chapters, I pause to do a read through. I'm old school and print out the pages, go sit in a corner with a red pen and have at it. Then go back to the computer and make the changes. I may do this several times before I am satisfied and will do it again when the story is finished.

Do you have any odd writing habits?

No.

What book do you wish you could have written?

I believe I have written it: *Winds of Discontent* a passion project I have worked on for the last six years and needed to write.

Just as your books inspire authors, what authors have inspired you?

King, Grisham, Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis ...

If you could cast your characters in the Hollywood adaptation of your book, who would play your characters?

Not my choice.

How important are names to you in your books? Do you choose the names based on liking the way it sounds or the meaning?

I usually create my cast of characters as I go, or as needed.

What do you consider to be your best accomplishment?

My latest book: *Winds of Discontent*, However the Kittridge Manuscript has been well received.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Older.

Have you always liked to write?

Yes.

What writing advice do you have for other aspiring authors?

Get the story down, work out the details later. Tell your story.

If you didn't like writing books, what would you do for a living?

I had a career, a second career and still found time to write.

Are you a plotter or a pantster?

Definitely a pantster.

Do you read your reviews? Do you respond to them, good or bad? Do you have any advice on how to deal with the bad?

Yes. No. All reviews are good. Not everyone will like what you wrote, so what, learn from it and move on. Do not dwell on a bad review. I've had both a great and not so great (read bad) review for the same book. If all the reviews were good, I'd think I did something wrong. Not everyone has the same perspective, which means I got through to some but failed others.

What is your best marketing tip?

Don't have one.

What is your least favorite part of the publishing / writing process?

I love writing. I hate publishing.

Is there one subject you would never write about as an author? What is it?

I don't do sci-fi, don't understand it and am loathe to read any of it.

Do you have a favorite spot to write? What is it?

At my old tower computer. Like an old friend.

Is there a certain type of scene that's harder for you to write than others? Love? Action? Racy?

No, I can do what needs to be done, but I don't find it necessary to be graphic.

Is this your first book? How many books have you written prior (if any?)

No. I have written ten novels and on non-fiction.

What are you working on now? What is your next project?

Nothing new, and nothing on the horizon. *Winds of Discontent* wore me out.

Do you write naked?

I have but usually not.

What is your biggest failure?

My first novel. Put it out too soon, tried a rewrite and put it with a not so friendly publisher. Tried another rewrite and failed miserably.

What is the biggest fib you've ever told?

Saying I never did.

Have you ever been in trouble with the law?

No.

Have you ever gotten into a fight?

Yes, as a teenager and son of a single parent, I had many.

Characters often find themselves in situations they aren't sure they can get themselves out of. When was the last time you found yourself in a situation that was hard to get out of and what did you do?

My teenage years with a single parent. Vietnam.

Do you drink? Smoke? What's your vice?

No longer smoke, but I do drink. Writing is my vice!

What is your biggest fear?

Life.

What do you want your tombstone to say?

Prefer not to have one.

If you had a superpower, what would it be?

I'll pass.

If you were a super hero, what would your name be? What costume would you wear?

I'll pass.

What literary character is most like you?

I am the throwaway character in every novel. The filler guy.

What secret talents do you have?

I can spin a yarn. A storyteller trying to be a writer.

Where is one place you want to visit that you haven't been before?

The old Civil War battlefields.

If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

I am an animal. Grrrr.

What's on your bucket list (things to do before you die)?

I am doing them.

If you could have any name in the world, what would you choose?

Ford Ferrenby. Character from my 2022 summer novel. Rutherford Ferrenby, Ford to his friends. Only book I wrote around a character.

Do you have any scars? What are they from?

Several. Teenage years fights, one stabbing and I was shot in Vietnam.

What were you like as a child? Your favorite toy?

Cute and cuddly, of course. My Lionel train set.

What do you dream? Do you have any recurring dreams/nightmares?

None I can remember.

Thank you, Don, for the insightful interview. I thoroughly enjoyed your acerbic wit and learning more about you. Thank you for your service in Vietnam. Readers, scroll down to read more about Don's latest release.