

# Local author pulls another story out of his pocket

## Don Meyer's third book is *Jennifer's Plan*

By Lara Kirkner  
Mammoth Times Staff Writer

I only recently met Don Meyer, but already find him to be an enthusiastic, helpful man with more stories in his back pocket than I could ever hope to imagine. A resident of June Lake for four years, Meyer released his third book, *Jennifer's Plan*, and while he claims to first and foremost be a storyteller who is only learning to be a writer, I found the book to be a very enjoyable read. After holding a successful book signing at the Booky Joint in Mammoth Lakes on Sept. 29, Meyer stopped by the Mammoth Times last week to chat about the book and writing in general.

The book is set in the south and takes readers on the twists and turns of the world of "good old boys." A specific time frame is not given, as many of the events that take place in the book are still suspected to be going on today.

**Mammoth Times:** What inspired you to write *Jennifer's Plan*?

**Don Meyer:** The story came to me on a hike. I do a lot of thinking on the hikes that my wife Nancy and I take because I find the ideas are able to rattle around in my head. This story came to me and wouldn't go away. I sat down and pounded out 95 pages of it when I got home.

**MT:** The book has some graphic sexual scenes, do you find those difficult to write?

**DM:** It's not difficult for me to write them and I don't like specific sex scenes that don't

advance the situation. I don't think they need to be that detailed.

**MT:** But in *Jennifer's Plan* the sex is definitely an important part of the plot.

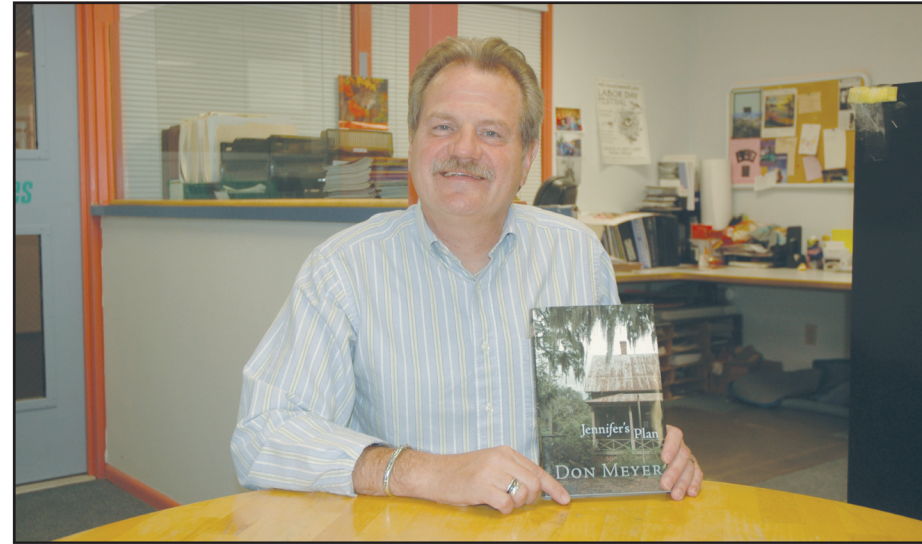
**DM:** Yes, it's part of the conflict that the main character has to work through.

**MT:** Are any of the characters inspired by people you know in real life?

**DM:** (smiling) I grew up in the inner city of Chicago with a lot of good old boys, so yes some of the characters are based on people I knew. People and experiences in your life are really what make your characters come to life. I have been to the South many times and vacations and I was also stationed in Louisiana in the late 1960s. I grew up with people treating blacks the way they are treated in the book and much of this stuff still exists today. There are places in the South that I've been to that are even scary for a white male. I didn't pick a specific South but just alluded to it and I picked a northerner as my main character to go down there without knowing what she is getting herself into. Jennifer, like many of us, would have never believed things like this really happen anymore.

**MT:** How long did the book take you to write?

**DM:** About three months. I can pound out 20 pages in a night sometimes, but I never get involved in a book when I don't have the time. You can't force the writing and I always



MAMMOTH TIMES PHOTO/LARA KIRKNER

Local author Don Meyer has recently published his third book. *Jennifer's Plan* is a nitty gritty story with a light-hearted ending.

find that when I force a chapter I have to go back and rewrite it. I make sure I have the window and the time to write.

**MT:** How do you keep yourself inspired during the whole process of writing a book?

**DM:** I never worry about whether something works when I'm writing it. I tell myself that I'm just putting thoughts on paper and I can always go back and fix it. For me it's not hard, because I believe there is nothing greater than telling stories; I love to write. You do have to practice, though, and you are not going to write perfect every time. I do the best I can and then my editor makes it better.

**MT:** What do you hope readers will take away from *Jennifer's Plan*?

**DM:** Simply an appreciation of a good story.

**MT:** You are working on a fourth book; can you give us a sneak preview?

**DM:** It has the same characters as *Snow Ghost* (his second book), and there is a conflict in something that goes on every day, and that conflict escalates. The entire story takes place in one day. The working title at this time is *McKenzie Affair*.

*Jennifer's Plan* is a good story, so Meyer has met the goal he set out with. The amazing bond that is created between two people who have shared a horrible experience is the best facet of the novel, and the difference between ignorant people and those who are color blind and just see people when they look around the world is clearly demonstrated.

Pick up your copy of *Jennifer's Plan* at the Booky Joint and check out Meyer's Web site at [www.dpmeyer.com](http://www.dpmeyer.com).