



PHOTO: Beyond Genre Boundaries: Daniel V. Meier Jr.'s Prose Delves into the Profound Depth of Human Narratives.



“... Author Meier employs enough technical terminology to keep the pillars of his plot credible without drowning the reader in a sea of aeronautical and avionics jargon. He skillfully melds intricacies of flight, internecine corporate skullduggery, and good old-fashioned pulse-pounding action into a satisfying stew of suspense. The pace is swift, the characters are crafty, and the read is rewarding for those who like stories seasoned with plausibility. He even finds a way to make one car following another a bit of a Hitchcockian drama on the printed page.”

— US Review of Books

## Exploring Literary Depths with DANIEL V. MEIER JR

### Exploring Themes, Influences, and the Organic Craft of a Prolific Author

Daniel V. Meier Jr., a former Aviation Safety Inspector turned prolific author, guides us through the labyrinth of his literary journey in an exclusive interview with *The Reader's House*. His multifaceted career traverses the skies of aviation safety and delves into the enigmatic realms of writing.

From his inaugural Action/Thriller, “Mendoza’s Treasure,” published under the pseudonym Vince Daniels, to his recent foray into the realm of Action/Thriller/Crime with “Guidance to Death,” Meier’s bibliography reflects an eclectic blend of genres. But it’s not just diversity in genre that defines his work—it’s the profound depth within each narrative.

Meier’s literary path intertwines with history, fueled by a passion for storytelling and a profound appreciation for the human condition. His influences span wide, ranging from

the enigmatic writings of Thomas Pynchon to the legacies of the Lost Generation and the Bloomsbury Group, illustrating his fascination with profound themes—avarice, societal structures, and the human struggle.

Yet, amidst his breadth of influences and interests, Meier’s current focus resides in the world of mystery/thriller. Leveraging his extensive experience from two decades with the Federal Aviation Administration, he infuses his narratives with a depth that only insider knowledge can provide.

Intriguingly, Meier’s approach to writing is as diverse as his subject matter. He doesn’t adhere rigidly to outlines; instead, his narratives evolve organically, sprouting from seeds of human condition and societal contemplation.

His reflections on meeting literary icons—wishing to delve into Tennessee Williams’ tormented yet triumphant soul—reveal his

keen interest in the inner workings of writers’ minds, their struggles, and the achievements garnered from such *As The Reader’s House* magazine, we are invited into Meier’s world not only to experience gripping tales but to contemplate the underlying messages woven into each narrative strand. His words carry weight, urging readers to ponder the complexities that underlie our existence—be it the machinations of power or the depths of human desires.

The *Reader’s House* is honored to present this illuminating conversation with Daniel V. Meier Jr., a writer whose words soar above mere storytelling, embracing the skies of introspection and contemplation. Dive into this engaging dialogue to uncover the myriad facets of a writer whose works transcend genre boundaries, inviting us to explore the depths of the human psyche.

A retired Aviation Safety Inspec-

tor for the FAA, Daniel V. Meier Jr. has always had a passion for writing. During his college years, he studied History at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) and American Literature at The University of Maryland Graduate School. In 1980 he published *Mendoza’s Treasure*, an Action/Thriller with Leisure Books under the pen name of Vince Daniels.

He worked briefly for the *Washington Business Journal* as a journalist and has been a contributing writer/editor for several aviation magazines.

He has recently published 4 books with BQB Publishing. *Guidance to Death*, his most recent, is a return to a favorite genre of his, Action/Thriller/Crime.

Dan and his wife live in Owings Maryland, about 20 miles south of Annapolis, Maryland and spend summers sailing their Bayfield 36 on the Chesapeake Bay.



PHOTO: Daniel V. Meier Jr., weaving tales that soar beyond genres, reflects on his literary odyssey—a captivating journey from the skies of aviation to the depths of mystery and societal contemplation.

**Are there any classic novels that you only recently read for the first time?**

I am currently reading “The Woman In White” by Wilkie Collins. He was a pioneer in the genre of mystery and suspense.

**You’re organizing a party. Which two authors, dead or alive, do you invite?**

With the understanding that a good party means great conversations, I would invite Joseph Conrad, for his grasp of the human struggle and Saul Bellow, for his portrayal and awareness of Post War conflicts.

**Which writers — working today do you admire most?**

Noam Chomsky, as an incisive social critic. And Earl Charles Spencer for his historical knowledge and his clear writing style.

**What books and authors have impacted your writing career?**

The post WWI generation of writers (The Lost Generation) and the Bloomsbury Group, originating at the residence of Virginia Wolfe. The legacy of both groups were at the forefront of modern writing.

**If you could meet any writer, dead or alive, who would it be? And what would you want to know?**

Tennessee Williams. I would like to know if he thought the angst in his life, and the demons he dealt with while writing was worth the achievement he attained in his career.

**How many books have you written, and which is your favorite?**

I’ve written six published books: *MENDOZA’S TREASURE*: Mystery/Thriller 1980  
*THE DUNG BEETLES OF LIBERIA*, A Novel Based on True Events: Historical Fiction, 2019  
*NO BIRDS SING HERE*: Literary Fiction, 2021  
*BLOODROOT*: Historical Fiction, 2021

*BLOOD BEFORE DAWN*, Historical Fiction and the sequel to *THE DUNG BEETLES OF LIBERIA*, 2021

*GUIDANCE TO DEATH*: A return to the Mystery/Thriller genre.

Asking me to tell you which one I like best is like asking a mother which child she loves best. All the books have their own separate identities, and I am very proud of them all.

**Did you have an author who inspired you to become a writer?**

In college, when I was first inspired to write, I was captivated by the work of Thomas Pynchon. His work is dense and complex, and his works encompass a vast array of genres and subject matter.

**Anything you would like to say to your readers?**

I have always found it difficult to define my “brand,” due to the fact that I do not always write in the same genre. But what I would like to point out is that whatever the subject, I always try to imbue a deeper meaning. Human avarice, the power of the elite...that sort of thing.

**What are you working on now?**

I am in the middle of writing the 2nd in the series of Frank Adams, Aviation Accident Investigator. I like the mystery/thriller genre. It is entertaining and a good platform to expound upon a message. And having spent 20 years working for the Federal Aviation Administration, I am very familiar with the subject.

**Is there anything you find particularly challenging in your writing?**

I find that getting started with a plan for the entire book is a challenge. I’d like to say that I write an outline and follow it throughout the book. But I often don’t. I begin with an idea—stimulated by something in the human condition—and it develops from there. The outline exists, but usually, only in my head. And the characters develop on their own and reintroduce themselves repeatedly throughout the book.