

WEATHER OVER MENDOZA

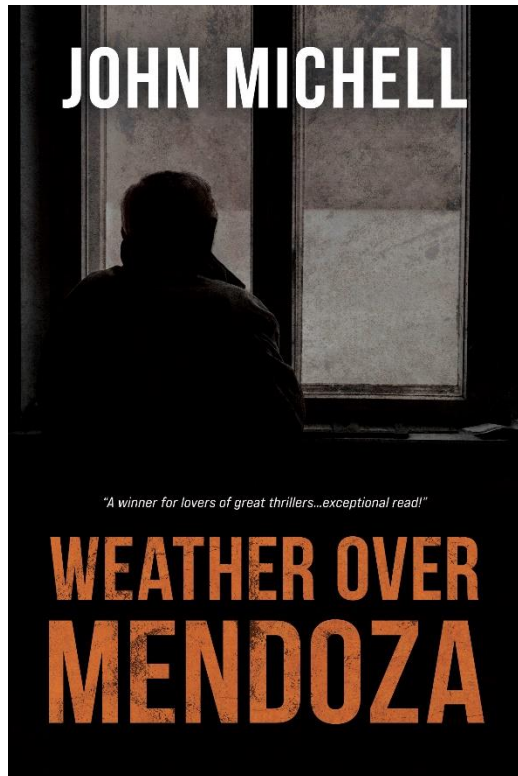
JOHN MICHELL

ADRIAN ASHTON IS ABOUT TO FACE HIS MOMENT OF TRUTH.

Set in 1994, in the period between the Soviet Union's collapse and Putin seizing power of Russia, Adrian reflects on a life cursed by childhood trauma, sexual ineptitude and unreciprocated love. Provocative, evocative and highly addictive, *Weather over Mendoza* follows a troubled man who mistakes love for ideology and his benefactor's ruthless genius in protecting him.

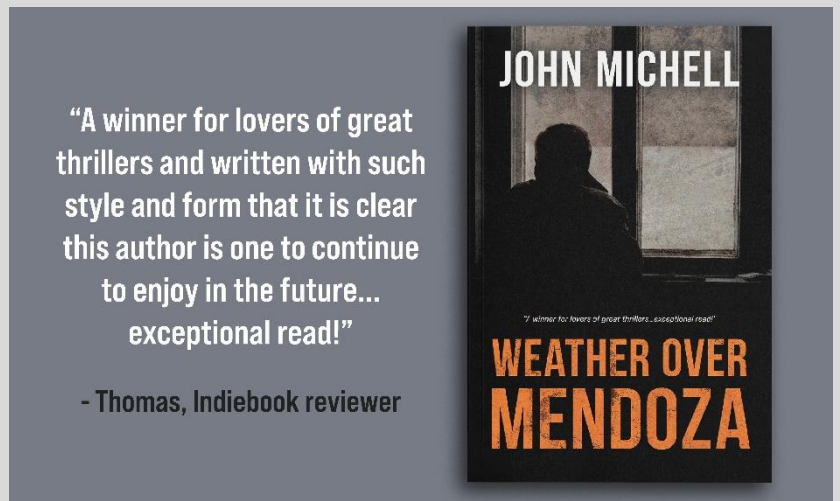
A newspaper article is set to reveal his secret past as a Soviet mole in Britain's MI6. The situation was created by the betrayal of his Soviet benefactor, with whom he had developed an unhealthy reliance.

A fast-paced, no holds barred account of late-night introspection, Adrian Ashton's tale weaves to a taut conclusion to answer a philosophical question: is Adrian the victim or the villain?



ISBN	9781922850669
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Genre	Fiction, Thriller, Spies, Politics, War, Romance
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Location	Adelaide, SA

Price available on our site



AUTHOR BIO

John Michell is a former Australian diplomat and lawyer who spent an aggregated twenty-one years living abroad while in diplomatic service. His witnessing first-hand the fall of the Soviet Union has been a significant factor for the setting of his latest novel, *Weather over Mendoza*. A full-time writer since 2017, he currently resides in Adelaide, South Australia.

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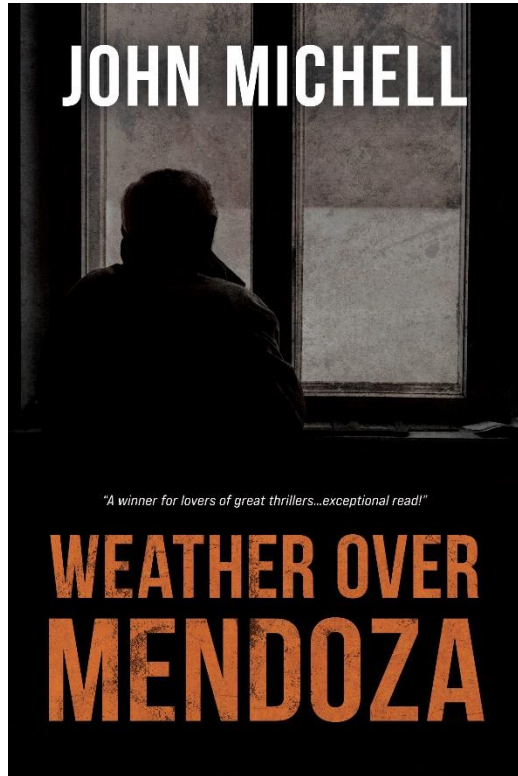
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'WEATHER OVER MENDOZA'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

I started 'Weather over Mendoza' with a germ of an idea born of once seeing a Nick Nolte film on a plane many years ago, the name of which escapes me. It was the very end that really grabbed me – when the credits began to roll as Nolte's character sat in an unheated cabin in the freezing mountains preparing to die of hypothermia. From that moment, the concept of writing about a man similarly bereft of hope entered my mind where it has stayed until now. At first, when beginning to write Weather over Mendoza, I decided on a story about a man about to be unclocked by a newspaper article who takes his own life by shooting himself. That was supposed to be the start and when the body was discovered the story would begin in earnest.

That was the bare bones from where I started. As mentioned earlier, I'm a seat of the pants writer and as I got into it, I decided to have Adrian's character go all the way through from start to finish. As for the unclocking newspaper article in question, my experience of living in Moscow at the time of collapse of the Soviet Union came to the fore. In the period after the collapse, the Russian president Boris Yeltsin was trying to move closer to the West and, to that end, released material from the Russian archives, including some intelligence stuff. This caused some controversy in Russia. That's when I decided Adrian would be a Soviet spy about to be unclocked by a journalist taking advantage of (unspecified) information obtained during Yeltsin's brief period of openness.

HOW DO YOU CREATE OR MODEL YOUR CHARACTERS TO FIT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STORY AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE READERS?

I've never really thought of this in any considered way. But I think the answer is that having a concept and a couple of characters to start with, you create situations requiring other actors to be involved. And depending on the chosen story line, these additional characters are moulded to fit the role attributed to them, often in my case drawing inspiration from real people met over the journey. These real people are rarely faithfully reproduced but generally do very usefully provide the starting point for character development.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE BOOKS?

I've got a book that's nearly finished. I think it's a good story if I say so myself and after some further refinement, I hope to publish it in 2023 if not before.

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