

Finding the Field

An adventure of mind, body and spirit

by Michael Brown

In a sentence

An old man stumbles across the ultimate Truth, to Life the Universe and Everything; but there's only one person he can tell—a young man who is unstable, dangerous and on the run.

Synopsis

Matthew, unstable, dangerous, and on the run, lives in a malevolent universe. Jack, wealthy and powerful, lives the benevolent truths of the ancient masters. Siobhan, beautiful and ageless, guards a secret that will end the lives both men thought they knew.

Matthew was a child prodigy, raised in circumstances that drove him insane. He escapes from a psychiatric hospital, sets out to kill his father, then heads into the mountains, armed and desperate. He stumbles out of a snowstorm onto a high-country alpaca farm, where he encounters Jack, who closely resembles Matthew's hated father.

Many years earlier, Jack woke from a coma unable to remember anything of his previous life. Instead his void is filled by a strange source of enlightenment, which reveals not only how the universe works, but also how to make it bend to his will. Which he does, with spectacular success. But now, near the end of his life, Jack's remaining desire is to pass on the priceless knowledge, so he uses his powers to summon an audience.

What he gets is Matthew.

As the ancient wisdom is revealed, Jack is increasingly disturbed by his volatile pupil and turns to the mysterious Siobhan for advice. Who is she? What is she? The eternal truths of existence are played out at every level.

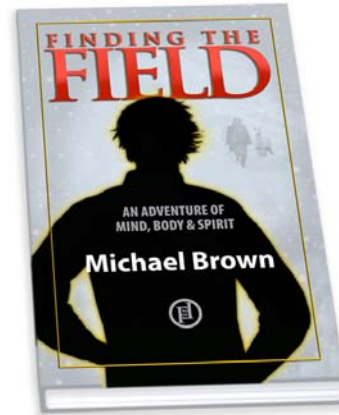
Michael Brown bio

Michael was born in the Chatham Islands in 1948. He's married with two boys, living in Christchurch, New Zealand.

When he's not writing, he's a trainer and consultant in media and presentation skills. He was a reporter, director and presenter of news and current affairs programs for Television New Zealand and also worked on secondment to the BBC.

Other novels: *The Weaver's Apprentice* (Collins), *The Idiot Played Rachmaninov* (Hodder and Stoughton).
Travel books: *The Weaver and the Abbey* (Arthur Barker). *The Taming of the Crew* (Random House).

Academic: B.Sc.(Hons) in Physics; Dip. Journalism



Finding the Field is available as a print-on-demand book (see home page) or listen to it now as a free podcast (see podcast page).



New Zealand Author Michael Brown

Background to *Finding the Field* (Michael's words)

“As early as 10 years old, I wanted to understand: if there is a God, why is there so much pain in my world? Which soon became the question that has always fascinated mankind, ‘What is it all about?’ or (the real question) ‘Who am I?’

“From the beginning, I couldn’t accept the standard religious explanations, so I spent decades hunting for a satisfying answer, delving into philosophy, religion, spiritual practices, and science (particularly quantum physics). The hunt was desperate at times. Like the young man in the story, I saw compulsory time in a psychiatric institution; and when I came out I trekked into a remote region of the Andes to find a secret monastery.

“Altogether, it has been a 50 year search, and the result is *Finding the Field*, which folds ancient, universal truths directly into a modern story. But I know it’s not just about my truth. The desire for the answer to ‘Who am I?’ is so deeply ingrained in us, I believe the message in *Finding the Field* will have widespread appeal.”

Setting for the story

Michael is an experienced outdoorsman, familiar with the spectacular mountains of New Zealand. He has always loved the peaks, lakes, rivers and bush of the Southern Alps which form the backbone of the main island. And he has always had a sober respect for the Southern Alps, if only because they have killed so many of the unwary.

So, when the plot of *Finding the Field* called for a hanging valley in dangerous mountains, there was never any doubt where the valley would hang.



Author Michael Brown in the Southern Alps of New Zealand. *Finding the Field* is set in a hanging valley in these mountains.